

Andrea Busiri Vici

Italian Architect
(1818-1911)

Andrea Busiri Vici was born in Rome on January 7, 1818, to Giulio Cesare Busiri, a Roman scholar, and Barbara Vici, the only daughter of the architect Andrea Vici of Arcevia (1743-1817). His mother married Clemente Folchi, a Roman architect, engineer and archaeologist, in 1819, who intervened in his training. Convittore in San Pietro in Vincoli, he devoted himself first to painting, then followed his studies in architecture and engineering, graduating with honors in 1849.

During his long life, he made various stylistic experiences, from the second neoclassicism to the neo-renaissance, to the neo-Gothic one, called Umbertine style.

For over forty years he was an architect of the Doria family, for whom he made several works including in Rome: the horsewoman, covered with a metal structure, in the courtyard of Palazzo Doria in via del Plebiscito ; various interventions in the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone in Piazza Navona, including the bells and the crypt; the elevation of Palazzo Doria in Piazza Navona; the expansion of Palazzo Doria on Piazza Grazioli; the votive chapel for the French fallen and the triumphal arch at the villa Doria Pamphili on the Janiculum hill.

As the first architect of the San Pietro workshop, under the pontificates of Pius IX and Leo XIII, he carried out important works including: the articulated urban layout of Piazza Mastai in Trastevere ; the palace of the Apostolic Dataria, on the Quirinale climb; the North American College in via dell'Umiltà, and the South American College in piazza della Minerva; the monastery and the votive chapel annexed to the basilica of S. Agnese in via Nomentana. Architect of Pope Pius IX, author of the urban planning of the Mastai district in Rome.

As architect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide he carried out the transformation of the palace into Piazza Mignanelli and the sepulchral chapel at Verano.

As an architect of numerous religious orders, he created many sacred works, including: the restoration of the church of San Lorenzo in Lucina, of Santa Maria in Trastevere, of the Chapel of the Maronite Fathers at the Esquiline, of the Lateran basilica, of Sant'Atanasio dei Greci in via del Babuino, in San Giorgio al Velabro, in Santa Maria in Domnica alla Navicella and in Trinità dei Monti; the church of San Francesco de 'Paoli; the funeral chapel of the Dominican order in Verano .

He became an academic of merit of the Academy of San Luca from 1859 and later he was Professor of the Chair of Practical Architecture at the School of Engineers-Architects. in the two years 1886-1887 he held the position of president.

He was a member of numerous other Italian and foreign academies including: the Pantheon's Virtuosi Academy and the Academies of Fine Arts and Architecture in London, Paris, Bologna, Florence, Perugia, Milan, Ferrara, Urbino, Parma, Ravenna, Venice, Modena.

He intervened in many of the main historical works in Rome: the churches of Sant'Agnese on via Nomentana, Sant'Agnese in Agone, San Giovanni in Laterano, Santa Maria Maggiore and San Lorenzo in Lucina and also the wing of Palazzo Doria Pamphili on via della Gatta and vicolo Doria in Rome, Villa Pamphili and many other important works. For the facade of the church of Santa Costanza in 1871 he also elaborated a classicist design which however was not executed.

He received many pontifical and Kingdom of Italy honors: Architect of the Grand Duke of Tuscany in Rome, Architect of Cardinal Barberini and of the Basilica of S. Maria in Trastevere, engineer and architect of the Ministry of the Interior, architect of the Chapter of San Giovanni in Laterano, Knight of the Order of San Giorgio della Reunione del Regno di Napoli, and many other titles.

He died in Rome on November 12, 1911.

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