Pioneers of Built Environment

Architectural History · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which structure is historically recognized as the first monumental stone building in the world, designed by Imhotep?

A) The Great Pyramid of Giza
B) The Step Pyramid of Djoser
C) The Ziggurat of Ur
D) The Temple of Karnak

2. Which Roman architectural innovation allowed for the construction of the Pantheon's massive unreinforced concrete dome?

A) Coffering
B) Pendentives
C) Travertine veneer
D) Volcanic pozzolana

3. Who is credited with the first practical application of the 'curtain wall' in a skyscraper, utilizing a steel frame to support the structure's skin?

A) William Le Baron Jenney
B) Louis Sullivan
C) Daniel Burnham
D) Frank Lloyd Wright

4. The use of the 'pendentive'--a spherical triangle allowing a circular dome to be placed over a square room--was perfected in which 6th-century structure?

A) Parthenon
B) Hagia Sophia
C) San Vitale
D) Saint Mark's Basilica

5. Which architectural movement first introduced the 'free plan' concept, enabled by the structural independence of the reinforced concrete skeleton?

A) Art Nouveau
B) International Style
C) Brutalism
D) Deconstructivism

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6. What was the first structure in history to be built entirely of glass and iron, designed by Joseph Paxton for the 1851 Great Exhibition?

A) The Palm House
B) The Crystal Palace
C) The Eiffel Tower
D) The Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

7. In which city was the first modern 'passenger lift' (elevator) installed in a commercial building by Elisha Otis in 1857?

A) Chicago
B) London
C) New York City
D) Paris

8. The 'flying buttress' was a critical structural discovery of which architectural era, enabling the construction of taller, thinner nave walls?

A) Romanesque
B) Byzantine
C) Gothic
D) Renaissance

9. Which building is cited as the first 'skyscraper' to employ a full skeleton-frame construction method, completed in Chicago in 1885?

A) The Flatiron Building
B) The Home Insurance Building
C) The Woolworth Building
D) The Wainwright Building

10. The concept of the 'geodesic dome,' patented in 1954, was pioneered by which American architect and inventor?

A) Buckminster Fuller
B) Philip Johnson
C) Mies van der Rohe
D) Le Corbusier

11. What is considered the first 'earth-sheltered' house design to use passive solar heating techniques in modern architecture?

A) Fallingwater
B) The Solar House of 1939
C) The Barcelona Pavilion
D) The Glass House

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12. Which ancient civilization was the first to widely utilize the 'true arch' (voussoir arch) in large-scale domestic and public architecture?

A) Sumerians
B) Ancient Egyptians
C) Etruscans
D) Minoans