

L4-4day4

Italian Baroque Architecture

Art Discussed:

Borromini, St. Charles of the Four Fountains, Rome

Borromini, Chapel of Saint Ivo, Rome

Guarini, Chapel of the Holy Shroud, Turin

Wren, Saint Paul's, London

HW:

Activity Sheet

Borromini, St. Charles of the Four Fountains, Rome

- Very small site
- Complex ground plan
- Alternating convex and concave patterns

Exterior:

- Façade higher than the rest of the building
- Walls treated sculpturally
- Emphasis on central portal with kiosk and formerly frescoed medallion above
- Union of three major arts

Interior:

- Chapels merge into the main room
- Oval coffered dome

Borromini, Chapel of Saint Ivo, Rome

Exterior:

- Intricate and complex lantern
- Heavy stringcourses give a horizontal sweep, but strong pilasters make overall effect vertical
- Walls have an undulating pattern

Interior:

- Star hexagonal shape, end points turn into niches
- Hexagon accepted symbol of wisdom: appropriate for the law school of Rome
- Dome not decorated with painting, architectural forms dominate

Guarini, Chapel of the Holy Shroud, Turin

- Masonry crosshatching
- Mathematical geometric shapes
- Not meant for painted decoration
- An illusion of endless distance
- 12 pointed star
- Hexagonal ribs make high, airy dome
- Stone is dressed in unpolished grey marble
- Houses the Shroud of Turin
- Dove of the Holy Spirit hovers in center

Wren, Saint Paul's, London

Exterior:

- Drum of dome resembles Saint Peter's
- Influence of the Tempietto
- Three domes: hidden central element is a brick cone that holds the dome up, outside dome gives a rounded shape, the hemispherical dome is of wood and is painted

Façade:

- Two storied façade is classicizing
- Frontispiece is an equilateral triangle
- Coupled columns
- Juxtaposition of concave and convex designs in the towers recalls Borromini
- Contrasts of dark and light in the porch

Interior:

- Octagonal crossing is the dominant central space in nave