

ARCHITECTURE- WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ARCHITECT?

BRUNELLESCHI

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The world of art has many branches: painting, architecture, literature; in my opinion everything that is created by someone and creates feelings and emotions can be considered art. There are as many branches as the works and the jobs that are involved in them. There are painters, photographers, poets, writers, but the profession which I am going to talk about specifically is the architect. Architecture has been present since ancient times; we can think of the Ziggurats of the Sumerians, the Ishtar Gate of the ancient Babylonians, the Parthenon of the great Greeks and the Triumphal Arches of the powerful Romans. These monuments bring an amazing cultural value to their civilisations and they are the basis of all architecture, but I will explore not a nation or a society, but someone exceptional for architectural thoughts and knowledge. I am talking about Filippo Brunelleschi, (Fig.1) now considered "The Father of Renaissance Architecture ". Known as 'Pippo', he lived all of his life in Florence, the Renaissance capital, but around 1402 decided to make an important and ideal, in terms of architectural styles information, trip for the purpose of studying the architecture of antiquity, to the mother of the Ancient Classical culture: Rome.

Throughout his life he creates one masterpiece after another inventing a new architectural style inspired by the Ancient Romans, which combined with his discovery of Linear Perspective (Fig.2) he created designs of mathematical and linear clarity that would influence later Renaissance architects. The architecture of Brunelleschi is just incredible, and he creates the first Renaissance building: the "*Ospedale degli Innocenti*", 1427 (Fig.3) with a wonderful portico of semi-circular arches, Corinthian order for the pilasters and the columns that support the arches. This building is just amazing, but it is not perfectly influenced by the antiquity that he had studied, because Vitruvius, in explaining the ideal classical architectural characteristics, arches are supported by piers, columns support entablatures. However, his most famous work is the Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore. 1436 (Fig.4) The largest brick dome in the world, awesome in its dimensions built by adopting a strange idea – the double-shell construction of an egg, having an outer shell and an inner shell to reduce the weight. There are also

the nine construction rings of the “Cupola” that might represent the Dante’s nine rings of Heaven creating a construction that is also divine. (Fig.5)

Brunelleschi took inspiration from the Pantheon in Rome during his journey to the Caput Mundi. The octagonal drum of the Duomo had already been built so he had to build an ovoid dome but thanks to the “*Quinto Acuto*” for the design the cupola comes close to the perfect hemispherical shape of the Pantheon dome. (Fig.6) The Pantheon was considered one of the most important divine monuments of Ancient Rome and Brunelleschi built this dome thinking about the values of the ancient culture, showing his perfect skills by building a monumental construction, just as the powerful as the architecture built by the Emperors. Brunelleschi’s masterpiece was the new Pantheon of the Renaissance.

APPENDIX IMAGES



FILIPPO BRUNELLESCHI SCVL. E. ARCHIT.

Fig. 1 FILIPPO BRUNELLESCHI (1377-1446)

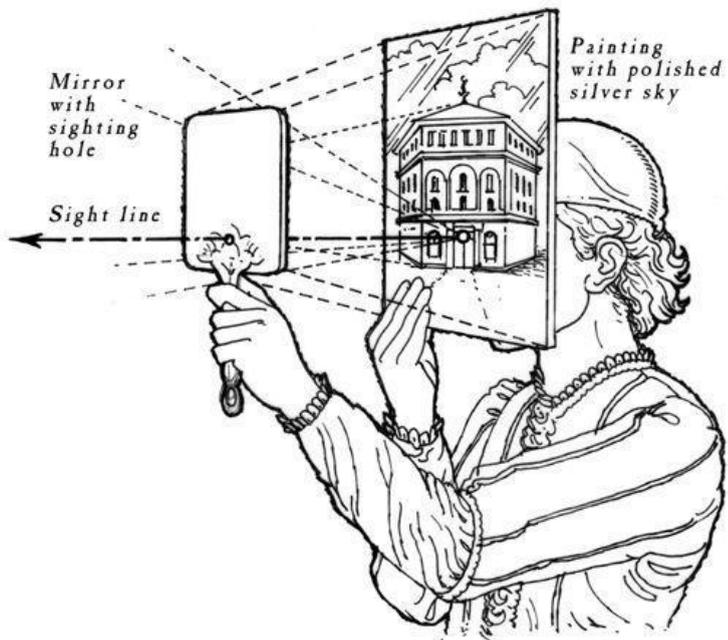


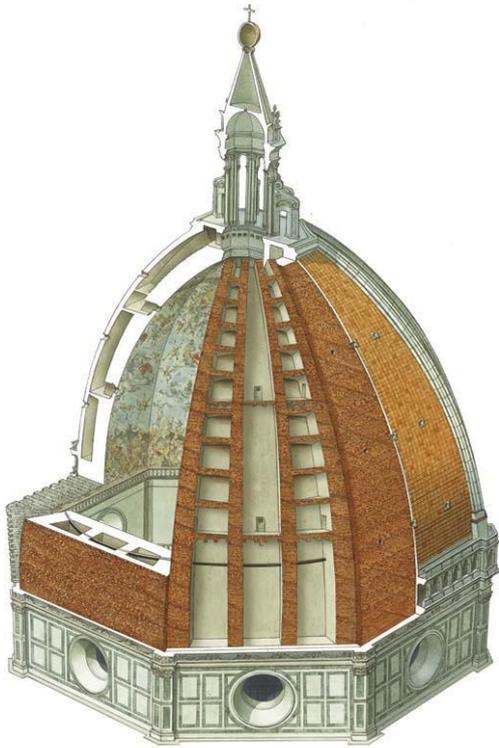
Fig.2 INVENTION OF THE LINEAR PERSPECTIVE (c.1413)



Fig.3 OSPEDALE DEGLI INNOCENTI



Fig.4 THE DOME OF SANTA MARIA DEL FIORE, FLORENCE



Firenze, cupola di Santa Maria del Fiore PBM editore

Fig.5 DOUBLE-SHELL CONSTRUCTION



Fig.6 PANTHEON DOME

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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