

Worksheet 1: Renaissance Architecture

Dated between 1400 and 1600, the Renaissance was a period that marked the transition from the Middle Ages to what would become modernity. It was during this time that major innovations in culture, art and architecture would exert a profound influence on what would become modern architecture.

In the early Renaissance, we began to see the blurring of worlds of literature, practice and production. There began to be an increase in dialogues between intellectuals and practitioners.

Renaissance architects were highly conversant with a variety of artistic media. They were also painters, sculptors, designers and decorators. They were capable of designing luxury items, handling machines, measuring, and making various different things.

Tasks:

1. What is Renaissance Architecture?
2. What can Renaissance architecture tell us about the social status of architects at the time?
3. Discuss ways in which Renaissance architects were engaged in a range of practices that would now be classified as engineering, rather than architectural design.

Written Resources:

1. How Brunelleschi Built the World's Biggest Dome
<https://science.howstuffworks.com/engineering/architecture/brunelleschis-dome.htm>

Video resources

1. Filippo Brunelleschi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWz90KdrDBs>
2. How an Amateur Built the World's Biggest Dome
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IOPIGPQPuM