

Francesco Claudio Ferruzzi

Italian architect
1680-1745

He was born in Rome in 1680 by Antonio and Anna Caterina. His childhood was marked by the absence of his father, who in 1684 was in jail and still in 1693 had not returned to the house in the "alley of the Lute", where Ferruzzi lived with his mother, Brother Giacinto, more than eight years old, and his paternal grandfather Rodolfo, "servant". The circumstances of Ferruzzi's youth training are not known, but it is probable that he has come to the profession of architect through a long practice of construction, started early due to the difficult family situation, perhaps in the wake of his brother, stucco artist.

The first news of his activity, carried out almost entirely in Rome, dates back to the years 1706-1707 when he was at the service, respectively, of Pietro Paolo Barigioni, brother of the architect Filippo, and of the Confraternity of S. Gregorio Magno dei Muratori. In the following decade, Ferruzzi appears to be mainly engaged in small-scale offices, including, perhaps, some works in Palazzo Trulli (destroyed) near S. Andrea della Valle, completed shortly before September 1712.

In 1712 he lived with his mother and brother in the "big house" of the Filipinos; here he will reside all his life with his wife, Vittoria Caterina Bruni (married in 1713), and the six children.

Only in 1718 Ferruzzi's career seems to mark a turning point: he entered, in fact, in contact with the Order of the Ministers of the Sick - the Camillians, of which he will be architect in the 1720s - creating the altar of the Madonna della Salute in the church of Maddalena, which already reflects a clear preference for linear composition.

In the following six years there was a progressive increase in his commissions: on 7 March 1723 he assumed the role of architect of the chapter of S. Maria in Trastevere for which, four years later, he designed the gate of the chapel of S. Francesca Romana; he held numerous appraisals, among other things for the Confraternity of the Oration and Death and, in May 1724, for the cardinal Lorenzo Corsini, the future Pope Clement XII. On this date he enjoyed a certain notoriety under the technical-estimative aspect, however such as to legitimize his admission into the Congregation of the Virtuosi, on 12 November 1724, despite its substantial extraneousness with respect to the Roman artistic environment, also confirmed later by the marginal presence in the roles of this important association.

On November 14, 1725 Filipinos elected Ferruzzi their new architect in place of T. Mattei, gravely ill. This charge will connote all his private activity, which in those years still appears tied to rather modest religious works, such as the simple altar in front of the choir of the church of S. Andrea delle Fratte, commissioned from the least paolotti and consecrated in 1728.

A noteworthy formal sobriety also characterizes his first two so-called civil construction works: the large three-storey and attic house, built starting in 1727 for the ministers of the sick between via di S. Giacomo and via del Corso, and the (destroyed) casamento built between 1729 and 1732 for the Filipinos in Piazza della Chiesa Nuova. While this last work, for precise indications of the client, is only a replica of the contiguous seventeenth-century buildings, the facades of the house of the ministers of the sick, which appeared completed in 1732 express a skilful control of the architectural partition, characterized by a sober linearity reflected in the simple cantonal canton enclosed by pilasters.

On 21 October 1734 the technical-technical peculiarity of the career of Ferruzzi was crowned by the post of master builder at the Court of Roads, in which he took over from S. Cipriani perhaps thanks to the intervention of Clement XII; he, three years earlier, had probably also determined his appointment as architect of the important Confraternity of the Trinity of the Pilgrims protected by the cardinal nephew Neri Corsini.

To the activity of public architect, who absorbed much of his time also involving frequent trips outside Rome for the rehabilitation of roads and bridges, many interventions are connected to the urban fabric, also on behalf of private individuals. Among these probably the Florentine Marquis Florentine F. Niccolini's leasehold factory, built on five levels, on the corner between Piazza di Pietra and Via dei Bergamaschi, between 1734 and 1735. This building, which can be placed in the Piazza di Pietra building promoted by Clement XII in 1730, presents a rational distribution of the lower floors, characterized by promiscuous functions, and a greater formal definition with respect to the Via del Corso house. variant of the rounded cantonal, evidently originated from the noble commissioning.

On October 31st 1736 Ferruzzi was paid for work on the floor of the church of S. Maria in Vallicella, in the stretch adjacent to the chapel of S. Carlo. In the same year he also appeared in various positions confirming the existence of a close relationship with the Corsini and the pontifical court: in July, on behalf of Cardinal nepote, he carried out an appraisal of the restoration of the Palazzo Riario in Lungara and in August, as architect of the Trastevere district, he measured two overpasses; in October he assisted Ferruzzi Fuga in the office of architect of the sacred apostolic palaces and, above all, from the middle of the year he took care of the restructuring and the enlargement of the Hospital of the Trinity of the Pilgrims, entirely financed by Clement XII.

The intervention, commemorated by a bronze bust of the Pope commissioned to A. Montauti at the end of the works, in September 1737, consisted mainly in the arrangement, by the workers of G. Sardi, of the lane of S. Giovanni and in the new construction of that perpendicular to the refectory of St. Philip, obtained by merging the site of three houses purchased specifically to the complex hospital, according to a project of 1725. Of the refectory, clearly visible in the relief of the Letarouilly (1840), today only the short four levels on Via del Conservatorio built according to the license of the "thread" of July 3, 1736. In the score of the façade, characterized by a marked verticality, originally accentuated by two simple side houses designed by Ferruzzi himself, stands out the central compartment consisting of a splayed arch portal, containing the Pope's coat of arms, and a rectangular window with rectilinear

tympanum, connected by a mystical mirroring. The rigorous setting of the building reflects the linguistic process matured by Ferruzzi through an elementary reworking of proto-baroque styles with which it reaches the results of "simplicity and firmness" desired by the pontiff and promoted by the Corsini circles on the basis of very different cultural instruments. In these formal schemes there is also the unrealized project for the tribune and the dome of the Church of the Arciconfraternita degli Agonizzanti, and, perhaps, that of the main altar of the church of S. Francesco a Ripa, made in 1737, of which there are no traces left in the reconstruction of 1744, of uncertain attribution.

At the end of the 1730s Ferruzzi, also thanks to the diligent commitment to the Court of Roads, was now credited as one of the major exponents of the role of expert-meter. The increase in tasks in this sector and the difficulty of managing maintenance work on behalf of the numerous religious organizations he served, including the monasteries of S. Maria Maddalena delle Convertite al Corso and S. Margherita in Trastevere and, episodically, the Congregation of the Sorrows of Jesus Christ in St. Philip Neri, often pushed him to make use of collaborators such as L. Santinori, GP Minelli and GF Fiori. Since 1739 the latter has appeared many times as his substitute in relation to minor assignments, such as the restructuring, in 1739, of the modest house of the Converted to the Course located at the corner between the alley of the Palomba and Via dell'Orso. The unrealized project of a casamento adjacent to the church of Ss. Quirico and Giulitta, commissioned to Ferruzzi by the Dominicans probably dates back to this period.

The last period of the activity of Ferruzzi shows a deep mix between the public and the private role. In March 1742, on the behalf of Duke G. Sforza Cesarini Savelli, he followed the regularization in square form of Piazza Sforza, taken care of by the Fuga as a sub-master of the Ponte district, but which Ferruzzi himself had probably suggested to the Road Court proposing the purchase of the site, freed from the demolition of some houses of the duke, approved by Benedict XIV with a chirograph of March 3, 1742. On behalf of the Filipinos, according to the provisions of a papal chirograph of 6 September 1743, Ferruzzi also followed the regularization of the nearby Piazza della Chiesa Nuova in collaboration with Ferruzzi Brioni, a new mastmaster of Ponte; for this purpose, on the south-western side of the square, a specular casing was built on the opposite side, completed in 1745, at the same time as the new oratory of the Borromean Oratory conceived by Ferruzzi.

Also the important order of the conservatory of S. Pasquale Baylon, conferred to him in 1742 by Cardinal Guadagni, vicar of Rome, had to be favored by his position as an under-master in charge in the Trastevere district, where the work, based on the license of the Roads Court of 4 Jan. 1743, was completed in 1747, after his death.

The complex, centered on a vast courtyard arranged as a garden, enlarged in October 1745 with the occupation of a closed alley, is spread over three levels, the first of which houses a rectangular chapel with three altars dedicated to S. Pasquale. The main façade is characterized by a triple vertical partition, composed of three axes of windows and an axial portal, whose plain trabeation stands out in the austere decorative apparatus of clear seventeenth-century origin, with which the author ends his conservative attitude, consciously reiterated for the last time aesthetic canons now anachronistic.

Ferruzzi died in Rome on 11 December, 1745 and was buried in the church of S. Maria in Vallicella in recognition of his twenty-year service to the Filipinos.

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