

1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

051. SAN VITALE

Ravenna, Italy

c. 526-547 CE

Early Byzantine Europe

3 images: exterior, interior, plan

2. FORM: (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Central plan, ambulatory - hall that goes around, reused brick exterior, octagon shape, many windows for lighting (mosaics inside), massive columns for support, repetition of apse like shapes create movement, very decorated

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

Brick, marble, and stone veneer

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Because of central plan, the focus is on the center rather than the end of the aisle at the altar
A lot of Christian iconography and symbols of Christs



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Made under the rule of Ostrogoths

A place of worship, serves spiritual needs of Christianity believers as well as promotes power of ruler

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Made under Ostrogothic rule then consecrated in 547

Shows the importance of Christianity & power of Justinian

Funded by a rich banker & architect and built under Bishops

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Centrally planned church, unique combination of elements

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Use of symbols in the church, basic church elements like an apse

8. THEME(S):

Religion, power

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Unlike the Santa Sabina, this structure is less modest in both proportions and decoration and this structure is unusually centrally planned. However, there is the recurring use of light, a focus on symbolism, and the use of columns and an apse. These structures show the evolution of Christianity's place in society.