



# H for Hagia Sophia

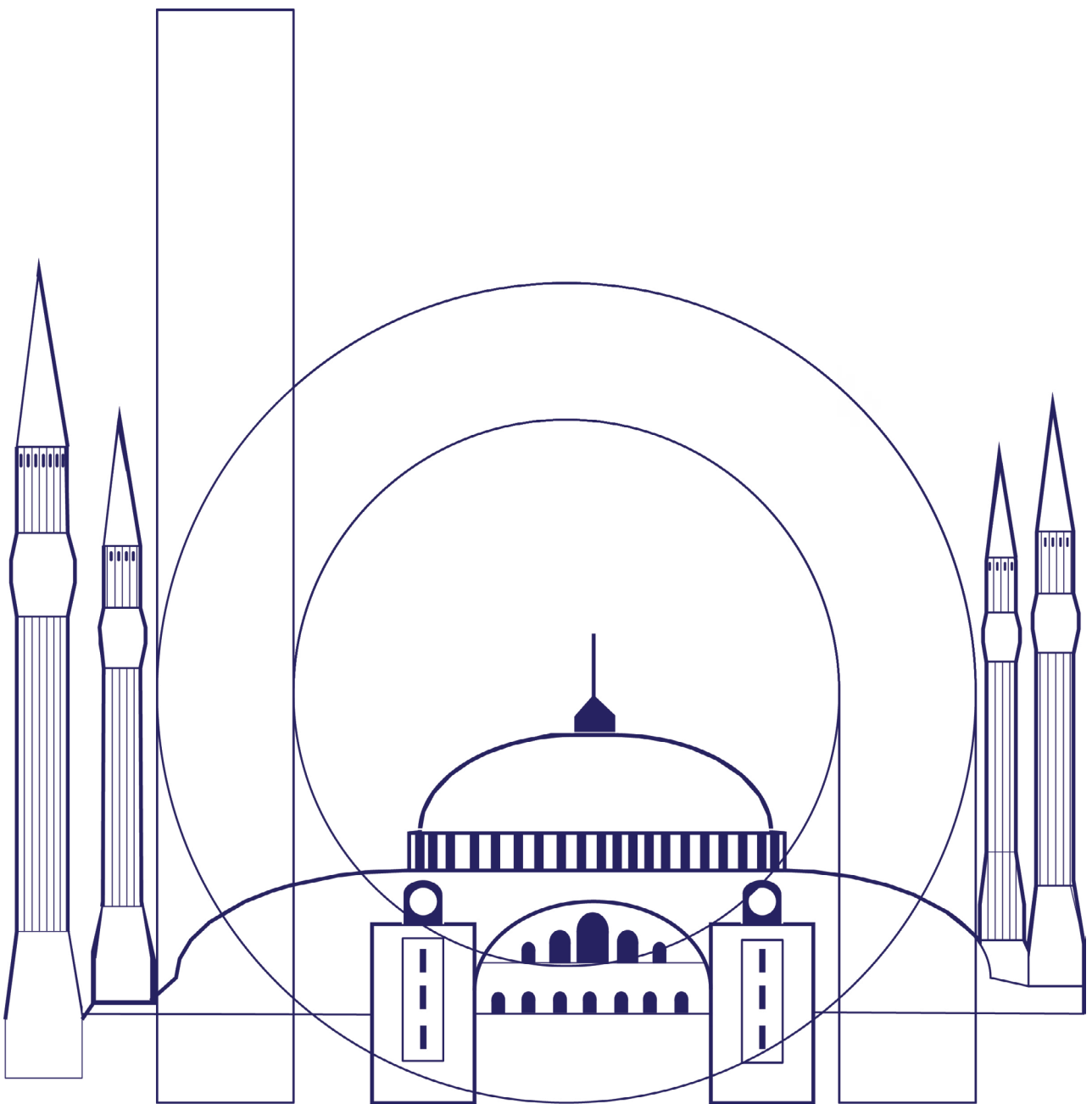
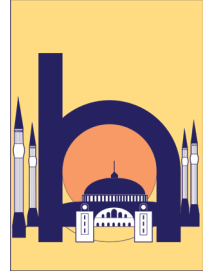


## Fun Facts

1. The Hagia Sophia is 1478 years old and was built in record time taking just **five years** and ten months and the work of over 10,000 men to complete.
2. Materials for the cathedral were sourced from **across the Byzantine Empire**. The columns were taken from the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Large stones were moved from Egypt, black stone from the Bosphorus, yellow stone from Syria, and green marble from Thessaly.
3. The Hagia Sophia was **converted into a mosque** when the Byzantine Empire ended in 1453 with Constantinople falling to the armies of Mehmed II, sultan of the Ottoman Empire.



Colour me in





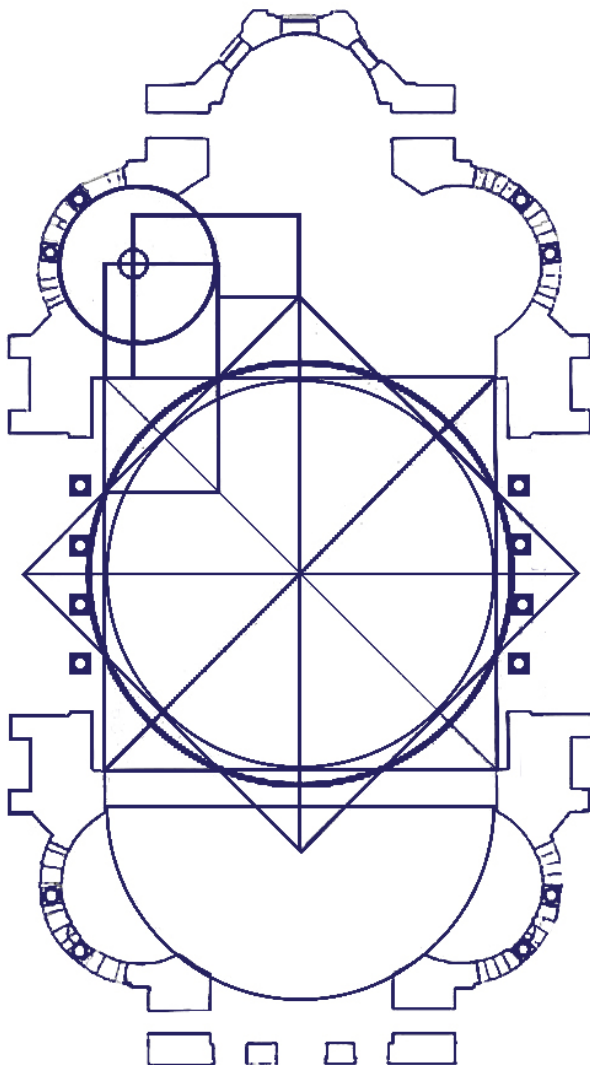
# Byzantine Architecture



The Hagia Sophia was designed by architects Anthemius of Tralles and Isidorus of Miletus to be the most magnificent basilica in the Roman Empire. These architects used their knowledge of mathematics and structural engineering as the basis to create the largest cathedral in the world until the Duomo in Florence was built. Its 32 metre (105-foot) main dome was supported by a square base - a method called pendentives. There are four pendentives used in the building that allows for the wide open space with no pillars or columns needed to support the domed roof. This use of geometry to create this incredibly impressive structure is what makes the Hagia Sophia a prime example of Byzantine Architecture. It then became a mosque up until the 1930s when it turned into a museum and it is now a UNESCO World Heritage site in Istanbul.

## Plan

Part of the architectural process is to create drawings that give directions as to how to build your design. A plan is what is used to look down at a building from above (like a bird above your home!).



Hagia Sophia Plan view

## Activity

For this activity, first draw the plan of your bedroom at home, then add the furniture (desk, bed, bookshelf etc.). How would you rearrange the furniture in your own bedroom? You can take this activity to the next level by drawing the plan of your house.

