

Byzantine Architecture Fourth–Fifteenth Centuries

Date/Time	Thursdays 12 September–10 October 2024 11am-1pm	Price	£ 110
Venue	Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9EB	Lecturer	Dr Cecily Hennessy

The Byzantine empire produced some of the most famed buildings of the medieval period including the great church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, modern Istanbul. This course takes a chronological view of Byzantine architectural developments from the fourth to the fifteenth centuries. We focus on the religious and secular buildings created throughout the empire including monuments in Jerusalem, San Simeon, Sinai, Cappadocia, Constantinople, Thessaloniki, Ravenna and Rome. We discuss the harnessing of Roman architectural forms for the service of Christianity and how these changed over time. Buildings include baptistries, mausolea and churches. We look at their locations and designs as well as how they functioned as places of worship. We also explore secular architecture, including urban planning and palaces. Integral to the appearance and use of all these buildings was their decoration, including mosaics and monumental paintings.

- 1 Rome, Jerusalem and beyond, Christian architecture in the service of the emperor
Two new capitals: the architecture of Constantinople and Ravenna
- 2 Architecture of urban churches and desert monasteries
Architectural transformation and the building of Hagia Sophia
- 3 Building and decorating techniques; spolia
Architectural transformations after Iconoclasm
- 4 Byzantine architectural influence in the west: Torcello, Venice, and Sicily
Architecture on the periphery
- 5 Buildings of the later Byzantine period
Byzantine architectural influence beyond the empire

Lecturer

Dr Cecily Hennessy received her doctorate in Byzantine Art History from The Courtauld, London. She developed The Courtauld Summer Schools and Study Trips before joining Christie's Education where she became Academic Director. She has taught and published widely on images of children in Byzantine art as well as on the architecture and paintings of Constantinople, Jerusalem and Ravenna. She currently holds a Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship.