

## **Ancient Rome: Builders in Concrete**

- ✓ **The Romans were the greatest architects of the ancient world. However, they borrowed most of their architectural forms and building techniques from earlier civilizations.**
- ✓ **The Roman style of architecture was based on the arch, the vault and the dome. Each of these innovations was made possible through the use of concrete. Concrete did not buckle under the enormous stress placed upon it by the massive size of the structures built.**
- ✓ **Concrete was poured over brick and stone. When dry, it became hard and was almost impervious to water.**
- ✓ **The vast knowledge of Roman engineers allowed city planners to create aqueducts, sewers and roads.**
- ✓ **Concrete also made possible the extensive use of the arch. The arch allowed for large open buildings to be created.**

### **Notable Roman Architecture**

- ✓ **The Pantheon was built to honour all the gods of the universe. The temple displayed superb building techniques and used excellent manipulation of space. The pantheon was built of brick, concrete and within the walls were arches that supported the enormous weight of the dome.**
- ✓ **The Aqueducts were used to transport fresh water for the many public baths and drinking wells. Water was transported from the mountains to the city centers. Although they were built to transport water, they were also built to look visually appealing.**

- ✓ **The most imposing structure built in Rome was the Colosseum. Murderous battles of man to man, or man to animal were staged here. They also staged mock sea battles in the Colosseum.**
  
- ✓ **The structure could seat 45,000 spectators. It was 287ft by 189ft. It was surrounded by a 15ft high wall. Below the Colosseum there were cells for prisoners, gladiators and animals.**