HISTORY OF RENAISSANCE INTERIOR DESIGNS

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History of Interior Design

Second Semester

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Outline

◦ **Previous lecture**

◦ **What is Renaissance**

◦ **History of Renaissance**

◦ **the characteristics of Renaissance interior design**

◦ **Renaissance Architecture in Europe**

◦ **References**

Objectives

1. Understanding the History of Renaissance Interior Designs.
2. Gathering information about Renaissance Interior Designs.

Previous lecture

○ **Gothic Meaning**

○ **Characteristics of Gothic Interior Design**

○ **The difference between Romanesque and Gothic interior designs**

○ **Antonio Gaudí**

What is Renaissance?

o Renaissance design refers to the **artistic and architectural** styles that emerged in Europe during the Renaissance period, roughly spanning from the 14th to the 17th century.

What is the meaning of the Renaissance?

o The Renaissance era was named after the **artistic, cultural, and scientific** revival that Europe witnessed during the Middle Ages, especially in the 15th and 16th centuries

o Marked by a **cultural movement** that included the openness to ancient **classical knowledge** and arts, including **Roman and Greek** arts.

What is the history of the Renaissance?

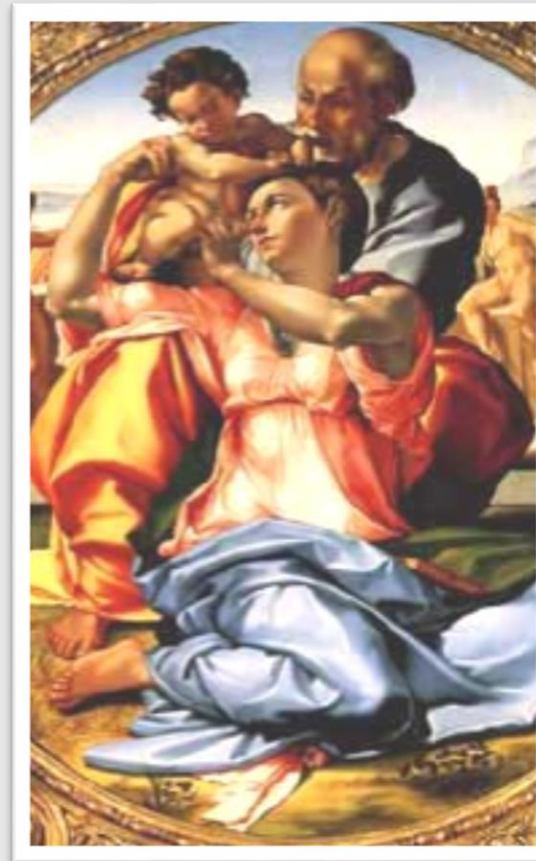o The history of Renaissance interior design showcases the influence of prominent figures like

1. Michelangelo

2. Leonardo da Vinci

3. Andrea Palladio

who incorporated classical elements into their designs for palaces, churches, and wealthy households across Europe.

Michelangelo and Renaissance painting

Leonardo da Vinci and Renaissance painting
Example Mona Lisa

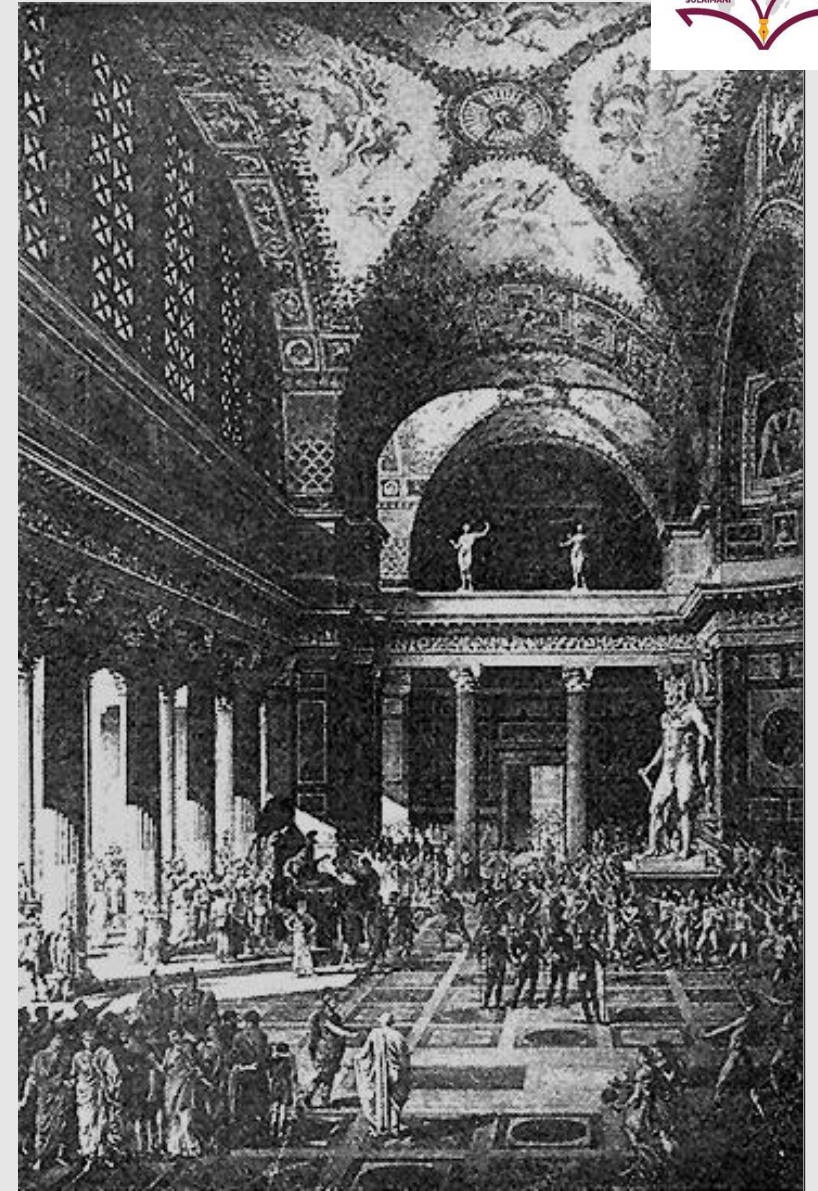# Andrea Palladio and Renaissance project Example

Hall of the Muses of the Villa Godi

Characteristics of Renaissance interior design

1. Classical Influence

Renaissance designers drew inspiration from the architecture and art of ancient **Greece and Rome**, combining classical elements such as **columns, arches, and pediments into interior** spaces.

Characteristics of Renaissance interior design

2. Symmetry and Proportion

o Renaissance interiors emphasized **symmetry and proportion**, reflecting the belief that harmony and **balance were essential to beauty**.

o Rooms were often arranged around a central axis, with carefully balanced elements on either side.

Characteristics of Renaissance interior design

3. Ornate Decoration

o Renaissance interiors were adorned with elaborate decorations, including intricate **carvings, moldings, and murals**.

o Walls and ceilings were often embellished with scenes from

1. Mythology

2. Religious motifs

3. Geometric patterns.

Characteristics of Renaissance interior design

4. Rich Materials

Wealthy clients favored luxurious materials such as **marble, stone, and richly colored textiles like**

1. **Velvet**

2. **silk**

3. **Gold** leaf was often used to embellish furniture and architectural details.

Characteristics of Renaissance interior design

5. Grandeur and Opulence

o Renaissance interiors were designed to impress and often served as **showcases of wealth and power**.

Sense Grandeur and Opulence were created in Renaissance interior design through

1. **Spaces with high ceilings**
2. **Spacious halls**
3. **Luxurious furnishings**

Characteristics of Renaissance interior design

6. Integration of Art and Architecture

o Renaissance interior design blurred the boundaries between art and architecture, with decorative elements seamlessly integrated into the overall design of a space.

Renaissance Architecture in Europe
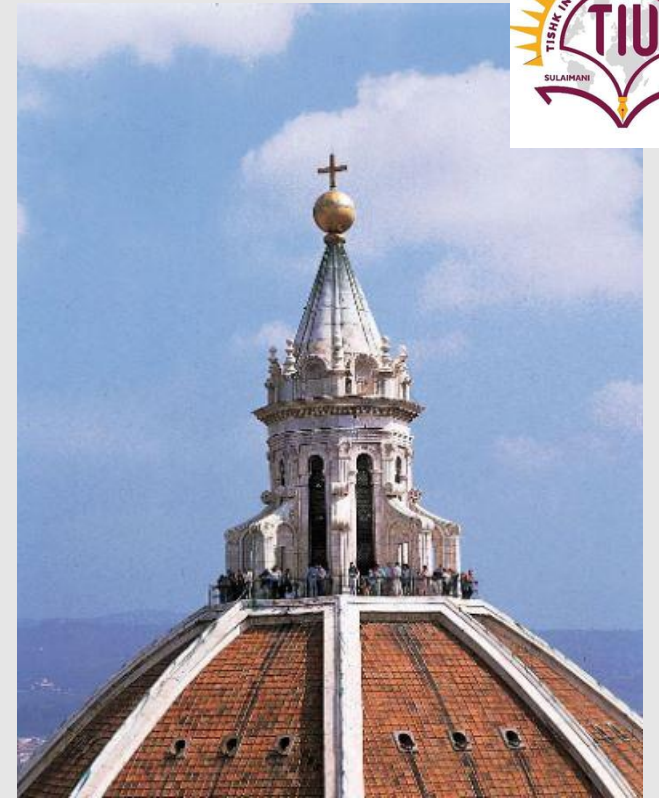
Plans of European Renaissance Architecture

o **Symmetry and proportion** of part to part in the plan are carefully studied.

o **Towers** are carefully used, and when they occur are symmetrically placed.

o The **dome** is a predominant feature.

o Interiors of churches were planned on **Roman principles**, and covered with domes and pendentives.

o The parts are few, the nave being divided into three or four sections.
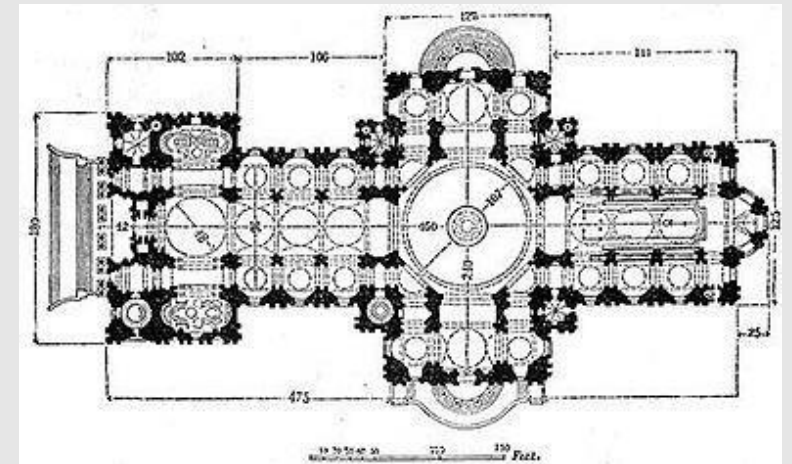
Lantern (Tower): In Renaissance and Baroque architecture, lantern came to mean the small cupola-like structure, usually with decorative arcades, mounted on top of a dome.
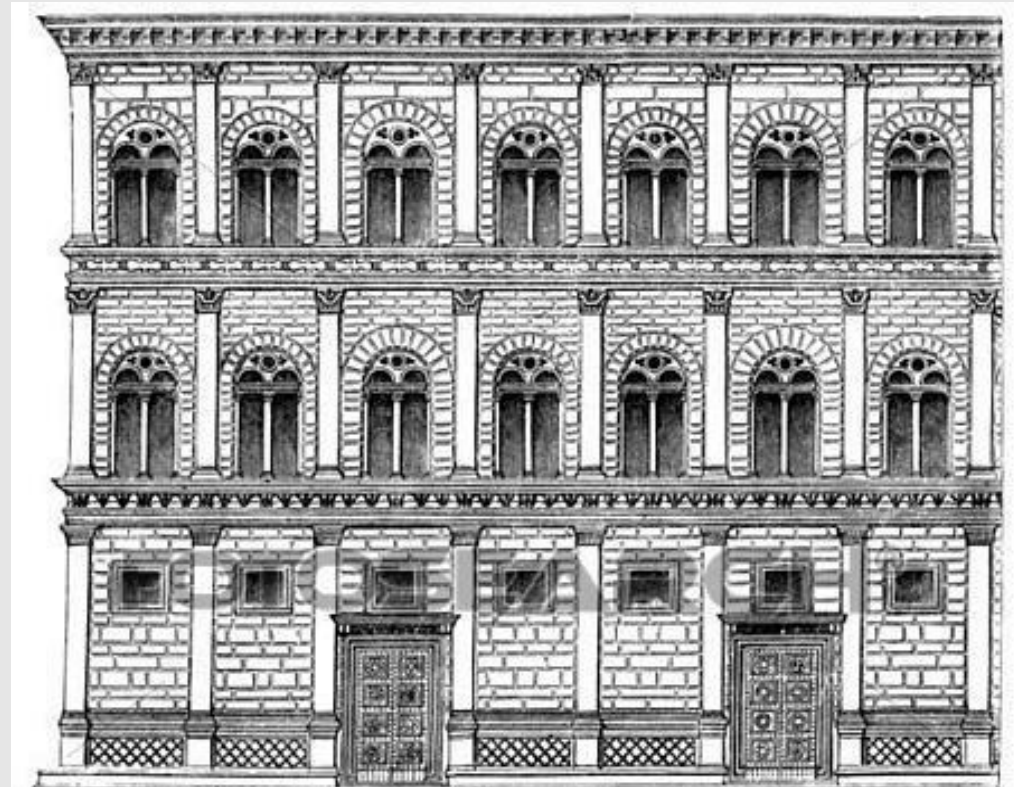
Function:

1. Its function is to admit light to the interior.
2. It is essentially a proportional element in the visual design.

Walls European Renaissance Architecture

o These were constructed in masonry of smooth-faced walling.

o Materials are large.

o Stucco or plaster was often used as a facing material where stone was unavailable.

Doors and Windows of European Renaissance Architecture

o Door and window openings are semicircular, or square-headed.

o The Classic system of molded **architrave** projecting from the wall face was revived. Doorways and other openings are surrounded by such architraves, often richly carved.

o **The influence of climate** on these was important. In Italy, with a bright atmosphere, the windows are small. In northern Europe, with a dull climate, windows of the earlier period are large and often have stone mullions or solid uprights dividing the window space vertically

o Openings generally come over one another and are symmetrically disposed concerning the facade.
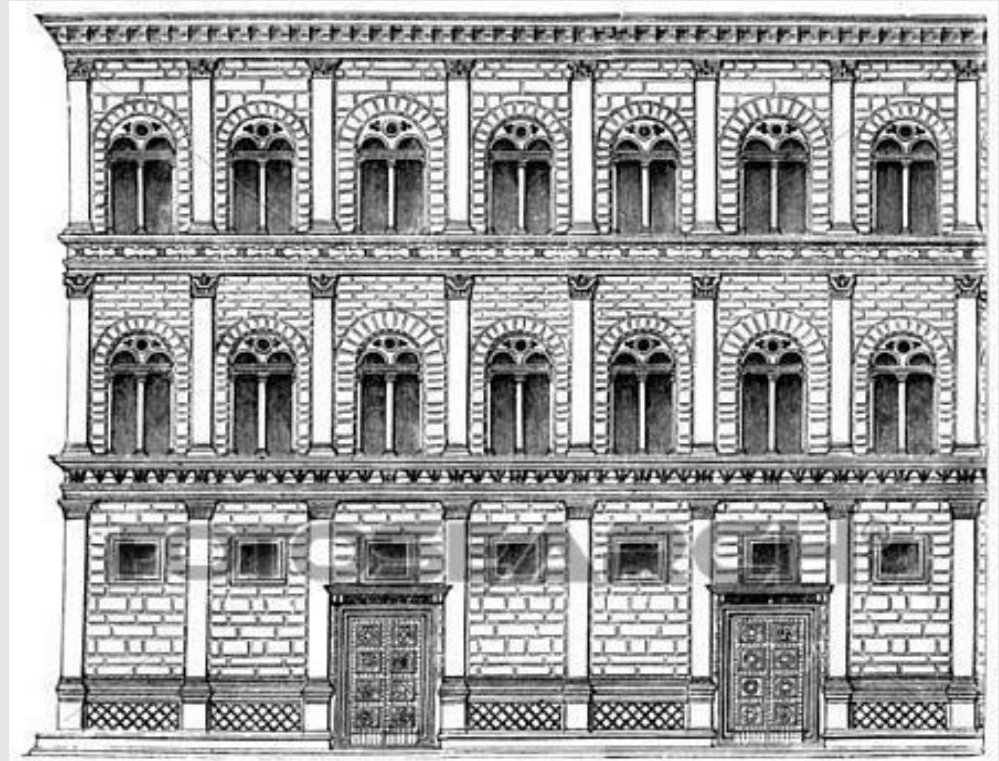
Roofs of European Renaissance Architecture

o Domes have usually an internal plaster soffit or ceiling and are painted in colored fresco.

o The dome over a large space was generally constructed with an inner and outer covering.

Columns of European Renaissance Architecture

o The Classic columns and orders were revive and used decoratively in facades, as in the Roman manner and structurally as for porticos

Do you have any questions?

References

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◦ Fletcher, B. (1919). *A history of architecture on the comparative method for the student, craftsman, and amateur*. Batsford.