



Architecture

Trevi Fountain

Rome, Italy





Trevi Fountain: Rome, Italy

The Trevi Fountain (Fontana di Trevi) is the most famous and arguably the most beautiful fountain in Rome. This impressive Baroque-styled monument was completed in 1762 and still dominates the small Trevi square located in the city's Quirinale district.

The Architects

Little of Nicola Salvi's (1697–1751) work beyond the Trevi Fountain remains today and relatively little is known of the architect himself. He was admitted to the Roman Academy of Arcadia in 1717 and only became an architect after studying mathematics and philosophy. His friend and colleague, the sculptor Pietro Bracci (1700–1773), would eventually go on to complete the fountain. Bracci's most famous piece of work, the statue of Oceanus, forms the centerpiece of the fountain.

History

The imposing fountain sits at the junction of three roads, or *tre vie*, which many believe gave the fountain its name, and marks the terminal point of one of the original aqueducts that supplied water to ancient Rome. Built by Marcu Vipsanius Agrippa in 19 BC, the Aqua Virgo aqueduct was over 13 miles (21 km) long and even then had a fountain at its terminus.

The aqueduct and fountain served Rome for over 400 years, but after the invasion of the Goths in AD 537, the aqueduct was cut off and the final portion abandoned, forcing the medieval Romans to draw water from wells and the River Tiber. It would be over 1,000 years, and the advent of the Early Renaissance period, before a fountain would again stand in the location we know today.



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Design & Construction

Many smaller fountains were constructed between 1400 and 1700, almost all of them at the behest of the reigning pope. It was also Pope Clement XII who organized a competition in 1730 to build a more dramatic fountain. Many of the most renowned architects of the day entered the competition, which architect Nicola Salvi eventually won.

With a budget of 17,647 Scudo (the Papal State's currency), work began in 1732. Unfortunately, neither Clement XII nor Salvi would live to see the work completed. It was Pietro Bracci who, under the guardianship of Clement XIII, would complete the project. The magnificent fountain that we know today was officially opened on Sunday, May 22, 1762.

The central theme of this impressive fountain is the *Taming of the Waters*. In a mix of water and rockwork, Tritons guide Oceanus' shell chariot, taming the horses, or hippocampi, of the sea. A triumphal arch with three niches holds the fountain's main statues. The center niche

frames Oceanus and includes freestanding columns for maximal light and shade. In the niches flanking Oceanus, Abundance spills water from her urn and Salubrity holds a cup from which a snake drinks. Above, bas-reliefs illustrate the Roman origin of the aqueducts.

The 86 ft. (26.3 m) tall and 161.3 ft. (49.15 m) wide fountain is superimposed on a backdrop of the elegant Palazzo Poli. The palace was given a new facade to match the fountain and today houses the National Institute of Graphic Art.



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The Trevi Fountain Today

The Trevi Fountain has become an iconic symbol of Rome and remains one of the city's most popular tourist attractions. A traditional legend holds that if visitors throw a coin into the fountain, they are ensured a return to Rome. It is estimated that 3,000 euros are thrown into the fountain each day.

The fountain has provided a backdrop for many classic movies, including Hollywood's 1954 romantic comedy, *Three Coins in a Fountain*, and Federico Fellini's famous 1960 *La Dolce Vita*. Part of the fountain is also replicated at the Italy Pavilion at Epcot in Walt Disney World in the United States.

The fountain was refurbished in 1998; the stonework was scrubbed and all cracks and other areas of deterioration were repaired by skilled artisans, and the fountain was equipped with recirculating pumps.

In January 2013, it was announced that the Italian fashion company Fendi would sponsor a 20-month, € 2.2 million restoration of the fountain; it will be the most thorough restoration in the fountain's history.



Facts about the Trevi Fountain



Location: Rome, Italy
 People: Pope Clement XII,
 Pope Clement XIII,
 Nicola Salvi,
 Pietro Bracci
 Construction Period: 1732 to 1762
 Measurements: Height 86 ft. (26.3 m)
 Width 161.3 ft. (49.15 m)
 Materials: Travertine stone

Facts & Statements



The Palazzo Poli in the background blends perfectly with the fountain and today houses the National Institute of Graphic Art.

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The fountain is built in the Baroque style. This was a popular European art form between 1600 and 1750, characterized by highly ornate and decorative art.

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Water flows from the mouth of the dominating figure, Oceanus, standing atop a shell-shaped chariot drawn by two hippocampi and two gods.

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Fountain decorations also feature over 30 species of plants, including ivy, cactus, figs, and grapes.

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The fountain is mostly built of travertine stone. This popular building material came from a quarry located 22 miles (35 km) to the east of Rome.

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The “Scale Model” Line – LEGO® Architecture in the 1960s

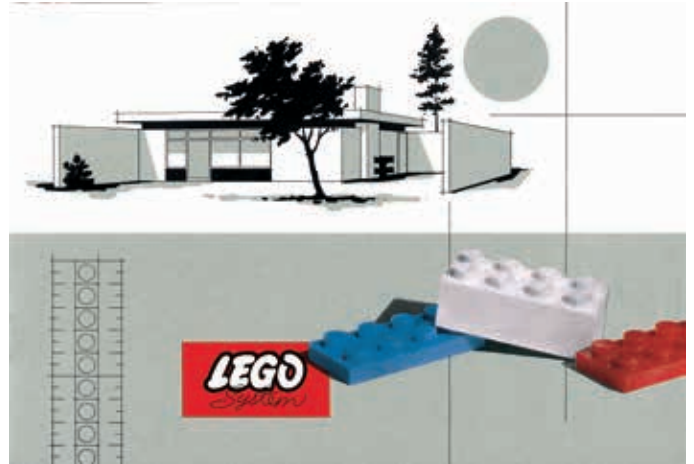
The history of the current LEGO® Architecture Series can be traced back to the beginning of the 1960s, when the popularity of the LEGO brick was steadily increasing. Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, the then owner of the company, began looking for ways to further expand the LEGO system and asked his designers to come up with a set of components that would add a new dimension to LEGO building.

Their answer was as simple as it was revolutionary: five elements that matched the existing bricks, but were only one-third the height. These new building “plates” made it possible to construct more detailed models than before.

This greater LEGO flexibility seemed to match the spirit of the age; modernist architects were redefining how houses looked, and people were taking an active interest in the design of their new homes. It was these trends that led to the introduction of the LEGO “Scale Model” line in early 1962.

The name itself was a direct link to the way architects and engineers worked, and it was hoped that they and others would build their projects “to scale” in LEGO elements. As with LEGO Architecture today, the original sets were designed to be different from the normal, brightly colored LEGO boxes, and also included “An Architectural Book” for inspiration.

Although the five elements remain an integral part of the LEGO building system today, the “Scale Model” line was phased out in 1965. Many of the principles from the series would re-emerge over 40 years later in the LEGO Architecture Series we know today.



A joint project by the LEGO Group and the United Nations

References

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