

RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE



Renaissance architecture, style of architecture, reflecting the rebirth of Classical culture, that originated in Florence in the early 15th century and spread throughout Europe, replacing the medieval Gothic style.



What are the basic elements of Renaissance architecture? The key features of Renaissance architecture are **the use of the classical orders, mathematically precise ratios of height and width, symmetry, proportion, and harmony.**



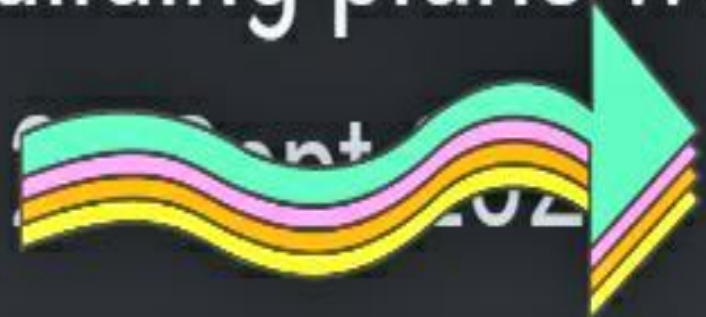
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Renaissance style places emphasis on symmetry, proportion, geometry and the regularity of parts, as demonstrated in the architecture of classical antiquity and in particular ancient Roman architecture, of which many examples remained.

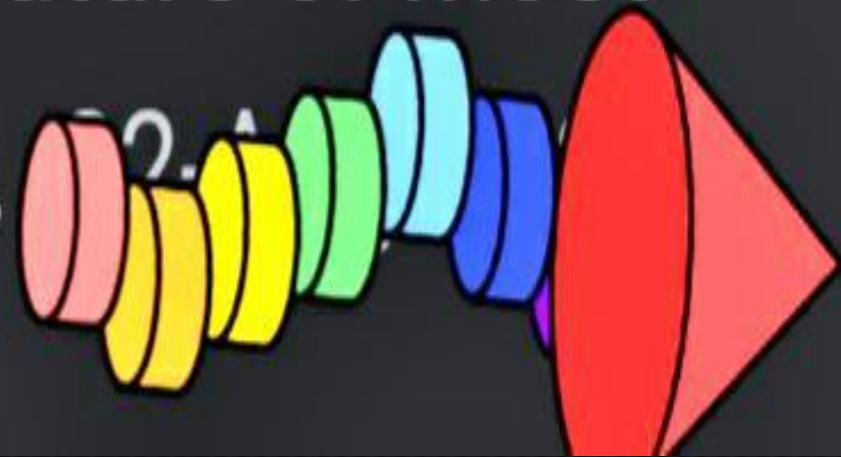


Renaissance architecture focused on **the classical notions of beauty based on proportion and symmetry**. It also incorporated geometry, and many building plans were symmetrical squares.





They also learned about the three registers of columns: doric, ionic, and corinthian. By learning how to build columns, architects rendered them a key feature of most Renaissance buildings.



Characteristics of the Renaissance include a renewed interest in classical antiquity; a rise in humanist philosophy (a belief in self, human worth, and individual dignity); and radical changes in ideas about religion, politics, and science.





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Renaissance art is marked by a **gradual shift from the abstract forms of the medieval period to the representational forms of the 15th century.** Subjects grew from mostly biblical scenes to include portraits, episodes from Classical religion, and events from contemporary life.



As in the Classical period, proportion was the most important factor of beauty; **Renaissance architects found a harmony between human proportions and buildings.** This concern for proportion resulted in clear, easily comprehended space and mass, which distinguishes the Renaissance style from the more complex Gothic.



Renaissance architecture had some distinct features that were fairly common to major construction: Square - **Many buildings were built as square or rectangle symmetrical shapes.** Front - The front or "façade" of the buildings were generally symmetrical around the vertical axis. Columns - They used Roman type columns.





During the Renaissance, however, architects were inspired by the highly symmetrical and carefully proportioned buildings of Classical Greece and Rome.



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Key themes :

- Individualism.
- Rationalism.
- Secularism.
- Humanism.

15th century architecture in Florence featured the use of classical elements such as orderly arrangements of columns , pilasters , lintels , semicircular arches , and hemispherical domes . Filippo Brunelleschi was the first to develop a true Renaissance architecture.



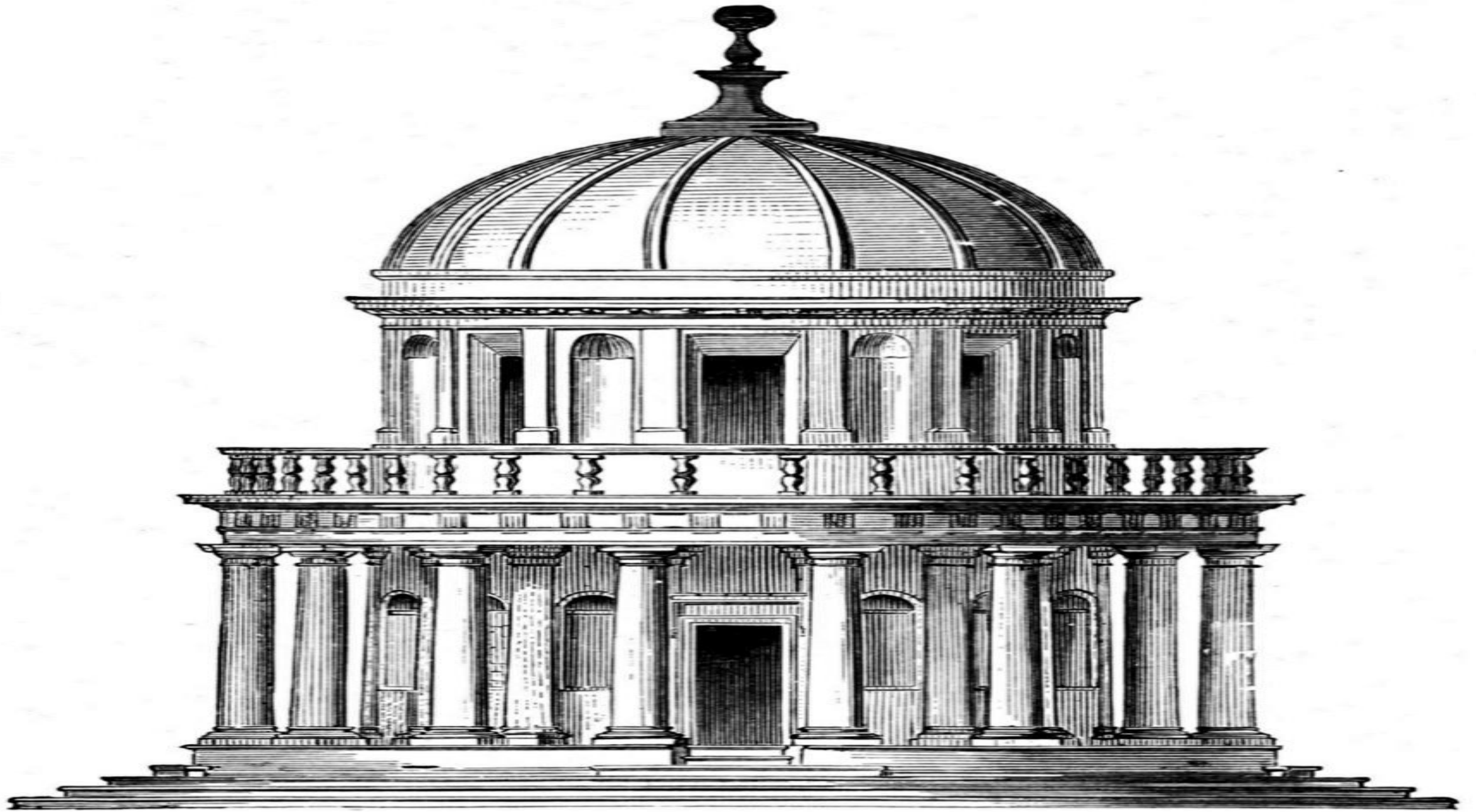


*Rossellino Bernardo, Cathedral,
Pienza*

The main difference between medieval and Renaissance architecture is that medieval architecture (particularly Romanesque architecture) is characterized by its heavy, solid, and fortified structures. In contrast, Renaissance architecture is characterized by its lighter, more graceful, and more ornate style.

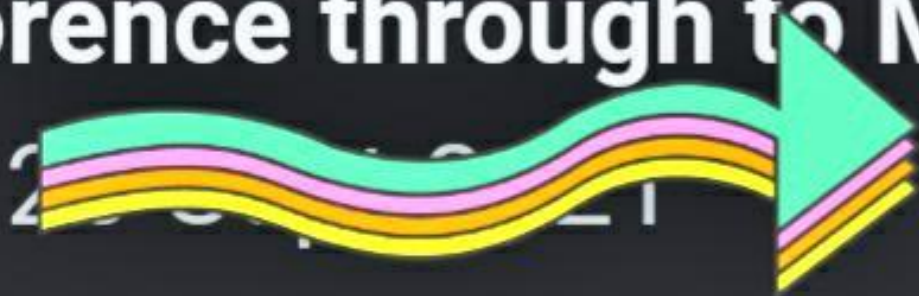


The four main Renaissance artists were: **Donatello, Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci.** Donatello lived during the last decades of the Middle Ages and the first decades of the Renaissance. He was primarily known as a sculptor. Raphael was both a painter and architect.





During the 15th-century, artists began to travel outside of their home-based regions as Florence, Naples, and Venice began to extend their range of influence and power. Through this unrestricted movement of new ideas, the influence of Renaissance architecture spread from Florence through to Milan and then on to France.



RENAISSANCE VALUES. Renaissance people had certain common values. Among them were **humanism, individualism, skepticism, well-roundedness, secularism, classicism and patronage.**



It was an incredible time of beauty, blossoming with creativity and curiosity. The Renaissance era also witnessed the discovery and exploration of new continents, the growth of commerce, and the inventions of innovations such as paper, printing, the mariner's compass and gunpowder.