

Q: Was the Roman use of the arch an improvement upon the Greek's use of the post-and-lintel building technique?

A: In many ways, it was. Though the Romans used columns like the Greeks had, they developed the use of the arch. Arches could span much greater distances than post-and-lintel construction. Once the top stone, or keystone, is fitted into the arch, the stones of the arch hold themselves together and weight is carried downward through the posts. With post-and-lintel construction, posts had to be positioned relatively close together to avoid the collapse of the lintels. The concept of the arch extended was applied to vaults and domes, and opened up many new possibilities.

Tags: [arch](#), [Post and Lintel](#)