

What is Baroque and Rococo Architecture?

Worksheet

Baroque architecture uses dramatic curves, contrast of light and shadow, grand scale and theatrical ornament to move the viewer emotionally, while Rococo, its 18th-century successor, softens this drama into lighter, more delicate, asymmetrical decoration.

Questions

1. Which feature is most associated with Baroque architecture?

- A) Flat, minimal facades
- B) Dramatic curves and light/shadow contrast
- C) Thin steel frames
- D) Strict Gothic verticality

2. What is rocaille ornament associated with?

- A) Romanesque churches
- B) Rococo interiors
- C) Gothic cathedrals
- D) Ancient Egyptian temples

3. Compared to Baroque, Rococo interiors are generally

- A) Larger and more public
- B) Smaller, more intimate and pastel-colored
- C) Identical in every way
- D) Built only outdoors

4. Bernini's colonnade is located at

- A) Versailles
- B) St. Peter's Square, Rome
- C) Htel de Soubise, Paris
- D) Notre-Dame, Paris

5. How does Bernini's colonnade at St. Peter's Square (Rome, completed 1667) express Baroque drama?

6. What Baroque features define the Palace of Versailles' Hall of Mirrors (completed 1684)?

7. How does the Htel de Soubise's Salon de la Princesse (Paris, 1730s) show the Rococo style?

8. Define: What defines Baroque architecture?

9. Define: What is rocaille?

10. Define: Name a landmark Baroque structure.

Answer Key

1. B) Dramatic curves and light/shadow contrast - Baroque design relies on dramatic movement, curves and strong contrasts of light.
2. B) Rococo interiors - Rocaille is the shell-like, asymmetrical ornament typical of Rococo.
3. B) Smaller, more intimate and pastel-colored - Rococo scaled down Baroque grandeur into lighter, private, pastel-colored rooms.
4. B) St. Peter's Square, Rome - Bernini designed the curving colonnade framing St. Peter's Square, completed in 1667.
5. Two curving colonnades of paired Tuscan columns embrace the square like open arms The elliptical shape creates dynamic movement rather than a static rectangle The scale - over 280 columns - overwhelms visitors, a hallmark of Baroque grandeur Its sweeping curves guide crowds and symbolize the Church welcoming believers
6. Seventeen mirrored arches face seventeen windows, multiplying light theatrically Gilded stucco and painted ceiling scenes glorify Louis XIV's reign, a political use of art The long, symmetrical gallery creates a grand processional space for court ceremony Crystal chandeliers and gold ornament combine to overwhelm visitors with royal opulence
7. Curving, asymmetrical rocaille (shell-like) plasterwork replaces Baroque's heavier symmetry Pastel colors - soft pinks and blues - replace Baroque's darker, dramatic palette Mirrors and gilt trim are lighter and more delicate than Versailles' heavier gilding The intimate oval room suits private social gatherings rather than grand public ceremony
8. Dramatic curves, strong light/shadow contrast, grand scale and theatrical ornament, often serving church or monarchy.
9. The shell- and rock-inspired asymmetrical ornament characteristic of Rococo decoration.
10. Bernini's colonnade at St. Peter's Square in Rome, completed in 1667.

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