

History of Architecture

Baroque and Rococo Architecture



Baroque Architecture

Introduction

- The Baroque architecture is a continuation of the Renaissance, **broadening the possibilities of the classical language in architecture**
- Developed out of the **16th century Mannerism**



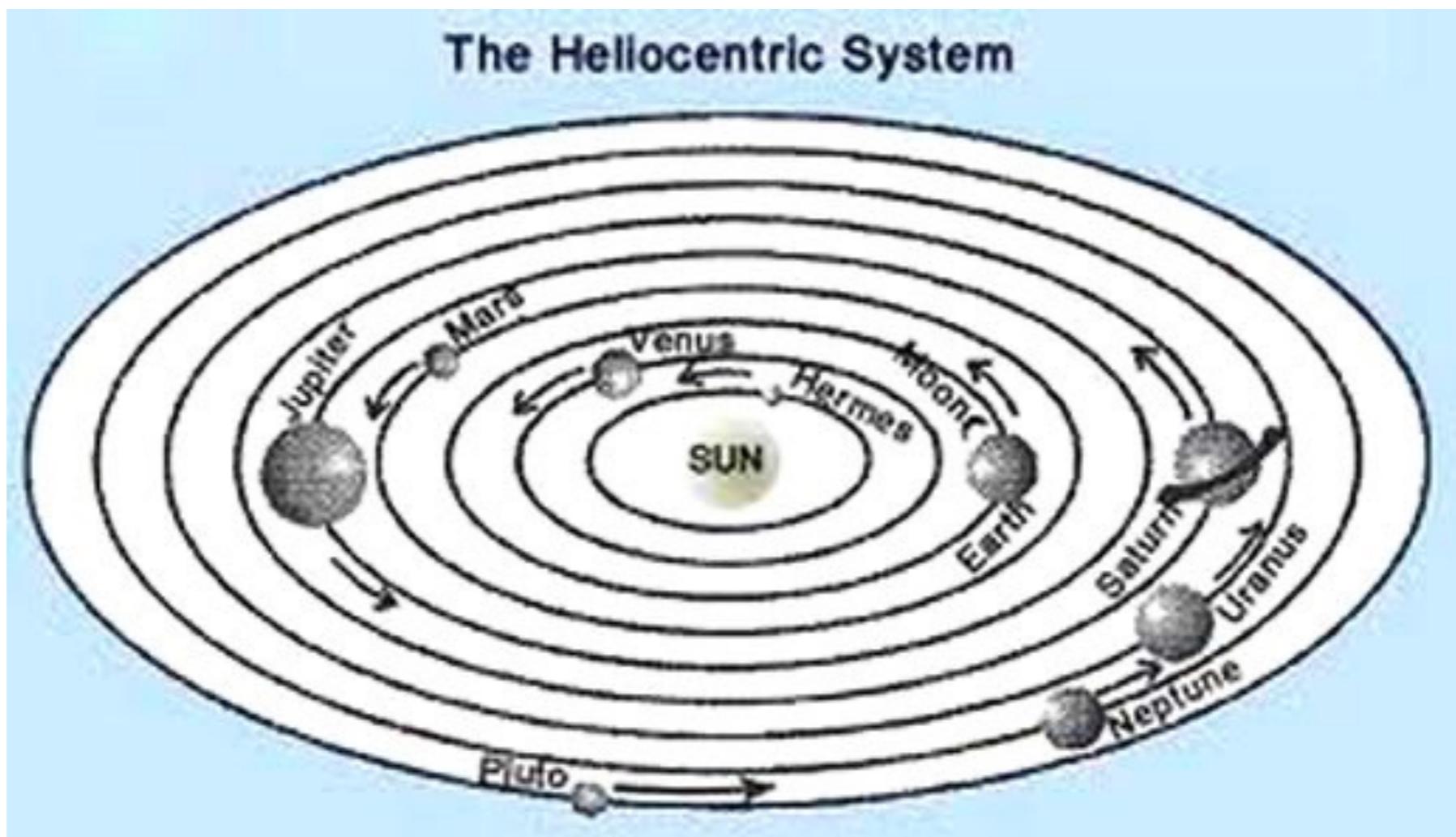
Political and Cultural influence

- 1517 - Martin Luther's "Ninety-Five Theses" nailed to church door, beginning of Protestantism
 - as a challenge to Catholicism
- 1545 - Council of Trent, Catholic church in response **instituting religious reforms**



Scientific Influence

- Sketches by Kepler emphasized the **elliptical orbit** of the planets; interest in the **oval rather than the circular**
- Newton formulation of laws of motion inspired architects **to design spaces that seemed to move**
- Galileo's interest in the heavens inspired **ceiling vaults with fresco that dissolved all earthly boundaries**



Timeline

Medieval			Renaissance		Baroque		Classical	Romantic	Modern		Contemporary
Medieval			Renaissance		Baroque		↓	Romantic	20th Century		21st Century
1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700		1800	1900		2000

Baroque generally covers the timeframe of 1600–1750

Change in style

Two reasons behind the shift towards Baroque

- When the rules were set, **reaction for new creativity is made**
- Respond to the protestant revolt in 1545; **Council of Trent insisted on music, painting, architecture and sculpture to enhance religious devotion**



What is Baroque?

- The term baroque means an irregularly shaped pearl. This period of architecture was called Baroque because it was **very odd**
- The embellishment, the carving, corkscrew columns and bent entablature – deviations from the architectural norm
- **Misshapen, odd, irregular – vs. clarity, order, balance, logic of “pure classicism (Renaissance)”**

Gothic = Structure

Renaissance = Composition and order

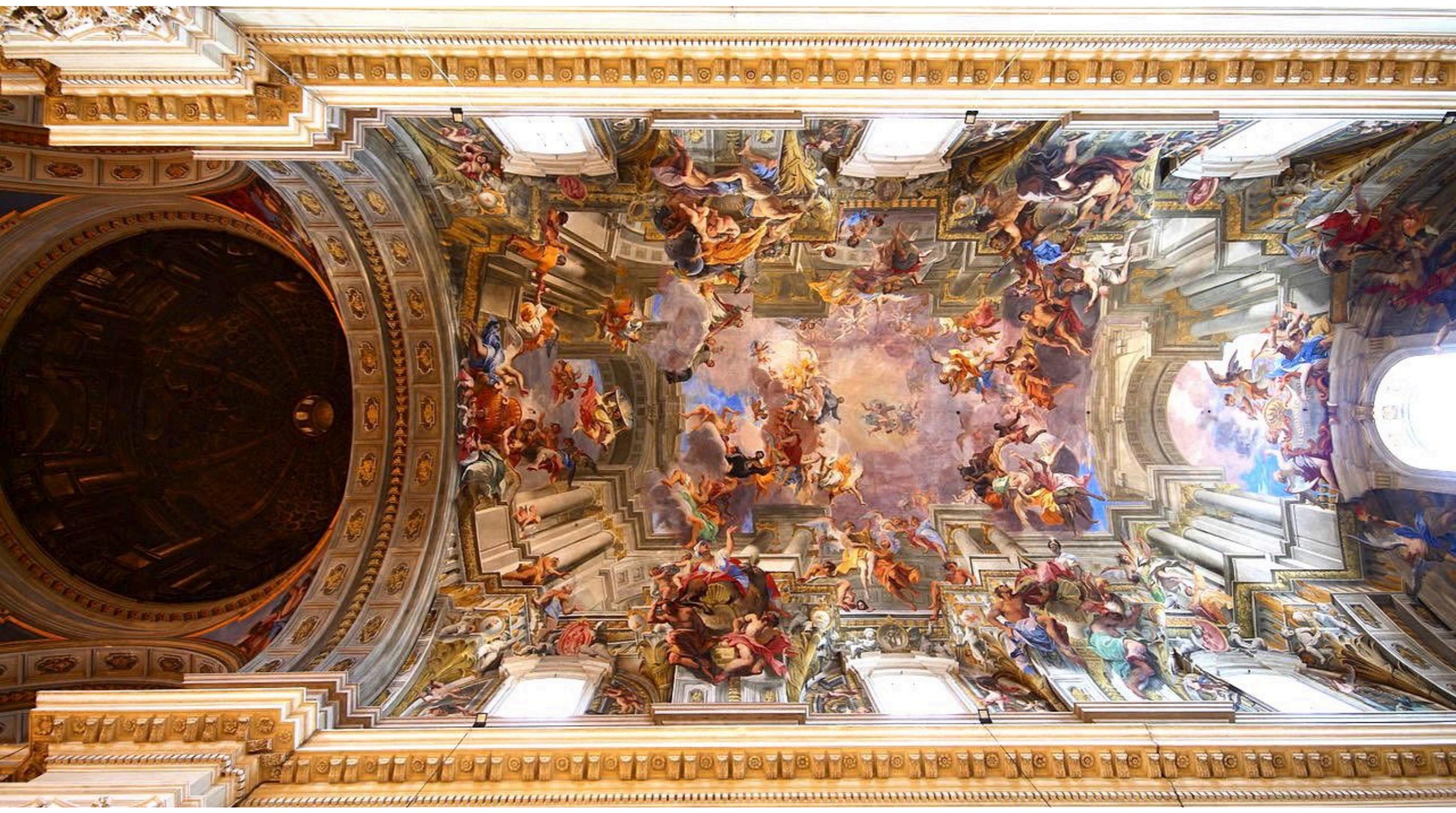
Baroque = Sensual Space



Architectural Character

1. New explorations of **form, light, shade and dramatic intensity**
2. Baroque art and architecture was often used to **express emotions**
3. Blending of **painting, sculpture and architecture**
4. **Optical illusion**; ceilings of baroque churches dissolved in painted scenes, presenting vivid views of the infinite





5. Building was to some extent a kind of **large sculpture**
6. More **curves** instead of straight lines
7. **Oval** instead of circular
8. **Twisted columns**, sometimes simply decorative instead of supportive



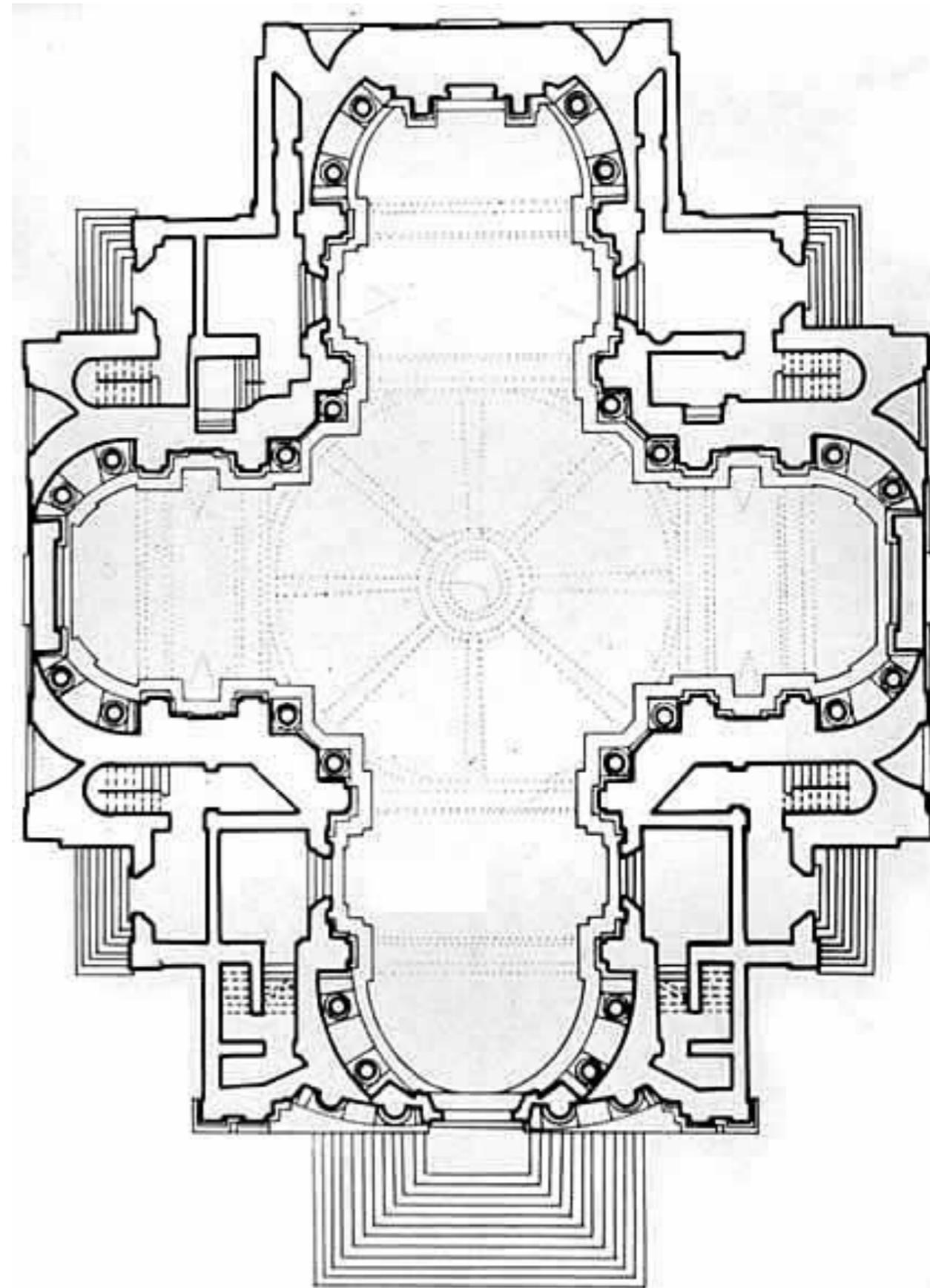
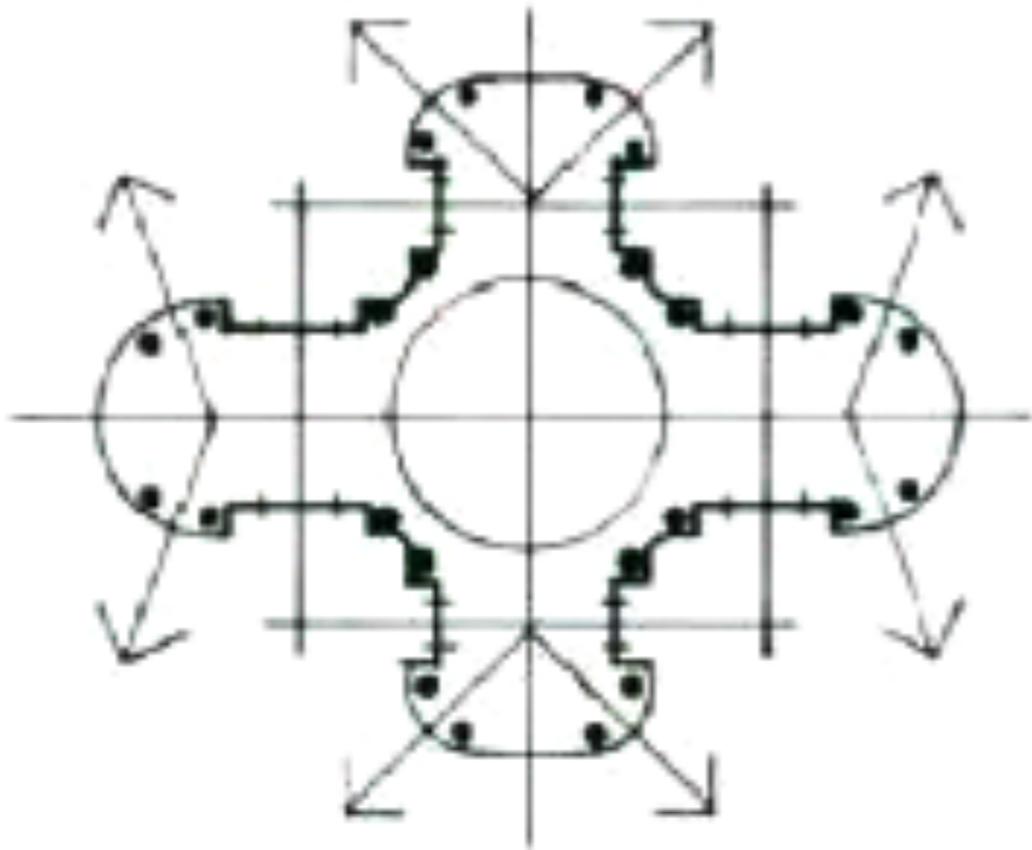
Baroque Architecture
Italian Beginnings

Santi Luca e Martina, Rome (1634-1650)



Santi Luca e Martina, Rome (1634-1650)

- The plan is a **Greek cross** with nearly equal arms (longer main axis)
- Dome at the centre
- **ApSES not purely semicircular**
- Has a **broad nave with no aisles**



Santi Luca e Martina, Rome (1634-1650)

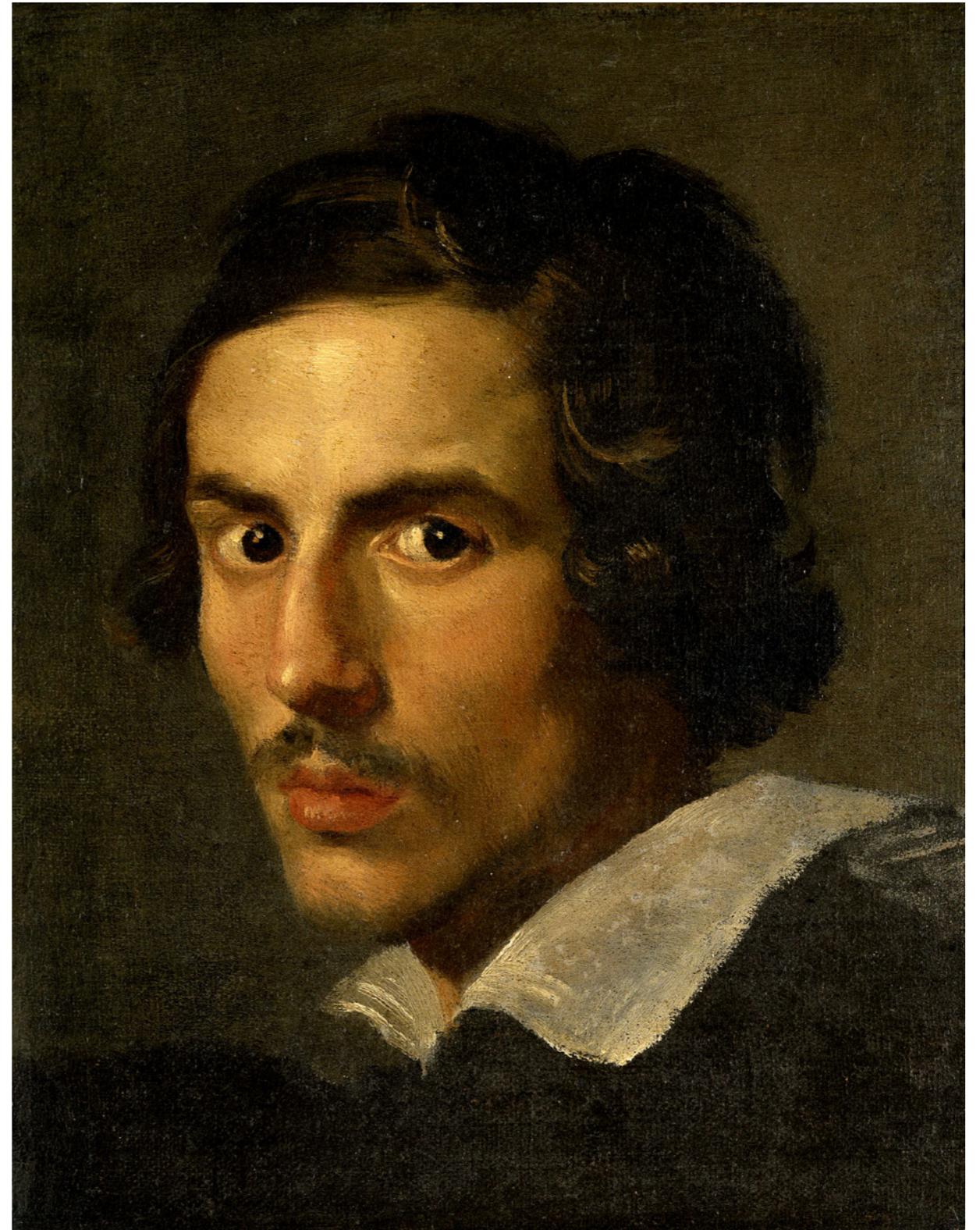
Slightly **convex bowing of wall** but
between two **"sturdy" corner piers**



Gian Lorenzo Bernini

Baroque Architect

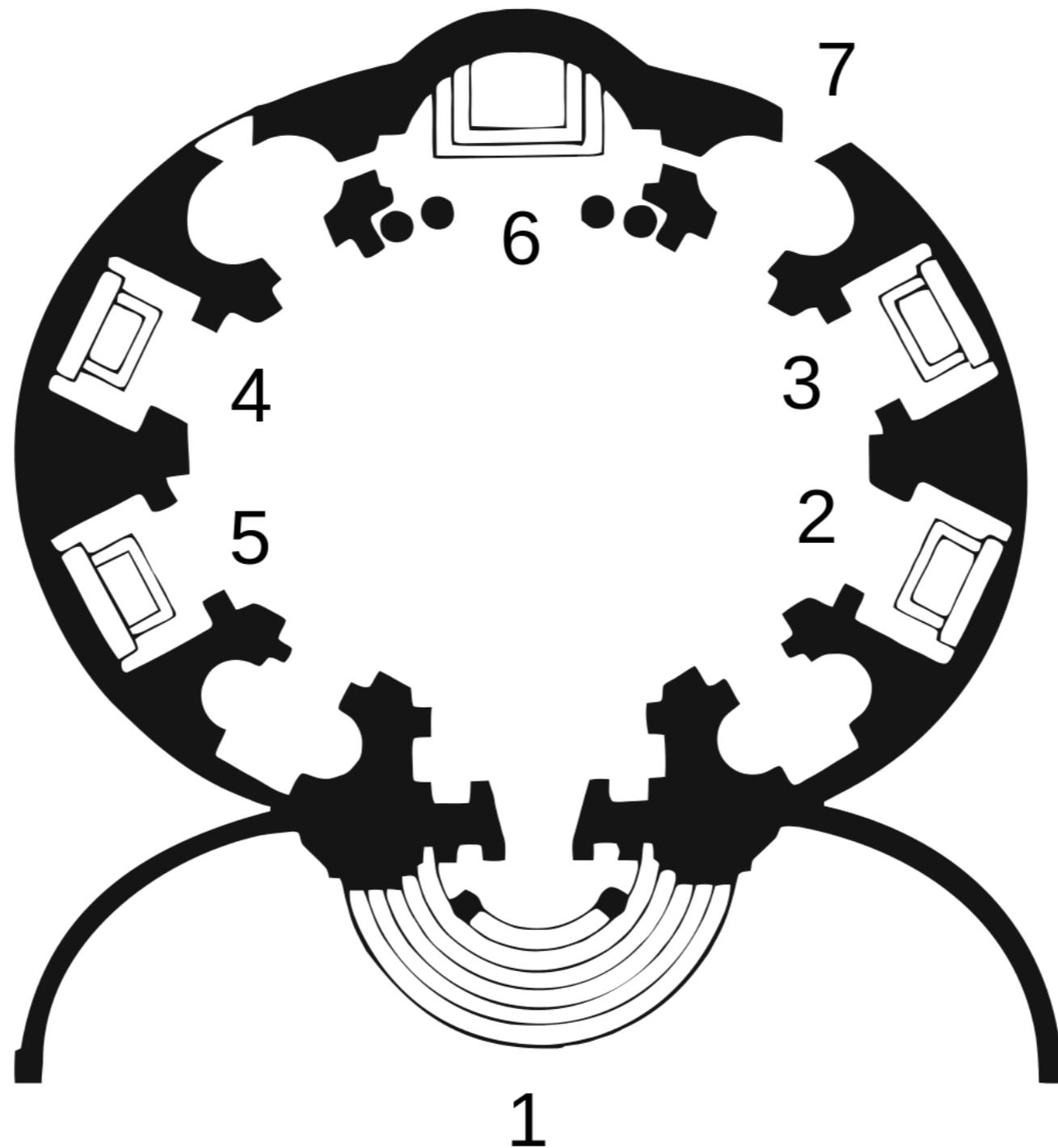
1598-1680



Sant' Andrea al Quirinale, Rome (1658-1670)



Sant' Andrea al Quirinale, Rome (1658-1670)

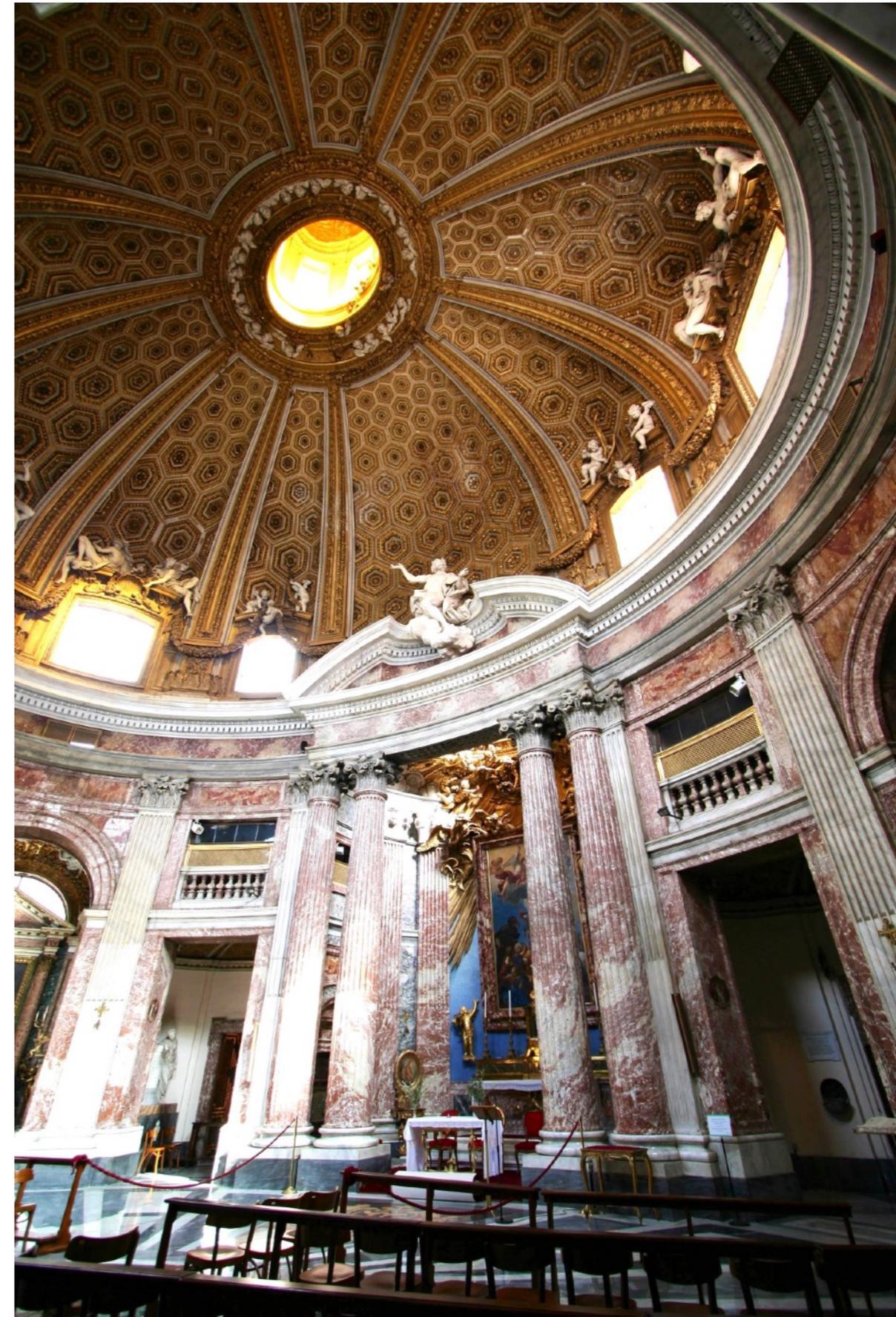


- **Round plan**, visible from the main façade

- **The main axis is the smaller axis of the oval !**

Sant' Andrea al Quirinale, Rome (1658-1670)

- The columns carry a **pediment scooped out at its centre**
- The main **oval dome** is punctuated by carved figures of angels

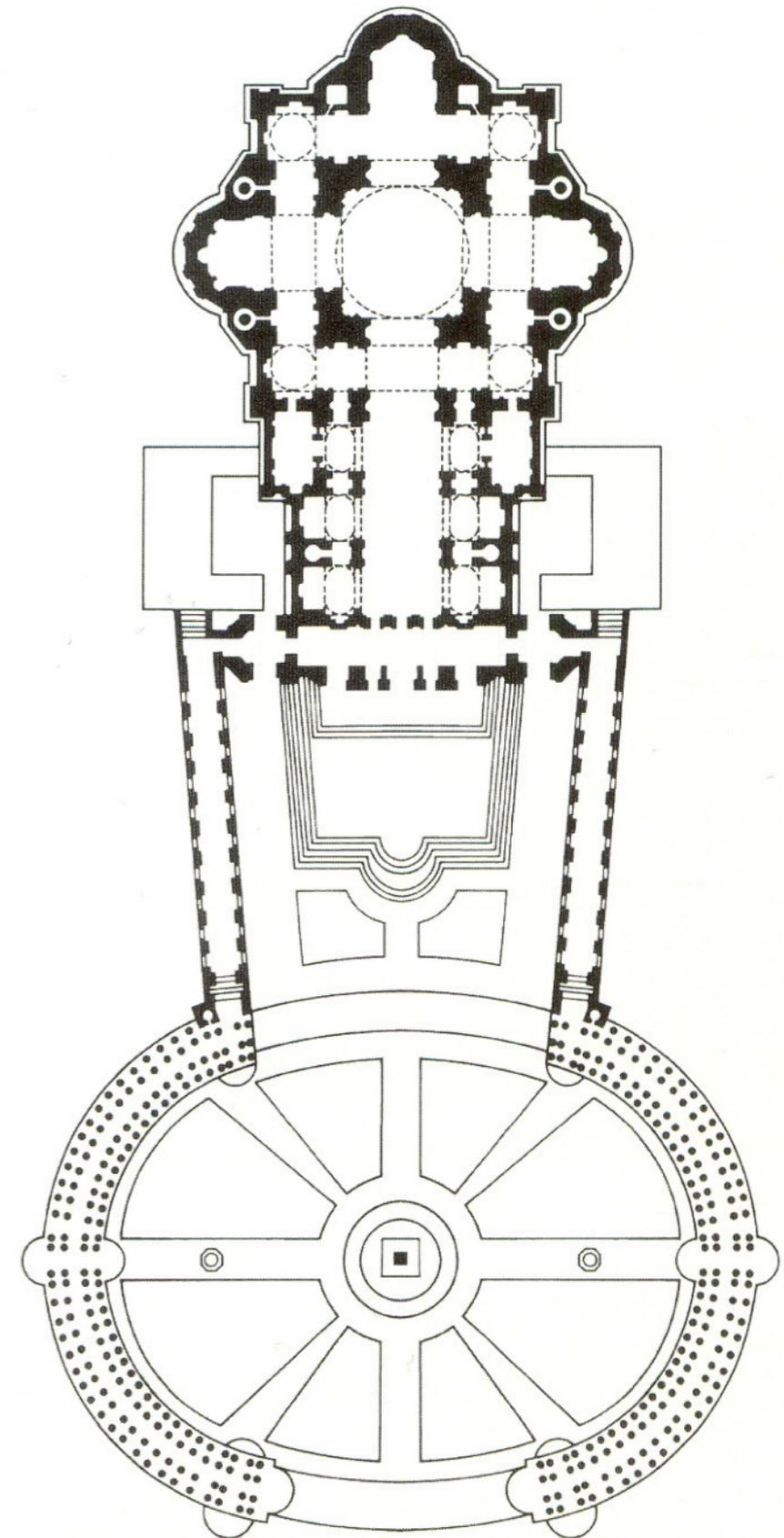


St. Peter Church and Piazza, Vatican city

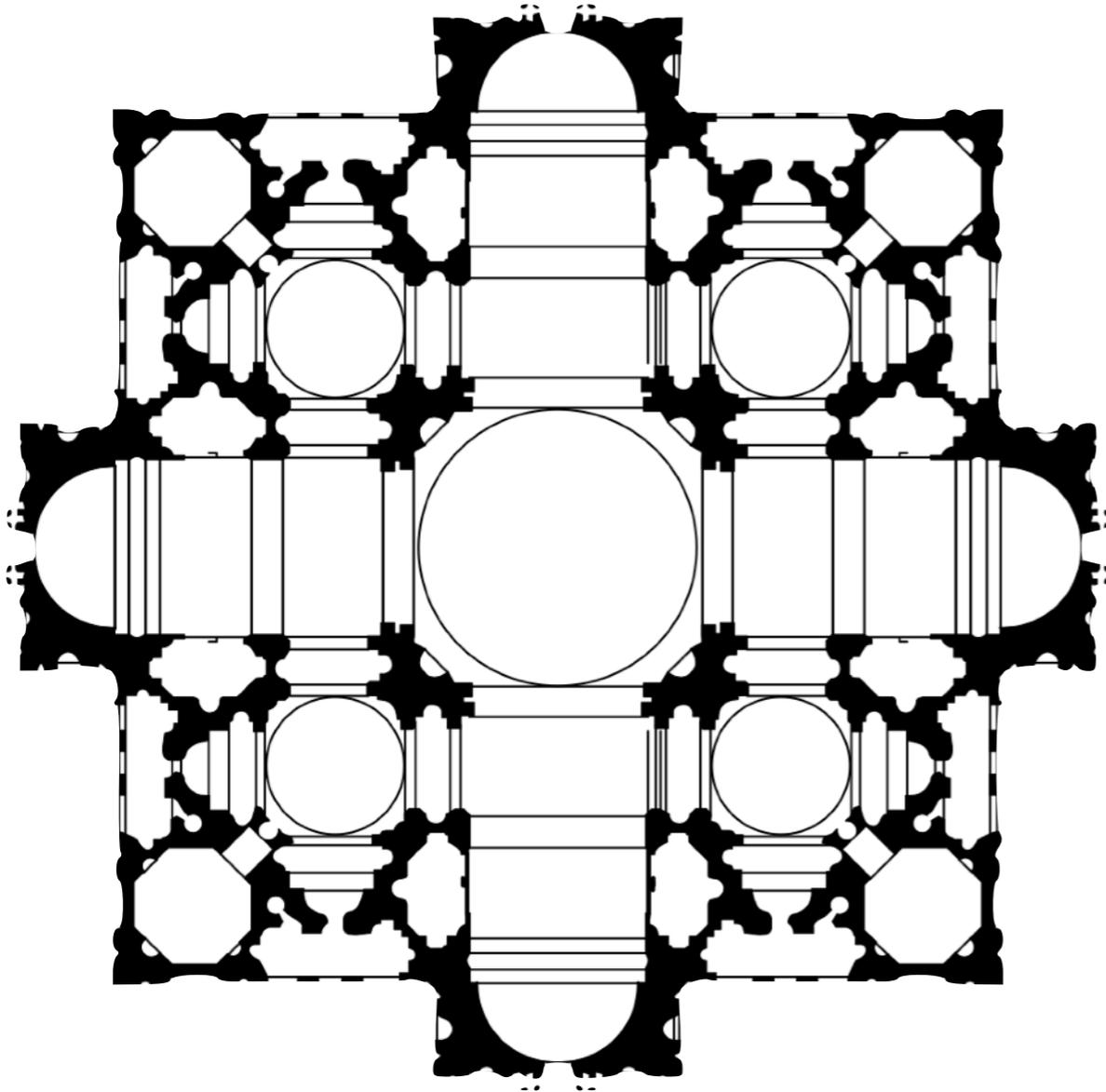


St. Peter Church and Piazza, Vatican city

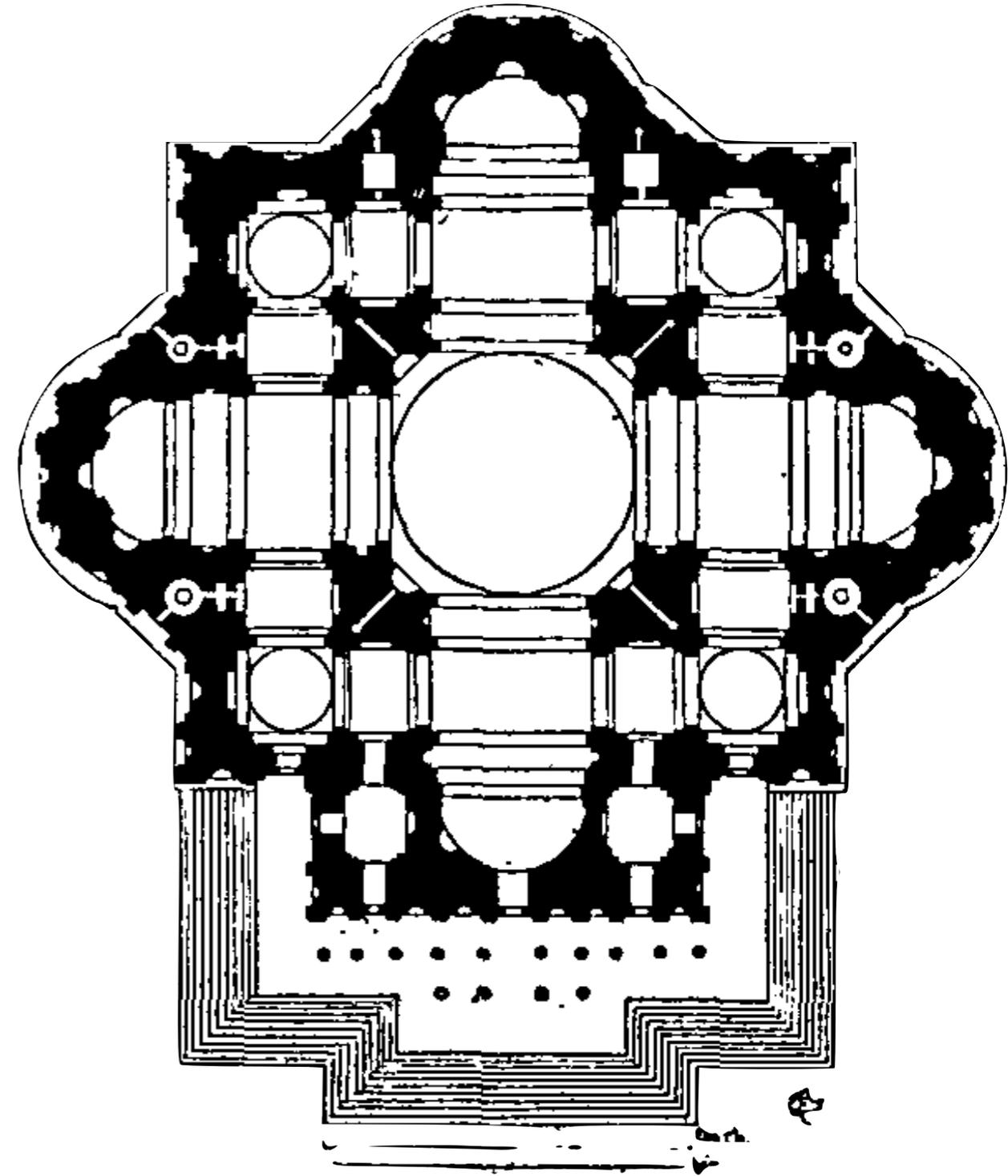
- St. Peter church is an Italian Renaissance and Baroque style church in the Vatican city
- Designed by **Bramante**, **Michelangelo**, **Maderno** and **Bernini**
- The plan combines clear logical **Greek cross** with **Roman barrel vaults** and **hemispherical domes**
- Façade and approach finished during Baroque period and the **church was convert to a Latin cross plan**



St. Peter Church and Piazza, Vatican city

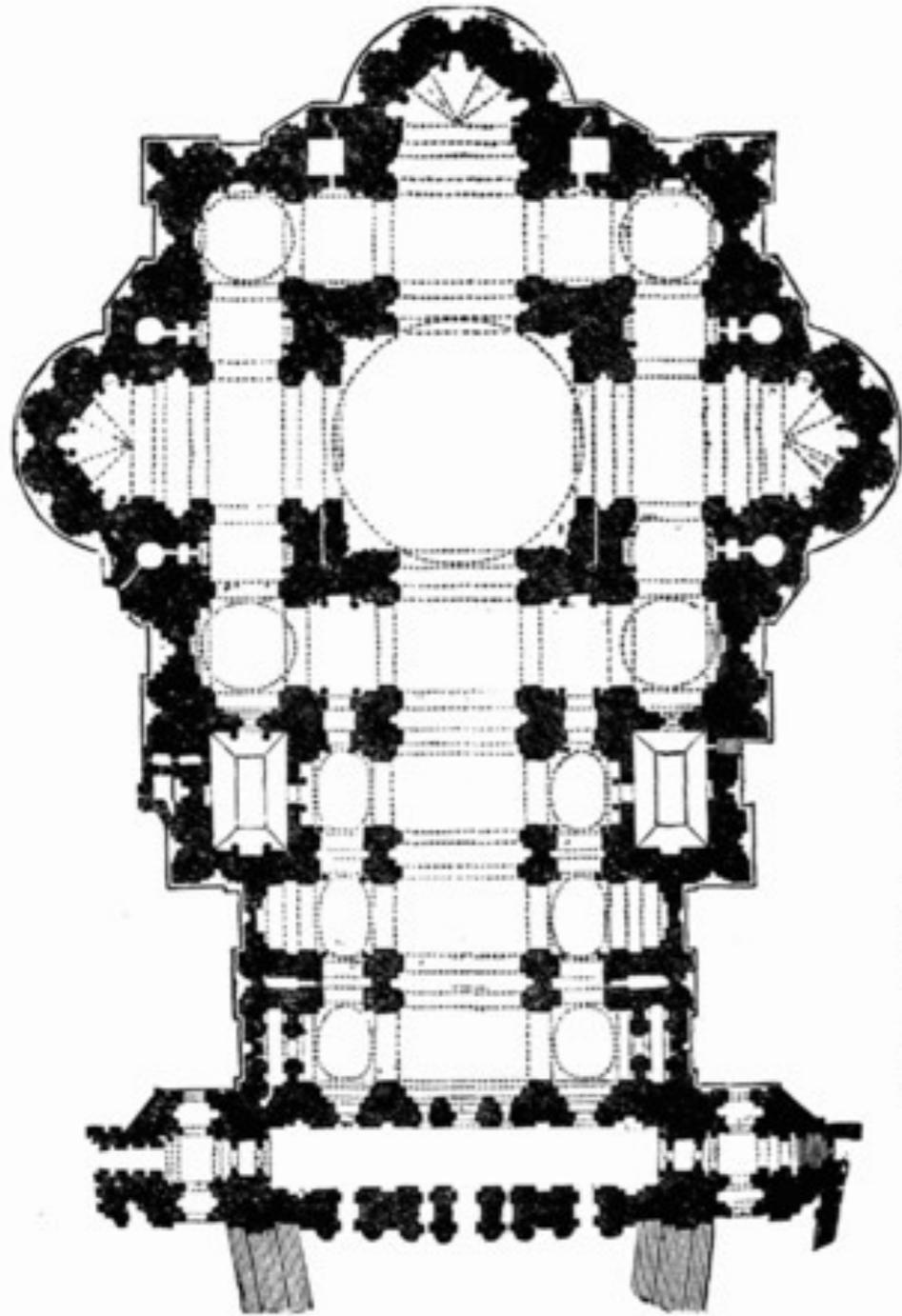


Bramante Plan (1506)



Michelangelo Plan (1547)

St. Peter Church and Piazza, Vatican city



Moderno Plan (1602)

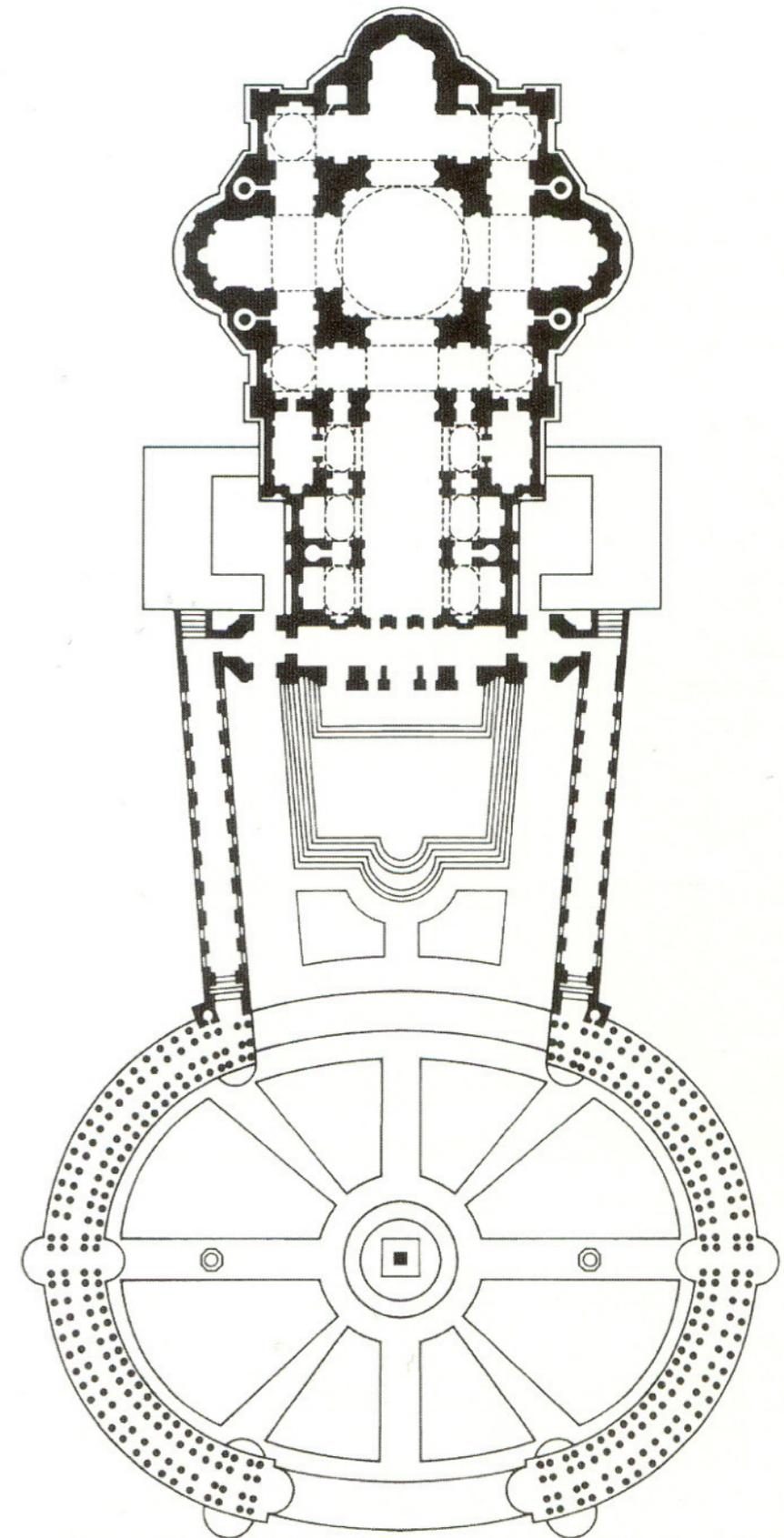


Moderno Facade (1614)

St. Peter Church and Piazza, Vatican city

- The church finally completed by Carlo Maderno
- Piazza finished in 1667, designed by Bernini
- The piazza was made of two parts:
 - **Trapezoid space** in front of the entrance
 - **Oval enclosure** with Tuscan colonnades with two fountains and an obelisk in the center placed in 1585-1590

The colonnades "embrace Catholics to reinforce their belief, heretics to re-unite them with the church, and agnostics to enlighten them with the true faith" (Bernini)



St. Peter Church and Piazza, Vatican city



St. Peter Church and Piazza, Vatican city



Bernini work (1626)

Francesco Borromini

Baroque Architect

1599-1667

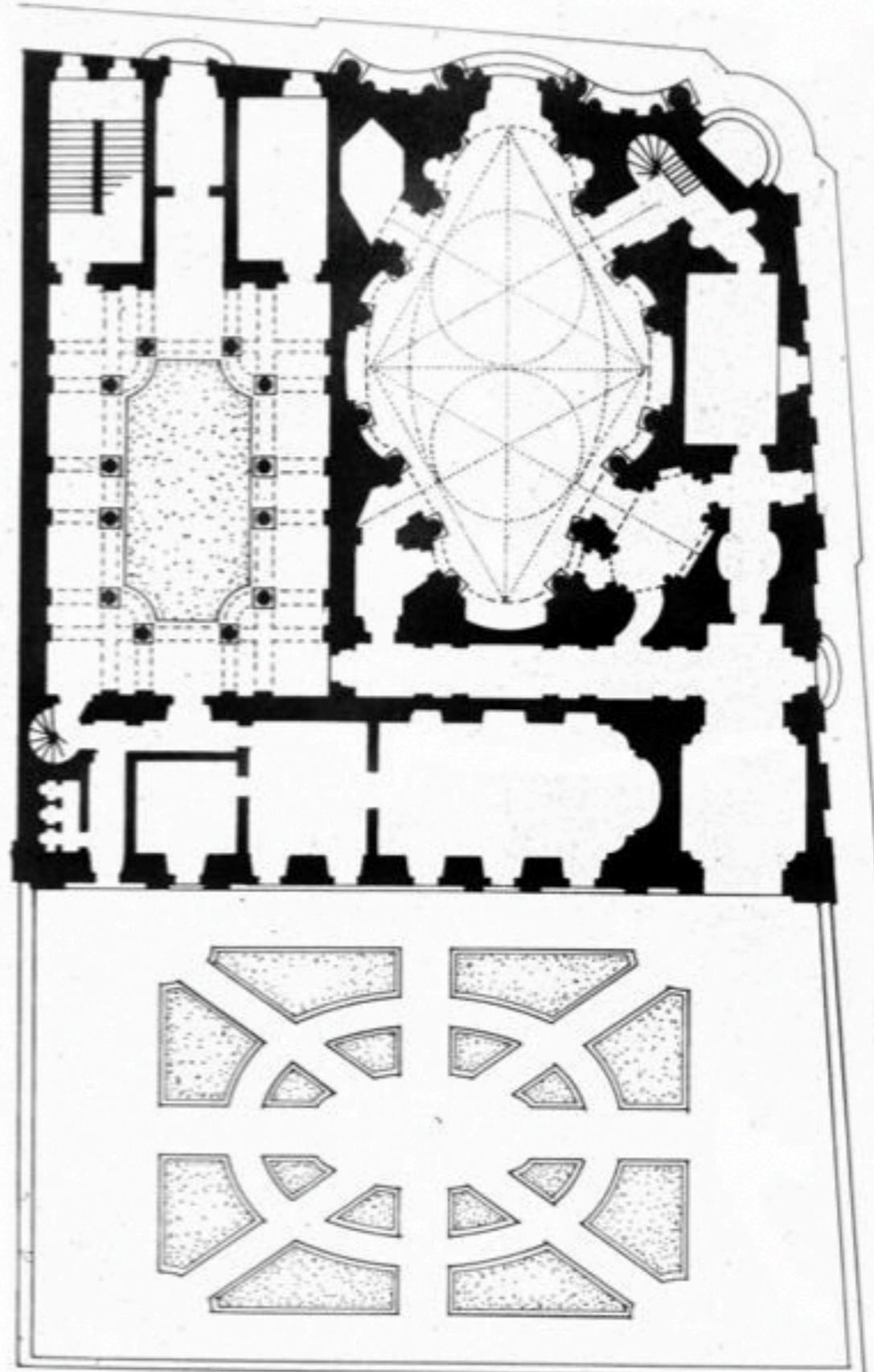


San Carlo Alle Quattro Fontane, Rome (1634-1667)

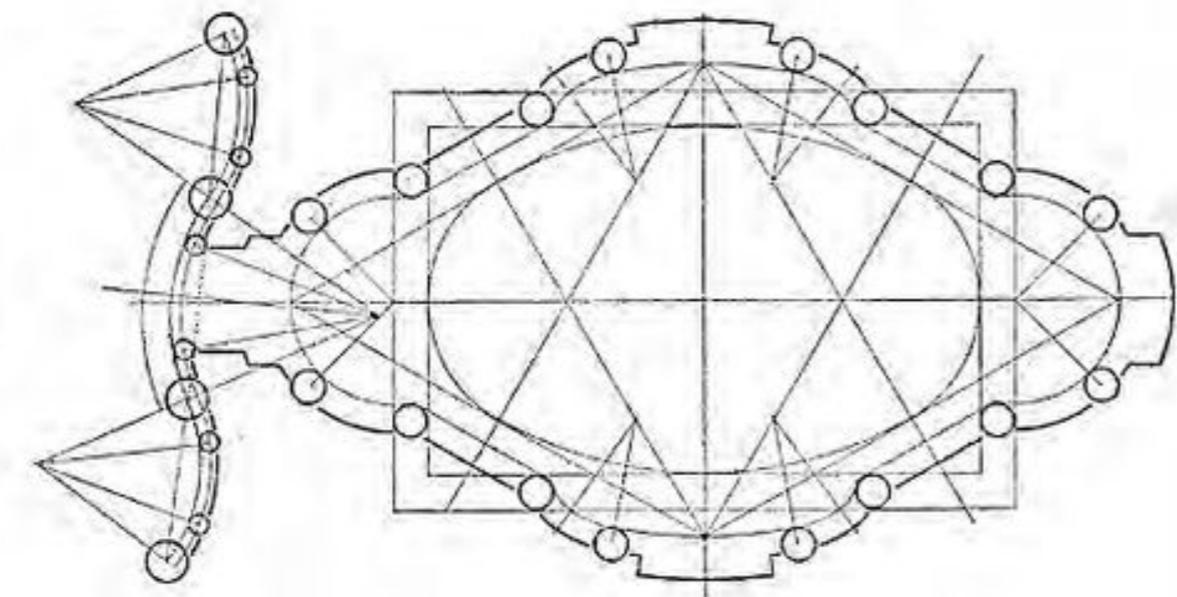
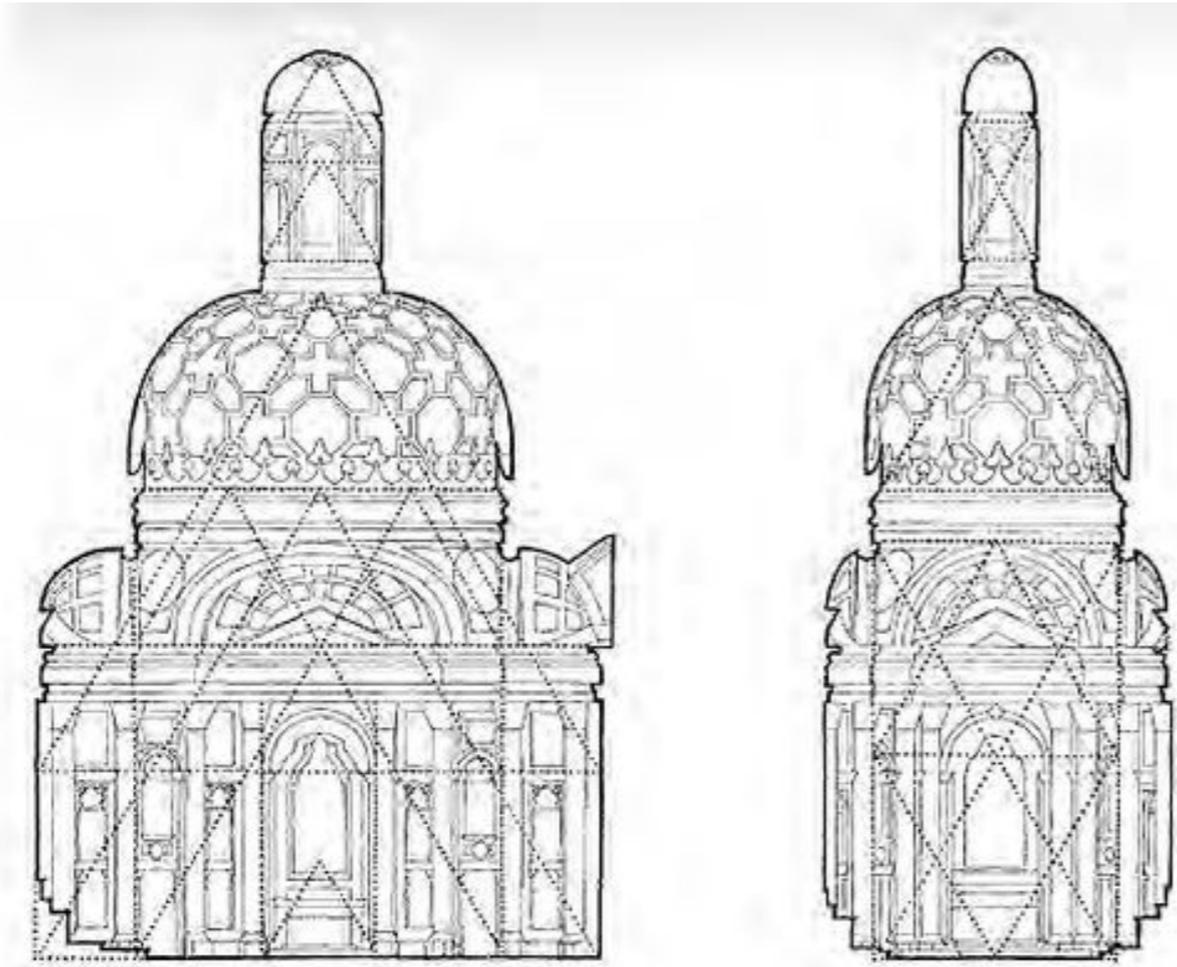


San Carlo Alle Quattro Fontane, Rome (1634-1667)

- Bases entire composition in both plan and section on complex union of **symbolic equilateral triangles** (holy trinity) instead of the traditional modules
- He began his design with **two large equilateral triangles joined in a common base**
- Then enclosed them in an oval - creating the bases for the plan
- **Oval dome carried on four pendentives**

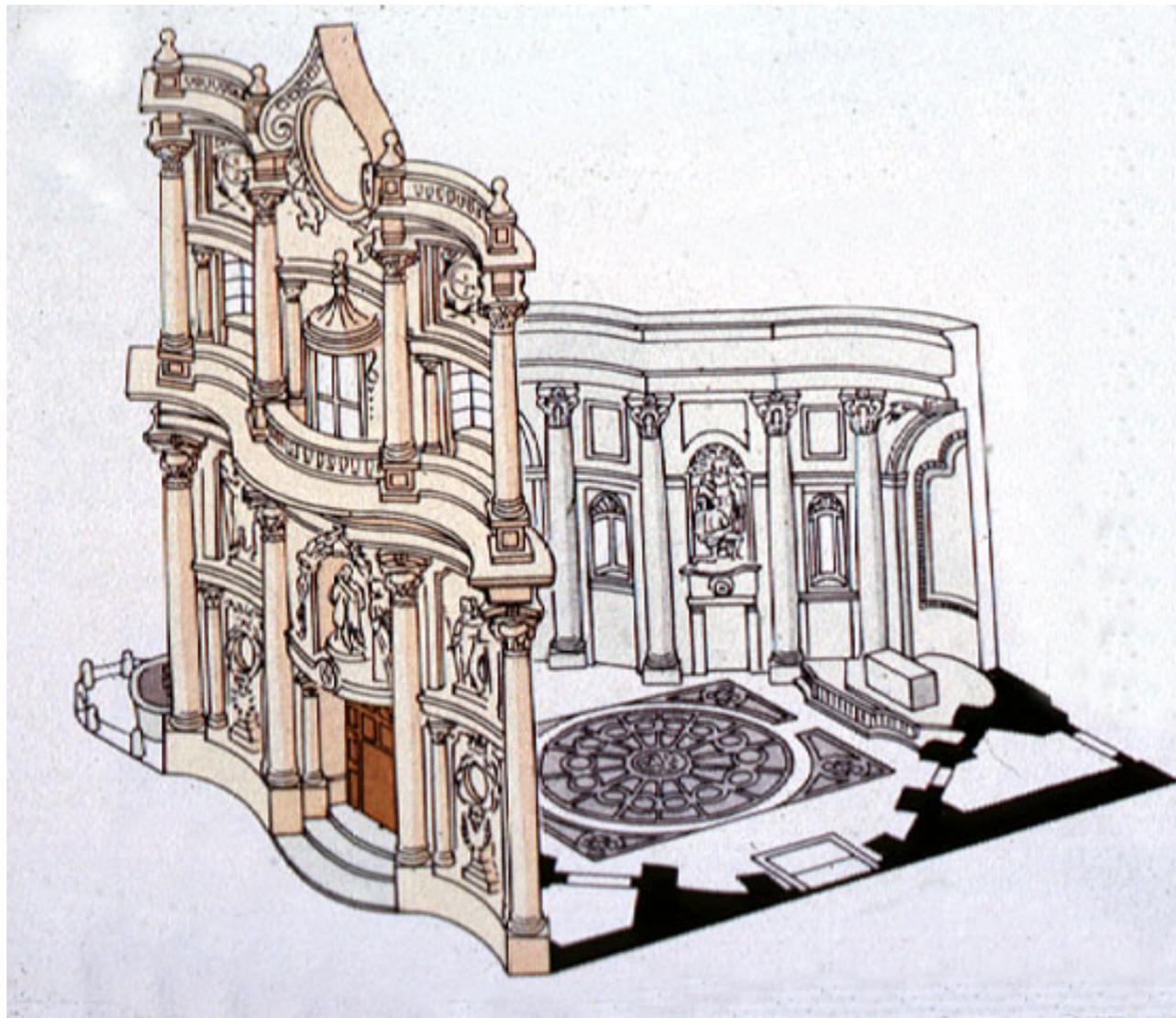


San Carlo Alle Quattro Fontane, Rome (1634-1667)



San Carlo Alle Quattro Fontane, Rome (1634-1667)

- Facade expressing classical elements and **movement**
- Center emphasis
- **Combinations of curved and straight lines**



Rococo Architecture

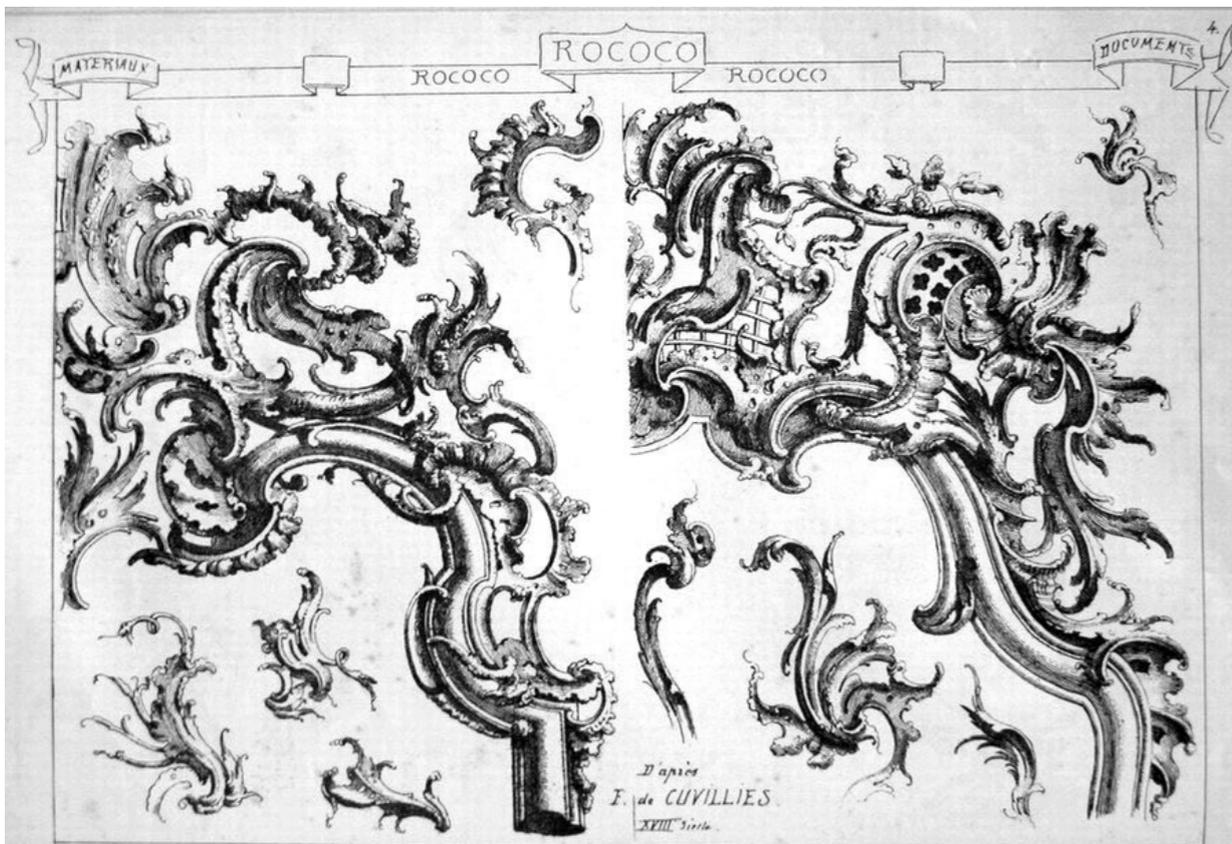
What is Rococo?

- Seen as the **Late Baroque**
- Rococo is a **delicate, ornate version of Baroque architecture**, appeared in the exteriors and interiors of buildings throughout Europe, but especially in **France** during the 1700s
- It developed in the early 18th century in France as a **reaction against symmetry and strict regulations**



What is Rococo?

- The rich Baroque designs were replaced with **lighter elements with more curves and natural patterns**
- Towards the end of the 18th century, Rococo started to fall out of fashion, and it was largely replaced by the **Neoclassic style**



Architectural Character

1. Rococo art and architecture was **ornate** and made strong usage of **gold, creamy, pastel-like colors** (or light colors), dark or bright colors rarely used

2. **Asymmetrical designs**

3. The Rococo architecture style took its creativity from **nature**; natural themes like shells, trees, leaves, clouds and rocks replaced the complex carvings associated with baroque buildings



4. The rooms of the Rococo period had **flat, smooth walls with minimal sculpturing**
5. Rococo rooms were designed as **total works of art with elegant and ornate furniture**, small sculptures, ornamental mirrors, and tapestry complementing architecture, reliefs, and wall paintings



Rococo Architecture
France

Princesse Salon, Hotel de Soubise (1732-1745)



Princesse Salon, Hotel de Soubise (1732-1745)

- The room is softened with flexible curves in the corners and at the ceiling
- Gold and white colours scheme, pale blue "sky"
- Golden ornamentation suggest a permanently festive atmosphere



Princesse Salon, Hotel de Soubise (1732-1745)



Baroque

1. Heavy but curved lines
2. Completely over the top decorations
3. Often religious themed
4. Gold everywhere
5. Massive mirrors wherever possible
6. Frescos on the ceiling
7. A chunky, symmetrical looks

Rococo

1. A slightly more elegant, graceful version
2. There's less gold and more white
3. Instead of religious themes, it's aristocracy
4. There is asymmetry and lots of organic shapes
5. Shell motifs
6. Not as oppressive and formal, designed more for casual decoration than for showing off

Good Luck with your exams