

What is a Masonic Lodge ?

For centuries - the Masonic Lodge has been the basic building block of the Masonic community around the world. In the Middle Ages the stonemasons's lodge was a shed constructed on the building site where the craftsmen could work, rest, organize their activities and sometimes sleep. The stonemason's guilds had passwords that permitted craftsmen to travel and identify themselves as stonemasons so that they could work on remote building sites. Today's speculative Freemasonry derives most of its symbols from the ancient operative Craft.

Freemasonry makes great use of symbolism derived from classical architecture, in particular the 'Orders'. These were first classified by the Roman architect Vitruvius, whose writings were greatly admired and emulated during the Renaissance.

Vitruvius felt that an architect should be able to draw and be knowledgeable in the subjects of philosophy, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, grammar, rhetoric, jurisprudence and astronomy. All of these skills made up the Liberal Arts and Sciences, which were the basis of education at the time.

