

The Taj Mahal or the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour?



The Taj Mahal

What is the most beautiful building in the world?

People will have different answers to this question. Certainly one of the most common answers might be the Taj Mahal, meaning in English ‘Crown Palace’. Built in India in the seventeenth century, it is inspired by Persian Muslim architecture. However, it has Hindu and even Italian features. As for the lawns in front of it, they were put down by the British to replace the sadly neglected rose and fruit-tree garden and so remind them of London.

Another candidate might be the seventeenth century St Paul’s Cathedral in London built by the architect Sir Christopher Wren, pictured below.



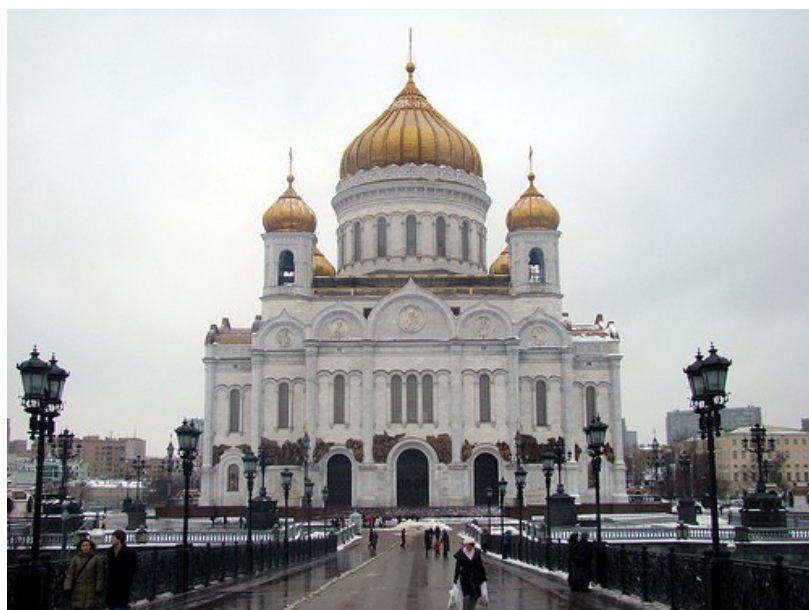


Sacre Coeur, Paris

A third candidate for the finest building in the world might be the nineteenth-century Sacre Coeur basilica in Montmartre in Paris.

A fourth candidate could be the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow. Built in the nineteenth century to commemorate the Russian victory over Napoleon, it was blown up by the Communists and then rebuilt in the 1990s, in fact a celebration of the victory over Communism.

Regardless of what our opinion is, here is a fact: The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour commemorates the Risen Christ – the Taj Mahal, surely at least the most splendid building anywhere in the Non-Christian world - is a mausoleum for the dead. Christ is Risen!



The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Moscow