

Domenico Gregorini

Italian architect
(1692-1777)

He was born in Rome on 21 August 1692. He was an Italian architect, whose fame is mainly linked to the renovation of the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme.

Son of the Roman architect and engineer Ludovico Gregorini (1661-1723), Domenico Gregorini trained in his father's studio. His apprentice companion was Pietro Passalacqua (1690-1748), a grandson of Filippo Juvara; Domenico Gregorini and Pietro Passalacqua collaborated closely in the rest of their lives, so much so that it is difficult to distinguish the contribution of one or the other of the two architects.

Thanks to the support of his father, in 1713 Domenico was appointed "submaster of the Roads" for the Ponte and Regola districts and, in 1714, for the gates of San Sebastiano, San Giovanni and Porta Latina. In 1716 he made some reconnaissance for works on the monastery of Sante Rufina e Secondo in Trastevere. In 1713 he won first prize in a Clementine Competition with a "Tabernacle for high altar". In 1722 he was admitted to the Congregation of Virtuosi at the Pantheon, of which he will be regent in 1728, in 1760 and in 1769; in 1748 he too became an academician of San Luca. On the death of his father (11 November 1723) he inherited all the tasks, including in 1725 the construction of Palazzo Sforza Cesarini in Genzano and Palazzo Santacroce in Rome.

The meeting with Cardinal Ottoboni was still fruitful. In the environment that gravitated around Cardinal Ottoboni, Gregorini, among other things, he was able to deepen his knowledge in the fields of scenography, theater and the Baroque party. In the field of the ephemeral we remember, for example, the pyrotechnic machine for the feast of the Assumption or the feast in honor of the French ambassador. But for Cardinal Ottoboni, Gregorini also carried out an intense activity as an architect together with Pietro Passalacqua and Ludovico Rusconi Sassi, the latter being the cardinal's trusted architect. Always with Passalacqua, Gregorini carried out numerous other works of arrangement to the buildings of the fief of Fiano, to the episcopal palaces of Albano and Velletri, of Rome, and so on. Finally, on the death of Rusconi Sassi (1736), Gregorini succeeded him as the cardinal's trusted architect. Gregorini also received numerous assignments from Cardinal Aldrovandi, at the time governor of Rome. For Aldrovandi he carried out the reconstruction of the Tordinona Theater (1733) and the "Legnara Clementina", a wood deposit no longer existing (1734-35). His activity was intense. Gregorini's name remains linked above all to the renewal of the basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (1741-44), an ancient church whose restoration was one of the last great undertakings of Baroque Rome. After this work Gregorini obtained important public acknowledgments and commissions. In the last years of his life there was a professional decline also witnessed by a request for financial help sent in November 1772 to the Academy of San Luca.

Died in Rome, 7 February 1777)

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