

# Baroque architecture

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# Baroque architecture

- Architectural style originating in late 16th-century Italy and lasting in some regions, notably Germany and colonial South America, until the 18th century.  
It had its origins in the Counter-Reformation, when the Catholic Church launched an overtly emotional and sensory appeal to the faithful through art and architecture.
- **Complex architectural plan shapes, often based on the oval, and the dynamic opposition and interpenetration of spaces were favoured to heighten the feeling of motion and sensuality.**
- **Other characteristic qualities include grandeur, drama and contrast (especially in lighting), curvaceousness, and an often dizzying array of rich surface treatments, twisting elements, and gilded statuary.**
- **Architects unabashedly applied bright colours and illusory, vividly painted ceilings.**

# Significant architects

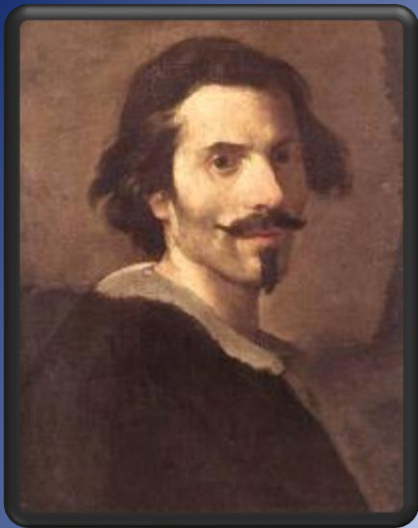
- Outstanding practitioners in Italy included **Gian Lorenzo Bernini**, Carlo Maderno (1556–1629), **Francesco Borromini**, and Guarino Guarini (1624–83).
- Classical elements subdued Baroque architecture in France.

In central Europe, the Baroque arrived late but flourished in the works of such architects as the Austrian **Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach** (1656–1723).

- Its impact in Britain can be seen in the works of **Christopher Wren**.
- The late Baroque style is often referred to as Rococo or, in Spain and Spanish America, as Churrigueresque.

# Bernini and Borromini

- Two main architects of the baroque era were **Bernini** and **Borromini**.  
**Bernini's** first medium was sculpture. He liked to incorporate lots of it into his buildings.  
A sculptor and mason, **Francesco Borromini** went to Rome in 1614, and trained under **Bernini and Carlo Maderna**.  
Lots of Borromini's buildings incorporated many shapes and different forms.



# Gian Lorenzo Bernini

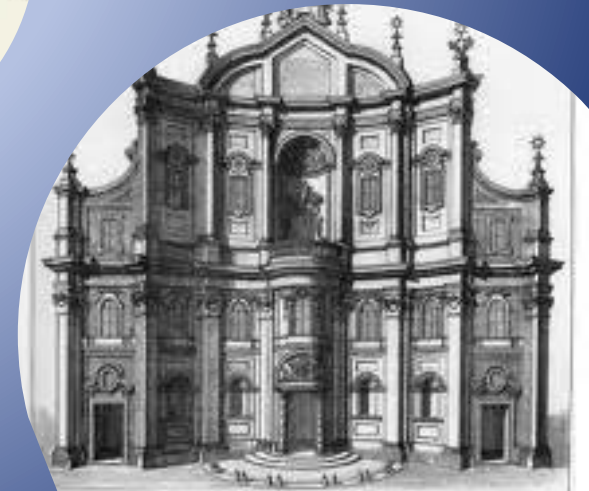
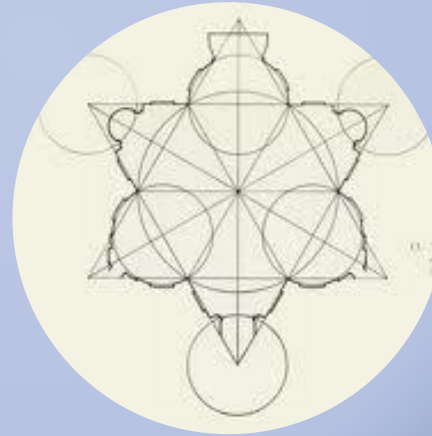
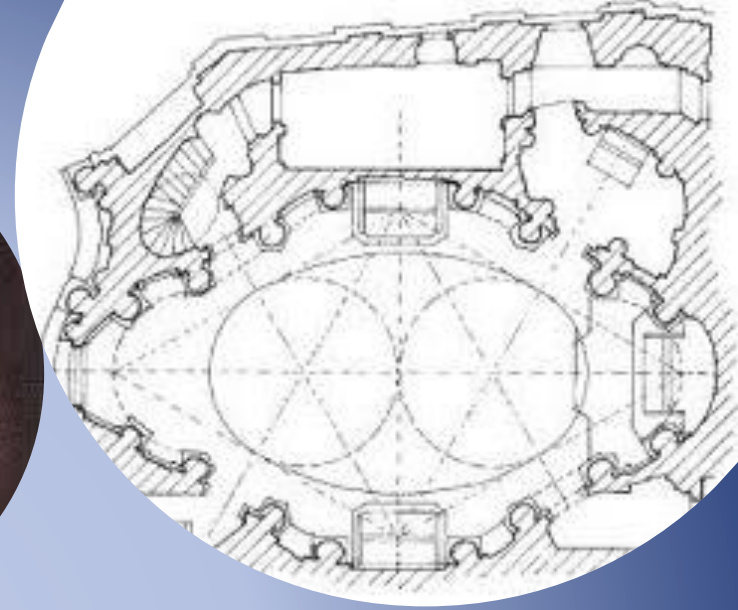


**Santa Maria dei  
Popolo, Roma, 1652**

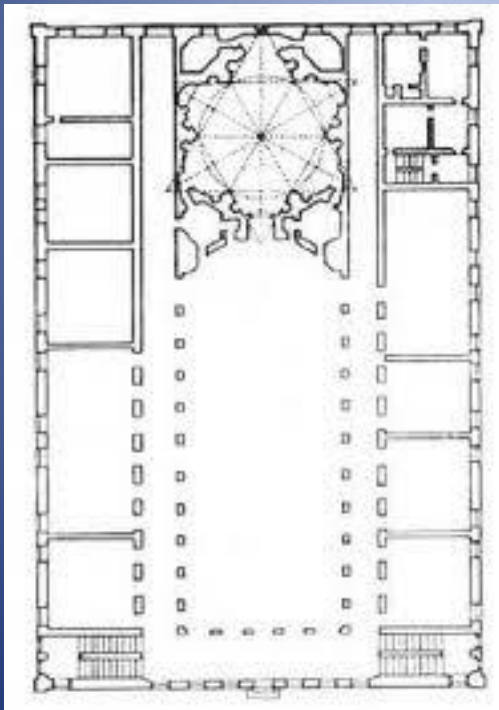


# Francesco Borromini

- Born 1599



# Francesco Borromini



# Francesco Borromini

## San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane

March 22 2023







# Carlo Maderno

# The word „baroque“

- **The word Baroque means a misshapen pearl.**  
This period of architecture was called baroque because it was considered very **odd**.

Baroque architecture evolved out of Renaissance architecture in Italy. In the 1600's, the renaissance architects began to get bored **with the symmetry** and same old forms they had been using for the past 200 years.

They started to make bold, curving, and not at all symmetrical buildings, with ornate decorations.

They started to make curving facades and used the double curve (in at the sides, out in the middle) on many different buildings.

# Illusionism and Emotion

- **The baroque architects used marble, gilt, and bronze in abundance.**  
Baroque pediments (triangular area between the rooftop and the end of the roofs) were often highly decorated, or interrupted at the center.
- The tips were sometimes turned into scrolls and gilded.
- Many of the ceilings used something called **illusionism**.  
That is when paintings are elaborately done, to make it look like the painting is actually an engraving, or protrusion on the wall or ceiling.  
Baroque art and architecture was **often used to express emotion**, and was very elaborate. It was popular mostly among the upper class.

# Oval or elipsis

- **The most distinct shape of the Baroque style is the oval.**
- It was a very common shape among baroque buildings. Creating buildings out of complex interlacing ovals allowed the architects to have large open spaces that were different than just plain circles. The domes on many churches were oval shaped, but some were circular. That posed a problem because mainly ceiling spaces were oval shaped. To accomplish putting a circular dome on an oval space, the architect had to use very strange angles, but it did create space for sculptures and paintings.



# Christopher Wren

Following the **Great Fire of 1666**, which had hopelessly damaged most of the City of London. **Christopher Wren proposed within 10 days an ideal plan for the City calling for straight streets, etc**, which was deemed impractical.

His principal work, the evolutionary design and construction of **the new St. Paul's Cathedral**, started soon after 1670 (although Christopher Wren had proposed a reconstructed dome for the former edifice shortly before the fire' and was eventually completed in 1711.

In 1698, Christopher Wren became Surveyor of Westminster Abbey. Founder of Royal Society, 1680 -82 head.

Later, however, **Christopher Wren was active in establishing new safety regulations for buildings** and, significantly, was busy **as the chief architect for the rebuilding of over 40 parish churches**, developing the single steeple "... large enough for a good Ring of Bells ..." as an important British urban design and architecture.

# Christopher Wren, 1632 - 1723



# Christopher Wren

His significant work for the Church of England: for the Crown (under four sovereigns), including the Hampton Court Palace enlargement (1689-1700) and the Greenwich Naval Hospital (1696 - 1716); and for academia, including **the Library for Trinity College at Cambridge** (1676 - 1684) consumed most of his effort, and Christopher Wren also advised friends and colleagues on architectural matters.

- Christopher Wren worked with the finest building materials and craftsmen on all of his projects. Christopher Wren was knighted ca 1673, was President of the Royal Society from 1681 to 1683, and entered Parliament in 1685, serving in the House of Common intermittently for a total of about three years (through 1702) from several residence district. Christopher Wren was interred **in St. Paul's** in 1723, his marker bearing the legend, in Latin, „Reader“

# Kensington Palace, London

