This composite drawing of a temple portico illustrates the three orders of classical architecture: doric, ionic and corinthian. These three styles were used in many Greek and Roman buildings.

During the Italian Renaissance architects began to study these ancient buildings again and to use elements of the classical styles in their own buildings. Some, like Andrea Palladio, published scale drawings of the classical buildings and of their own designs. These were very influential, and by the eighteenth century buildings in the Palladian style were being designed by architects in Ireland. Later came the Neo-Classical style which followed even more closely the style of ancient Rome.