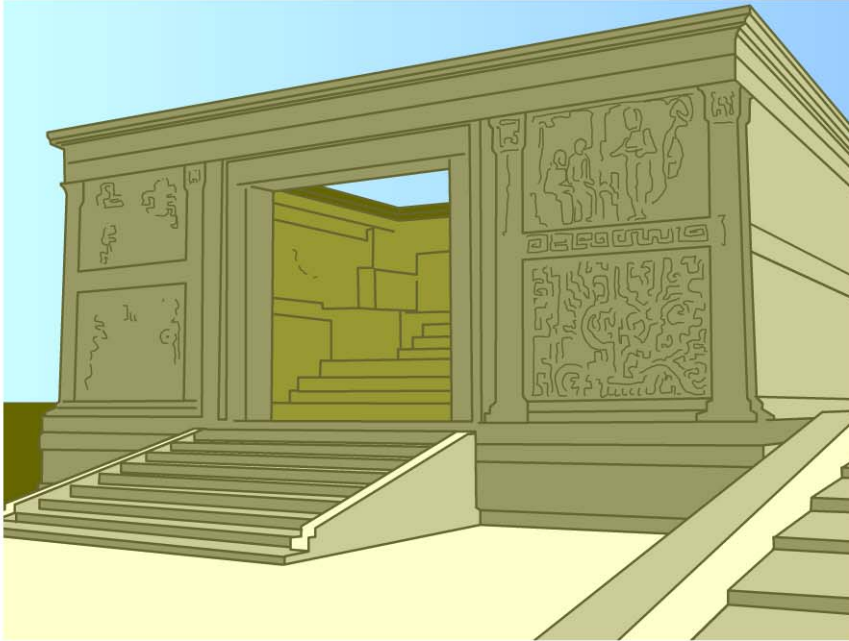


WAY BACK WHEN



On his deathbed, the **Emperor Augustus** is supposed to have said, “I found Rome of clay; I leave it to you of marble.” On one hand, he could have meant that he left the Empire richer and more powerful than he found it. Or, he could have been referring to the many building projects he sponsored, which gave Rome new architectural treasures.

These projects included large public monuments, like the **Ara Pacis**, or “Altar of Peace,” which celebrated Augustus’ pacification of the Empire (pictured). Another example was the Arch of Augustus, a triple-arch in the

center of the Forum, Rome’s main square.

The projects also included temples, like a temple to Julius Caesar built after the Senate declared him a god, and an enormous temple to Mars that dominated an entirely new public square, the Imperial Forum. Augustus also built the first of Rome’s enormous public baths and improved the system of **aqueducts** that delivered water into the city.

Many of Augustus’ buildings were erected to strengthen the reputation of the monarchy he helped establish. The Ara Pacis celebrates the peace and prosperity Augustus brought to Rome. The enormous size of Augustus’ arch indicates that his military victories were three times more important than the ones that came before him. And by honoring Julius Caesar as a god and giving him his own temple, Augustus portrayed his family as ruling almost by divine right.