

*“Index of Art Historical Sites: Rome, Italy: Tempietto, San Pietro in Montorio”*

Mary Ann Sullivan

**Tempietto, San Pietro in Montorio**

Donato Bramante

1508

**The "little temple" seen through the gate enclosing the courtyard**

In the courtyard of San Pietro in Montorio, where St. Peter was thought to have been crucified, this small temple echoes circular classical temples in Tivoli or in the Forum and elsewhere in Rome. (See the Temple of Venus at Tivoli.) Initially Bramante had planned a circular courtyard as well. The circular plan had a precedent in the early Christian martyrium, which was usually small and centrally planned. Size was unimportant since these temples were memorials, not places of worship.



**The classical entablature**

Here, unlike many classical precedents, Bramante uses the severe Roman Doric order with alternating metopes and triglyphs. Fifteenth century tryglyphs. Fifteenth century Italian Renaissance architects had generally preferred the Ionic or Corinthian orders.



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## Steps and peristyle

The temple is composed of two concentric cylinders--a wide low outer one and a tall narrow inner one--the temple itself. The peristyle and steps circle around the main cylinder.



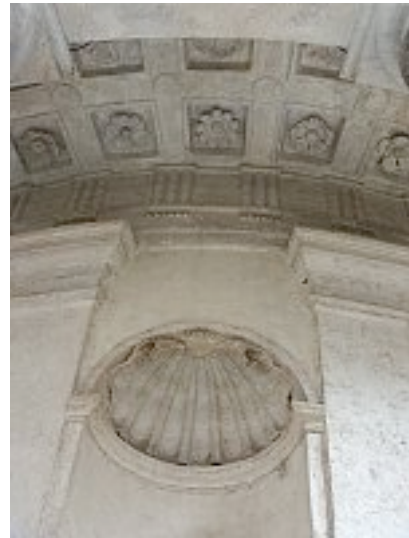
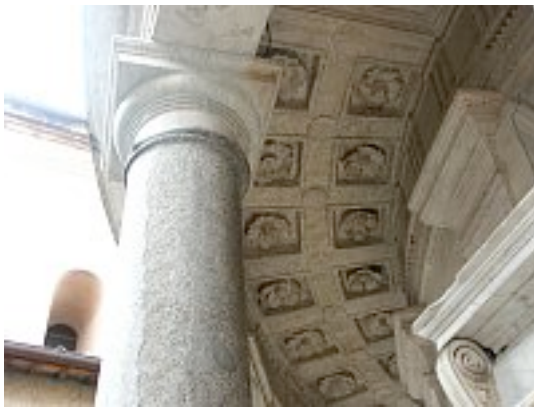
## Entrance



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Views of the peristyle, coffering, and outer wall of the church proper



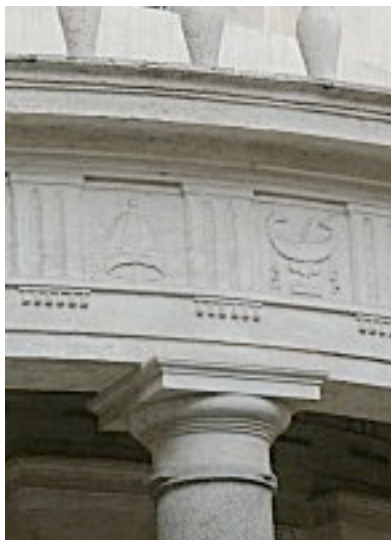
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The balustrade at the top of the outer cylinder (the peristyle) and the drum with concave niches, alternating with decorative shell motifs



Metopes with relief designs of liturgical instruments and the lantern



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**Stairway down to the martyrium at the back of the temple**



**Interior--oblique view; right: main statue of St. Peter**



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**Axial view from entrance**



**Views of the dome, drum, and Doric entablature**



**Narrow niches above the windows with statues of the four Evangelists (with their symbols) alternate with wider niches with decorative shell motifs.**

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In the row below, Matthew is represented with his symbol, and angel.



Left: Luke with his symbol the Ox; center: John with his symbol the eagle, and right: Mark with his symbol the lion



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