**apadana:** The apadana is a great audience hall in ancient Persian palaces.

**arch:** The arch is a curved structural member that spans an opening and is generally composed of wedge-shaped blocks (voussoirs).

**ashlar masonry:** Ashlar masonry is a technique where carefully cut and regularly shaped blocks of stone used in construction, fitted together without mortar.

**basilica:** In Roman architecture, a basilica is a civic building for legal and other civic proceedings, rectangular in plan with an entrance usually on a long side. In Christian architecture, a church somewhat resembling the Roman basilica, usually entered from one end and with an apse at the other.

**block statue:** In ancient Egyptian sculpture, a block statue is a cubic stone image with simplified body parts.

**canon:** A canon is a rule. For example, the Egyptian artist was mandated to regularize dimensions and scale in their paintings of the human form. Canons are guidelines for Egyptian artists to follow.

**canopic jar:** In ancient Egypt, the container in which the organs of the deceased were placed for later burial with the mummy is known as a canopic jar.

**clerestory:** The clerestory is a fenestrated part of a building that rises above the roofs of the other parts. In Egyptian temples, the windows that form the temple’s uppermost level below the timber ceiling is the clerestory.

**continuous narration:** In painting or sculpture, the convention of the same figure appearing more than once in the same space at different stages in a story is known as a continuous narrative.

**cuneiform:** Cuneiform in Latin means “wedge-shaped.” It is a system of writing used in ancient Mesopotamia. Cuneiform is a wedge-shaped characters were produced by pressing a stylus...
into a soft clay tablet, which was then baked or otherwise allowed to harden.

**engaged column**: An engaged column is a half-round column attached to a wall. See also pilaster.

**façade**: A façade is usually, the front of a building; also, the other sides when they are emphasized architecturally.

**glaze**: Glaze is a vitreous coating applied to pottery to seal and decorate the surface; it may be colored, transparent, or opaque, and glossy or matte.

**glazed brick**: Glazed bricks are bricks painted and then kiln fired to fuse the color with the baked clay.

**ground line**: In paintings and reliefs, a painted or carved baseline on which figures appear to stand is the ground line.

**heraldic composition**: Heraldic composition is a composition that is symmetrical on either side of a central figure.

**hierarchy of scale**: Hierarchy of scale is an artistic convention in which greater size indicates greater importance.

**hieroglyphic**: Hieroglyphics is a system of writing using symbols or pictures.

**hypostyle hall**: A hypostyle hall is a hall with a roof supported by columns.

**ka**: The ka, in ancient Egypt, the immortal human life force.

**lamassu**: Lamassu is an Assyrian guardian in the form of a man-headed winged bull.

**pylon**: A pylon is the simple and massive gateway, with sloping walls, of an Egyptian temple.

**pictograph**: A pictograph is a picture, usually stylized, that represents an idea; also, writing using such means; also painting on rock.

**register**: A register is one of a series of superimposed bands or friezes in a pictorial narrative, or the particular levels on which motifs are placed.
repoussé: Repoussé is formed in relief by beating a metal plate from the back, leaving the impression on the face. The metal is hammered into a hollow mold of wood or some other pliable material and finished with a graver.

sculpture in the round: Sculpture in the round is a term applying to freestanding figures, carved or modeled in three dimensions.

stele: A stele is a carved stone slab used to mark graves or to commemorate historical events.

votive offering: A votive offering is a gift of gratitude to a deity.

ziggurat: In ancient Mesopotamian architecture, a ziggurat is a monumental platform for a temple.