

Gaspare de Vecchi

Italian architect

d. 1643

Son of the painter Giovanni, of Borgo San Sepolcro, active in Rome since 1558 c., Was an architect. We do not know where and when he was born, nor how his training took place; his production was brought closer to that of E. Peperelli; became famous thanks to conventual constructions. His presence in Rome is documented since 17 December 1614: together with Antonio de Battisti he is called as papal "measurer" to estimate a work in silver for the church of S. Agnese outside the walls. This task would suggest previous works carried out by him of which no testimony remained.

He collaborated a lot with Carlo Maderno, as attested by various documents; March 3, 1616 presented a project, also signed by Carlo Lambardi and Girolamo Rainaldi, for a bridge over the river Liri, in Ceprano, on the road to Naples. On 19 August 1624 payments were made to de Vecchi and to Carlo Maderno for some works, not well identified, for the factory above the church of S. Maria in Vallicella, of which Paolo Marucelli was the architect at the time. In April 1627 the same architects were asked about the design and plan for the new church of St. Ignatius. On 24 July 1627 de Vecchi was once again paid, but this time alone, for some factories built on the New road. Only in 1629 he was assigned the status of architect. In fact, in the Archive of the Pious Sodality of Fornari, there are various papers in which the name of De Vecchi is often mentioned both as an architect of the congregation and as an estimator of stone works. For the church of the aforesaid congregation, S. Maria di Loreto, between 1628 and 1630, restructured the main chapel.

It is up to him to design the architectural structure and the side walls of the grandstand decorated with precious marble in various colors. Following these works, in 1631 de Vecchi will be definitively appointed architect of the congregation.

He also worked outside of Rome: in Rieti, in 1630, he was summoned for the judgment on the price of the works for the Chapel of the Sacrament in the duomo work of Andrea Nelli, and in Civitavecchia, where in 1633 expected to work on the port. In these years he also became part of the Accademia di S. Luca; he was a member in the years 1634-35; the 28th February 1641 we find him among the chosen for the nomination to prince. Also in Rome, in 1635, de Vecchi, commissioned by the cardinal of S. Onofrio, directed the works for the college of neophytes at the church of S. Maria ai Monti, where he "solved the problem of the angle as a factor of continuity. spatial, succeeding, through a simple compositional party, to exalt the bare brick curtain".

A less successful work, because it lacks its own particular character, but always a good testimony of professional capacity is the construction of the facade on Via Due Macelli of the central part of the Propaganda Fide building. The reconstruction of the building began on April 10th. 1639 and the works continued until November 1645 after his death.

De Vecchi died after July 3, 1643 (Thieme-Becker).

by Maria Assunta Bardaro Grella - Biographical Dictionary of Italians - Volume 39 (1991)

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