

7. How to analyse a building?

1. Type.

The picture represents the exterior of St. Peter's Basilica (the Dome)

The dome is made of bricks

2. Data

- Title: St. Peter's Basilica's dome
- Style: Renaissance.
- Dimensions: It is 42.3 metres in interior diameter (almost as large as the Pantheon), rising to 120 metres above the floor. It is the tallest dome in the world. It has the largest interior of any Christian church in the world, **holding** 60,000 people
- Year: 1547
- Location: Within the Vatican City.
- Artist's name and brief biography.

3. Description

It is a great double dome **raised** on a **drum** with 16 pairs of Corinthian columns, each of 15 metres high which stand proud of the building, connected by an arch.

4. Characteristics.

A. The dome is supported by the drum and columns.

The decoration is quite simple: 16 pairs of Corinthian columns are used to decorate the dome.

B. It uses classical elements such as classical columns belonging to the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian orders, a sense of order and harmony etc.

5. Context

Julius II was a "**warrior** pope" who wanted to unite Italy under the **leadership** of the Church. It was Julius who began the rebuilding of St Peter's Basilica in 1506.

6. Function or purpose

Julius wanted St Peter's Basilica to be the most potent symbol of papal power.

7. Symbolism

The heaven?

8. Importance of the building

The dome prefigures the architecture of the Baroque because of its big dimensions (buildings during Renaissance were smaller, and not as tall as Gothic constructions because architects wanted to adapt them to the proportion to the human body).

9. Personal opinion.

10. If there is anything else you want to add...

