Sustainable
Urban
Rehabilitation in
Europe

# *Philosophy and Aesthetics of architecture*

# PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF ARCHITECTURE

## 4.
## THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT,
## THE ARCHITECTURAL TREATISES

SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

**PhD. Valeria Montanari**

FOURTH LESSON:
PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF ARCHITECTURE

*The study of the ancient, the architectural treatises*

# Philosophy and Aesthetics of Architecture

| PROGRAMME OF LECTURES | | CONTACT HOURS | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | LECTURES | EXERCISE |
| 1 | Introduction. The concept of aesthetics. Philosophy and art from antiquity to the Middle Ages | 3 | 3 |
| 2 | Philosophy and art in the Middle Ages | 2 | |
| 3 | Philosophy and Humanism. The aesthetic appreciation of architecture in the Renaissance | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | The study of the ancient, the architectural treatises | 2 | |
| 5 | Philosophy, aesthetics and architectural research between the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Neoclassicism. The beauty, the sublime | 2 | |
| 7 | The aesthetics of the ruins. German idealism and art | 2 | 2 |
| 8 | Romanticism and Impressionism | 2 | |
| 9 | Eclecticism, Art Noveau and new architectural trends. The study of cities | 2 | 2 |
| 10 | Positivism, Late positivism and restoration of monuments | 2 | |
| 11 | Neo-idealist aesthetics and subsequent developments. The reflection of Cesare Brandi | 2 | 3 |
| 12 | Attention to the landscape and contemporary trends | 2 | |
| | | **25** | **15** |

# *The age of Humanism*
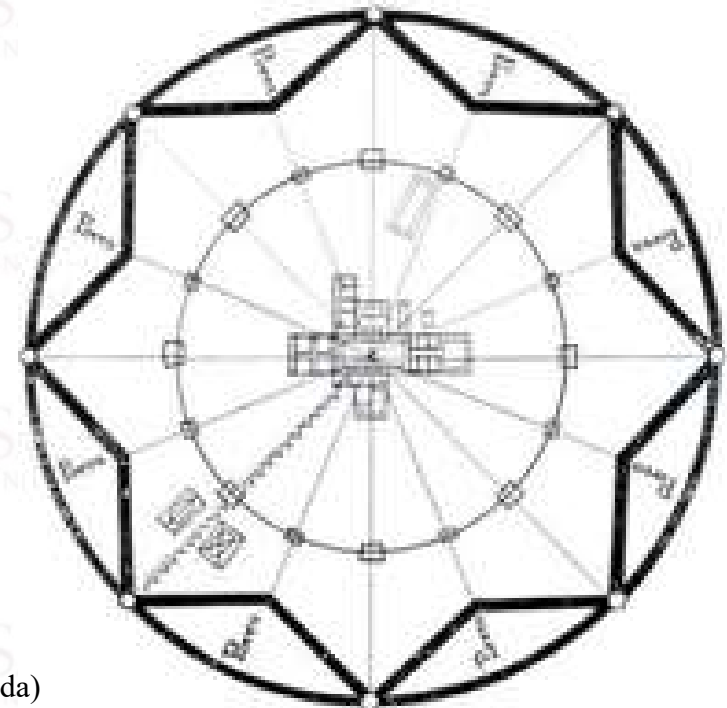
Antonio Averlino, detto Filarete

(image from:
https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Filarete,_Francesco_Sforza,_Collezione_Altomani,_Milano.JPG)



Discarded the Vitruvian conceptions
of anthropometry, Filarete designs an
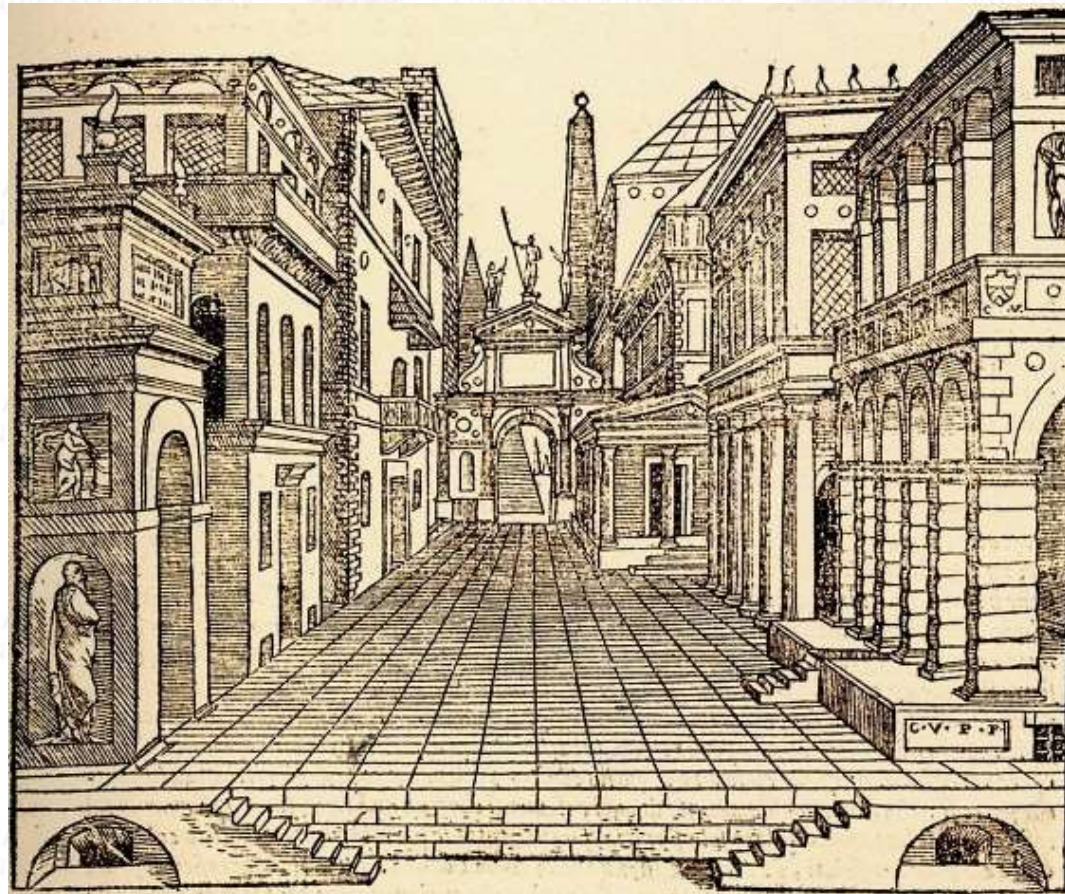ideal city that looks like the
aestheticization of a cultural idea.

Pian of Sforzinda, 1462-1464

(imagen from:
https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sforzinda)

**VI , VII - COURSE OF  PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF ARCHITECTURE**
**L 4 The study of the ancient, the architectural treatises**

Valeria Montanari

# The age of Humanism

The crisis of the rigid classicist architectural program is visible in Serlio's aesthetic conception, characterized by the introduction of unpublished figurative models.



Serlio, *Scena tragica,* 1545

(image from:
https://theartstack.com/artist/se
bastiano-serlio/scena-tragica)

# Sebastiano Serlio

**I Sette libri dell'architettura**
published starting from 1537

**1537**
*Regole generali di architetura sopra le cinque maniere de gliedifici : cioe, thoscano, dorico, ionico, corinthio, et composito, con gliessempi dell'antiquita, che per la magior parte concordano con la dottrina di Vitruuio*. In Venetia : Per Francesco Marcolini Da Forli, 1537

*Libro primo d'architettura di Sebastiano Serlio bolognese. Nel quale con facile e breve modo si tratta de' primi principii della geometria. con nuova aggiunta delle misure, che servono à tutti gli ordini de' componimenti che vi conseguono. Seguono con propri frontespizi il libro secondo ed il terzo*. In Venetia, Presso Francesco de' Franceschi Senese, 1584.
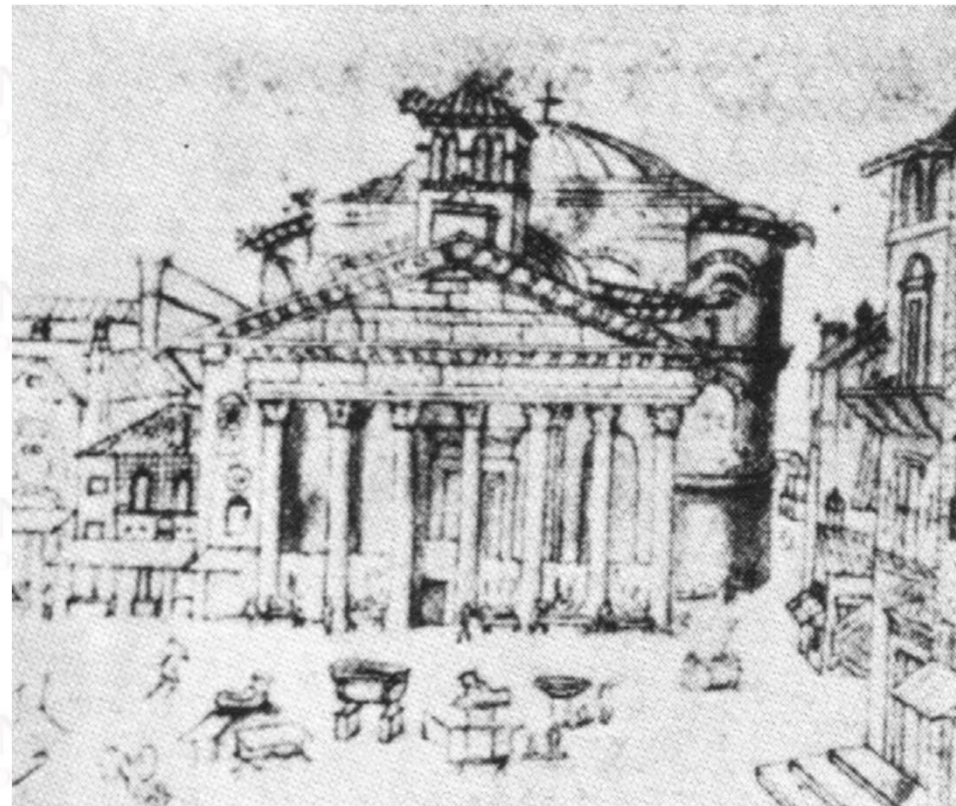
## Renaissance aesthetics

In the Renaissance, attention is focused on 'classic' monuments; intended as a source of inspiration; choice that excluded any conservative operation.
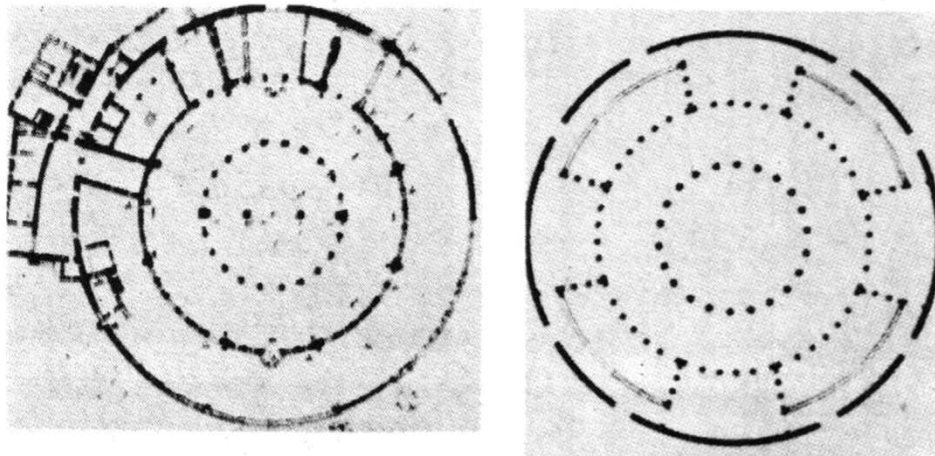


Restoration of the Pantheon promoted by Eugene IV in the fifteenth century

(image from: C. Ceschi, *Teroria e storia del restauro*, Roma 1970, p. 11, fig. 1)

# *Renaissance aesthetics*

The first attempts at valorisation are suggested by a renewed aesthetic need: no desire to restore the old, but to give back a function and a current form to the building.

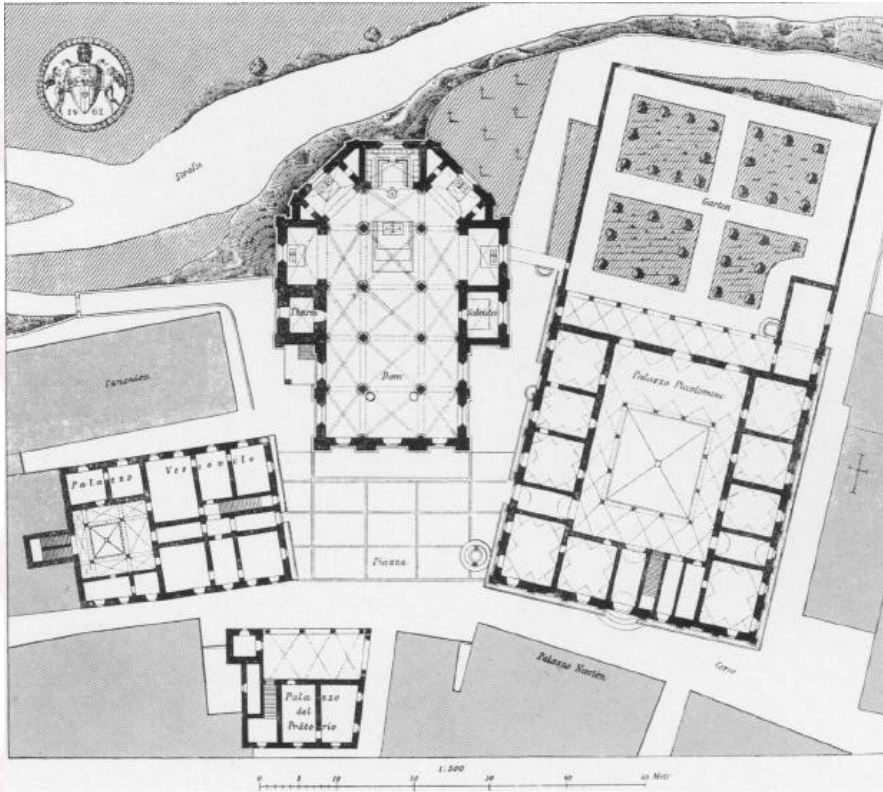Roma, S. Stefano Rotondo (B. Rossellino)



(images from: C. Ceschi, *Teroria e storia del restauro*, Roma 1970, p. 11, figg. 3-4)



(photo by S. D'Avino)

VI , VII - COURSE OF PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF ARCHITECTURE
L 4 The study of the ancient, the architectural treatises

Valeria Montanari

# *Renaissance aesthetics*



(image froma: https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urbanistica_di_Pienza)

Pienza, duomo (B. Rossellino)



(photo by S. D'Avino)

**VI , VII - COURSE OF PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF ARCHITECTURE**
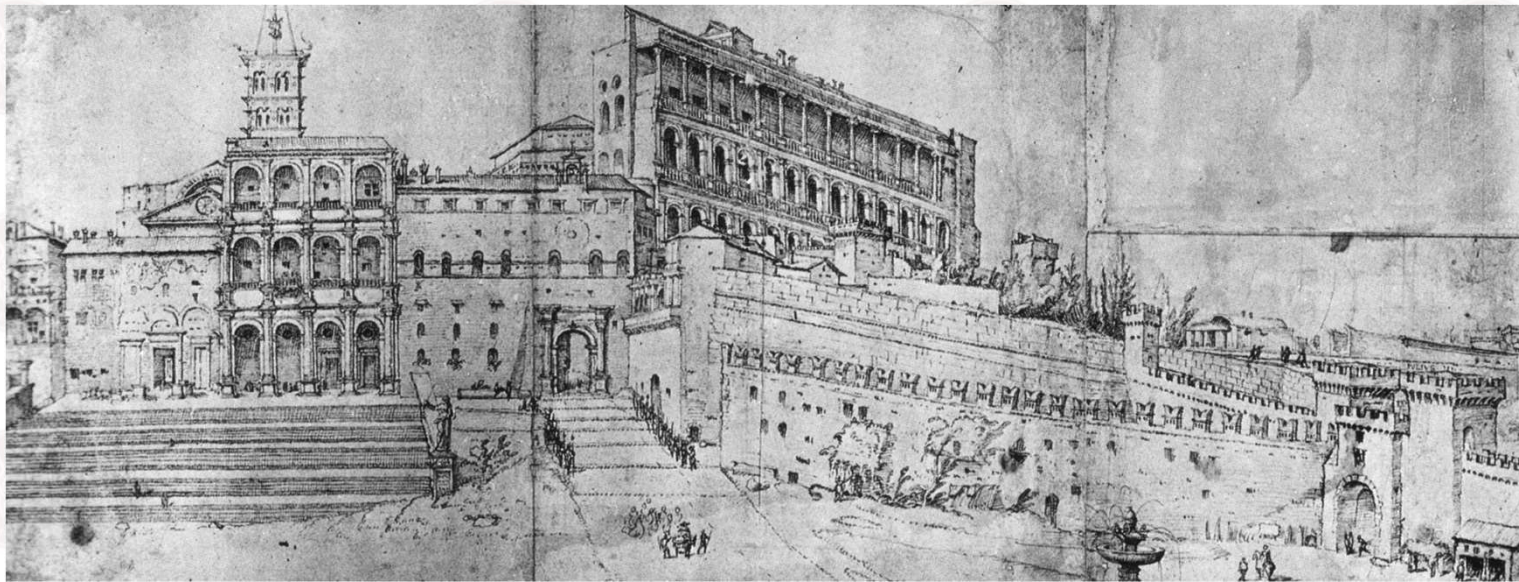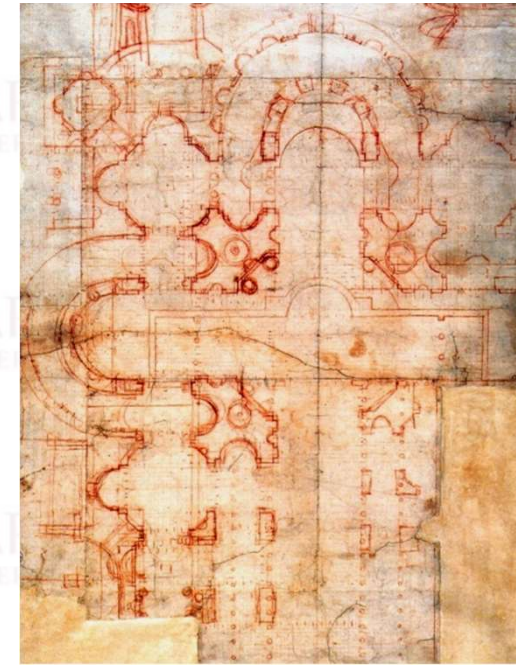**L 4 The study of the ancient, the architectural treatises**

Valeria Montanari

# *Renaissance aesthetics*

Humanism limited appreciation to classical antiquity and could not extend it to the architecture of later centuries. This is the only way to understand the incredible indifference that characterized the reconstruction of S. Pietro by Bramante.



D. Bramante, *project for S. Pietro,* 1505-1506

S. Pietro, basilica costantiniana, prima della demolizione
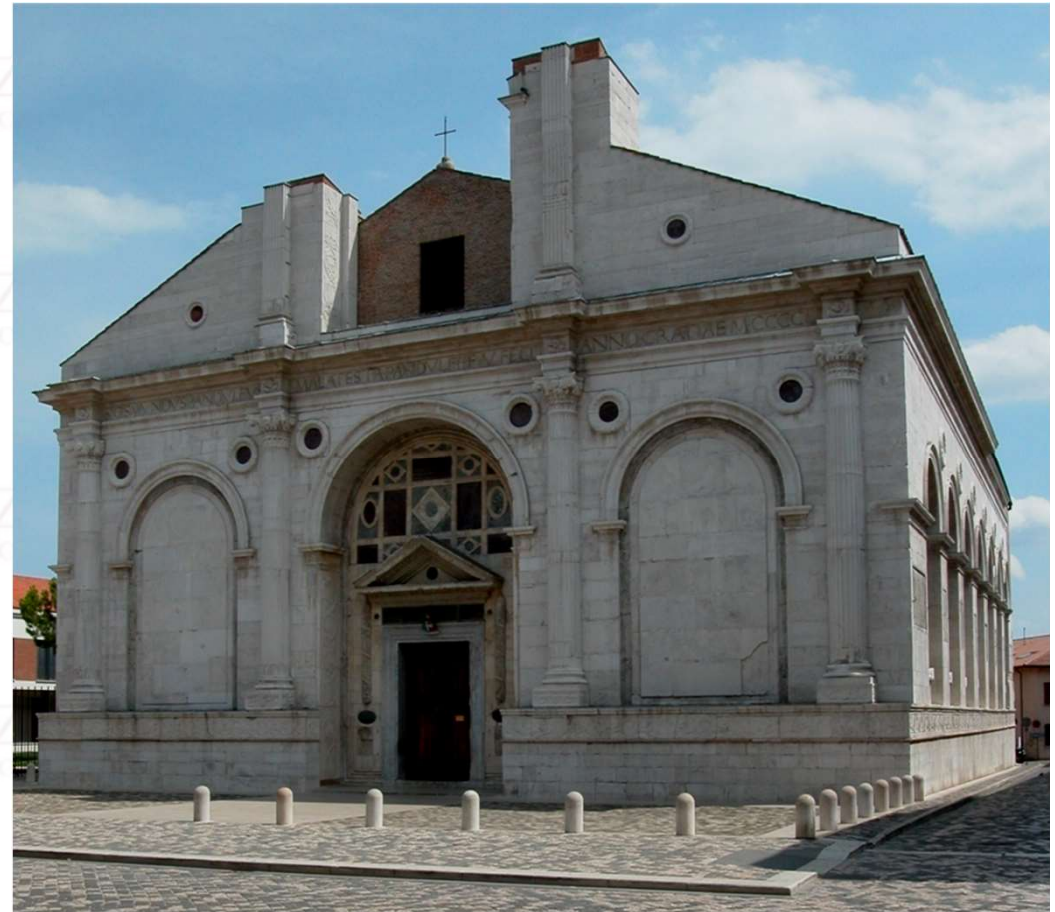(dis. di M. van Heemskerck, XVI sec.)



(image from:
http://suquestapietra
.altervista.org/blog/
maarten-van-
heemskerck/)

# *Renaissance aesthetics*

Artists use the linguistic codes proper to their figurative world and not those pertinent to past eras.

Rimini, *Tempio Malatestinano*
(L. B. Alberti)

The Gothic pre-existence is enveloped by a new structure characterized by the adoption of a fully classicist language.
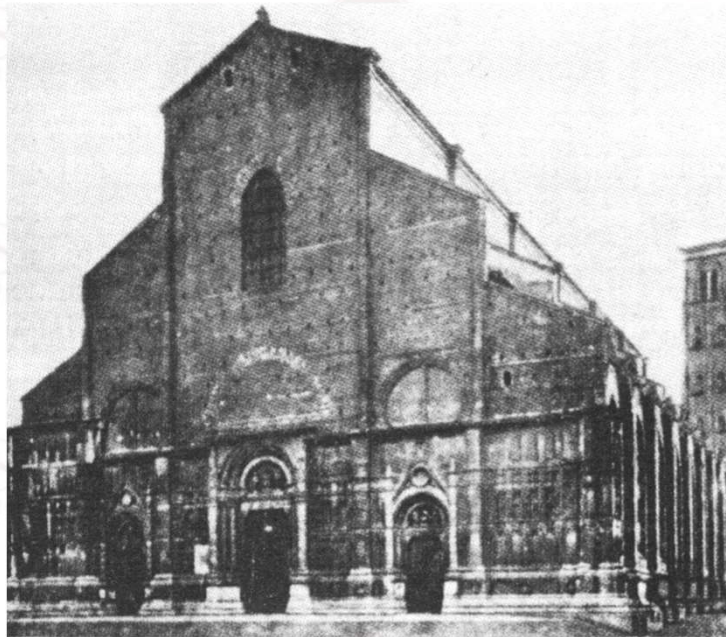(E. Panofsky, *The meaning of visual arts*, 1955)



(photo by S. D'Avino)

VI , VII - COURSE OF PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF ARCHITECTURE
L 4 The study of the ancient, the architectural treatises

Valeria Montanari

# Renaissance aesthetics

The extraneousness of the Renaissance architects compared to the non-classical world appears in the non-completion of the San Petronio's facade in Bologna.
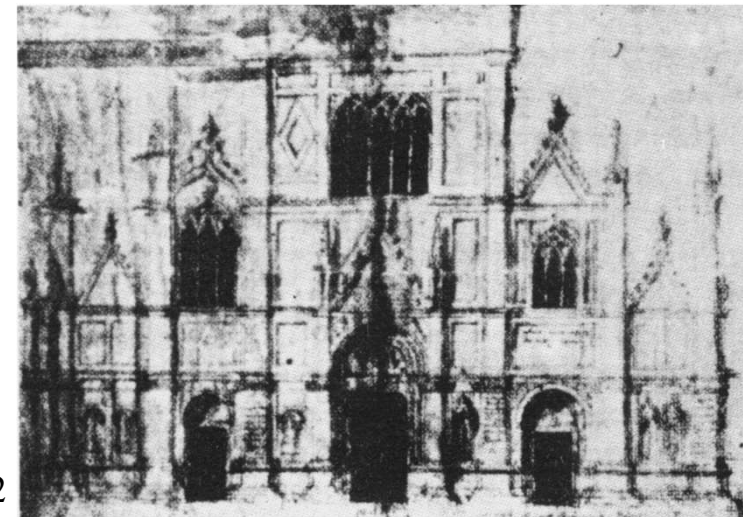


(image from: http://www.arte.it/guida-arte/bologna/da-vedere/chiesa/basilica-di-san-petronio-2476)



Jacopo della Quercia, 1438

Baldassarre Peruzzi, 1522

(images from: C. Ceschi, *Teroria e storia del restauro*, Roma 1970, p. 16, figg. 17-18)

*Recovery of the past*
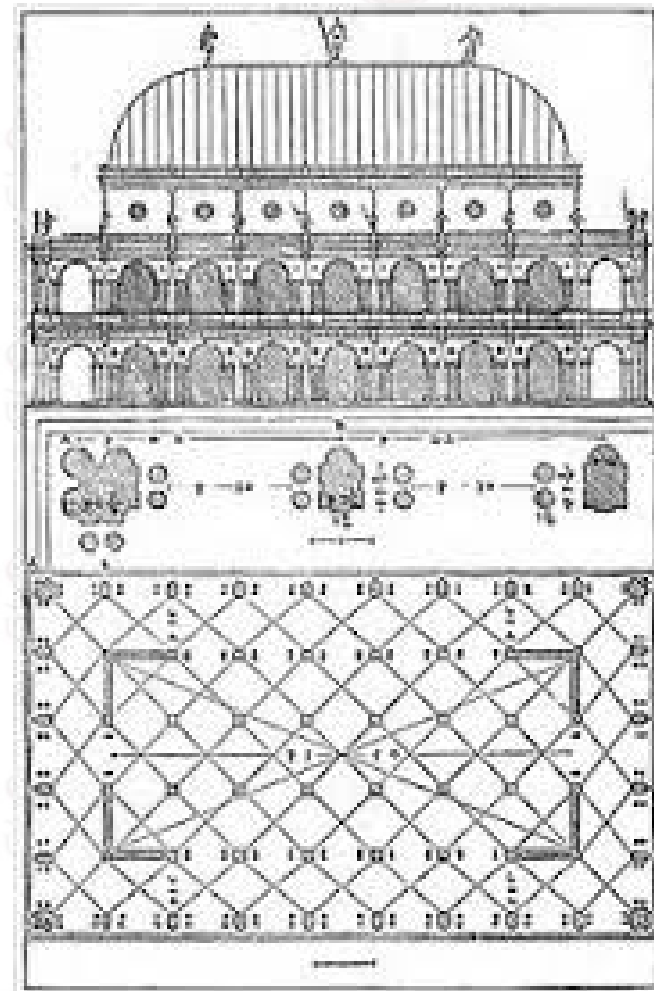
Vicenza, "basilica palladiana"

(photos by S. D'Avino)

**VI , VII - COURSE OF PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS OF ARCHITECTURE**
**L 4 The study of the ancient, the architectural treatises**

Valeria Montanari

# *Andrea Palladio (1508-1580)*

*I quattro libri di Architettura,* **1570**



(from:Houghton_Typ_525_70.671_I_qvattro_libri_dell'architettvra_-_frontispiece)



**Basilica from** *I Quattro Libri dell'architettura*

(from: https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_Palladiana)

**Project "SURE - Sustainable Urban Rehabilitation in Europe"**
**implemented in frames of Erasmus+ Programme**
**Key Action 2: Strategic Partnership Projects**
**Agreement n° 2016-1-PL01-KA203-026232**

**This publication has been funded within support from the European Commission.**

**Free copy.**

**This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.**