**Arches**

Roman arches were used in many architectural buildings like bridges, aqueducts, sewers, amphitheaters, and triumphal arches, as well as temples and palaces. Arches today are applicable to domes and cupolas, to floors and corridors and roofs. It was applied extensively to doorways and windows, and is an ornament as well as a utility. Romans were very fond of arches.

The Colosseum, a great building where gladiatorial fights took place, had over 80 arches. It had the arches since they made the ceilings much stronger than a flat ceiling would have been. Vaulted arches made the Colosseum stronger without adding excessive weight to it.

The arch was found in every Roman architectural structure; public or private, and superseded the use of long stone-beams. All in all the arch was the greatest invention made in Roman architecture.

**History of the Arch:**

The triumphal arch was a type of Roman architectural monument built all over the empire to commemorate military triumphs and other significant events such as the accession of a new emperor. Sometimes arches were used to replace existing city gates. Arches could also stand across approach roads outside the city proper, for example, at Aosta, Aquino, Canosa and Jerash. The earliest known examples of triumphal arches date from the 2nd century BCE and were set up by L.Sertinius. Rome alone had over 50 triumphal arches but, unfortunately, most have not survived. Still Rome is known for their amazing architecture which includes the arch.