

Baptism in Art and Architecture

Richard Sauerzopf, 2008

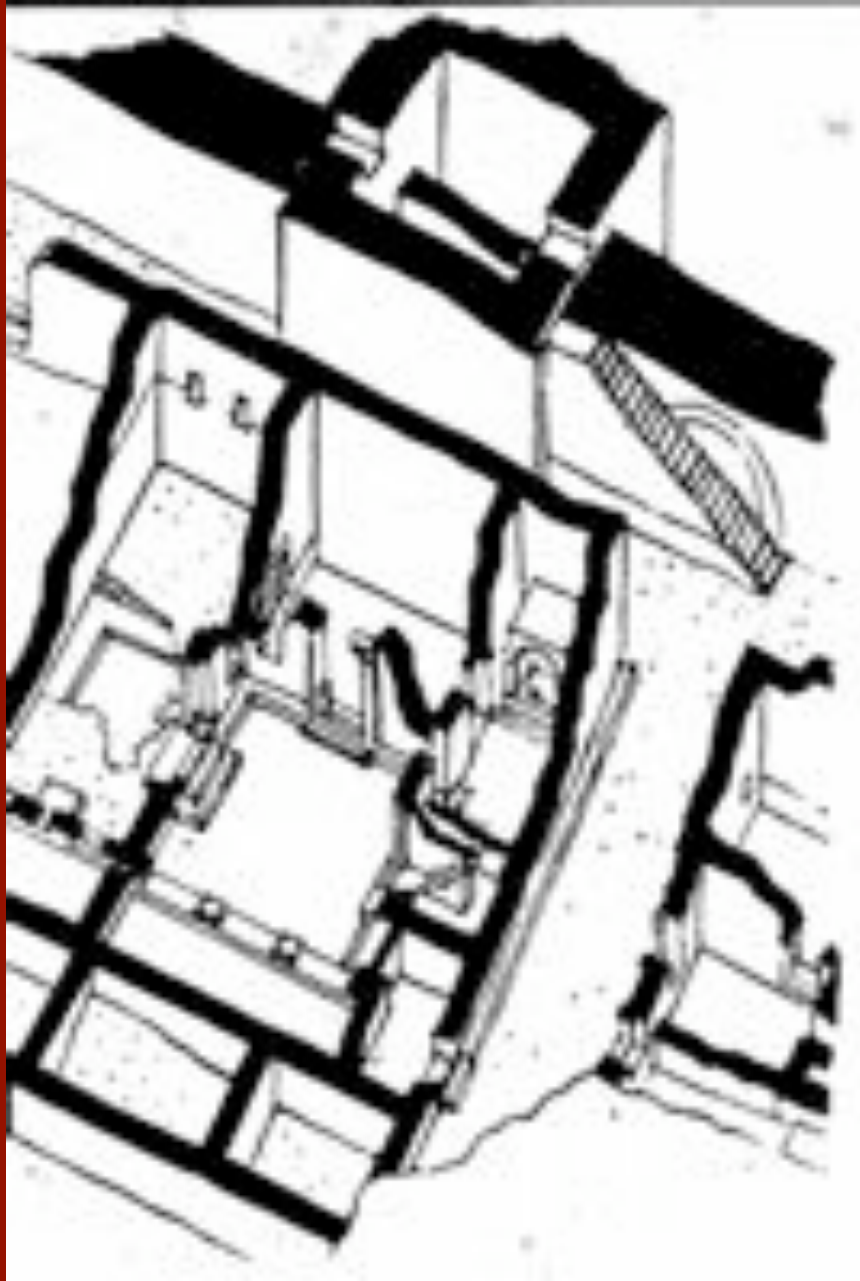
Dura Europos House Church
Syria



Exterior view of Dura Europos house church. www.sln.org.uk/re/syria/



Baptistry. Interior view of Dura Europos house church.
www.sln.org.uk/re/syria/



Stereo optic view of Dura Europos
house church.

www.sln.org.uk/re/syria/

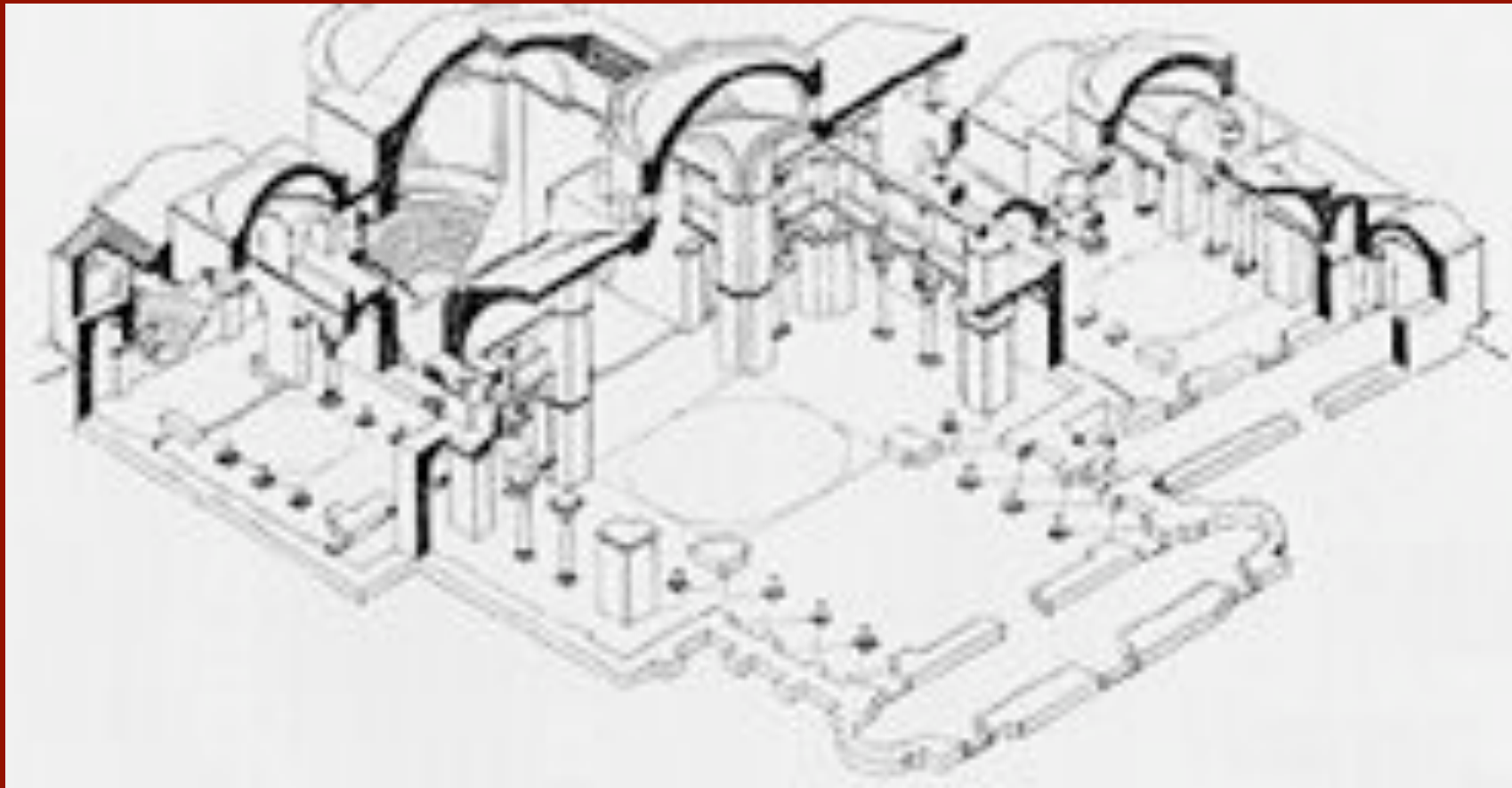
The Church of Vitalis
Sbeitla, Tunisia



Baptistry, The Church of Vitalis
Sbeitla, Tunisia. Probably
Catholic.

[http://www.middleeast.com/sbeitla.
htm](http://www.middleeast.com/sbeitla.htm)

Church of 100 Doors
Katapoliani. Amorgos Island, Greece



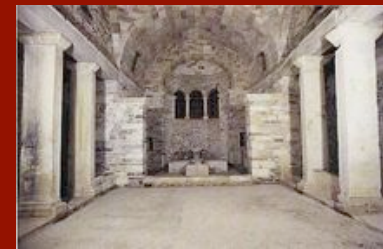
Church of 100 Doors. Katapoliani. Amorgos Island, Greece Stereo-optic view.
<http://www.ekatontapyliani.org>

Baptistry, Church of 100 Doors. Katapoliani. Amorgos Island, Greece.

“The ancient Baptismal Font, circa 4th century, is [] the oldest and the best maintained Baptismal Font throughout the Orthodox East, [The Baptistry] is a triclinium basilica, ...with a dome and a Narthex which connects the main temple and every aisle had been transferred into a chapel for posterity. The vaults and the dome are built of colored limestone... There is a cross-shaped marble font whose main part is in the ground where the altar is and which was known as "The Inner House" or "Photistirion", the Baptismal Place. There are curved crosses in circles in the section which protrudes from the ground.

The neophyte who entered the font, had to go through the Narthex of the Baptismal Font first, which was known as "The Outer or the Courtyard House". Over there the preparations of rites, exorcisms, the acceptance of the new faith and the recitation of its symbols used to take place. He then proceeded towards the "Photistirion". He went down the font through a small staircase which is situated on the western beam of the cross and which symbolizes his origin from sinful world. After the mystery, he then went up the eastern stairs which symbolizes the entrance of the newly baptized into the true life of Christianity. The priest who officiated these rites stood on pedestals which are found in the middle of the font and are called "Holy Islets". After the baptism, there used to follow the anointment, the dressing of the newly baptized in white clothes and his entrance into the main temple and introduction to Holy Communion. A small column takes the place of the Holy Islet in the Baptismal Font of the Ekatontapiliani, which is there for posterity.”

<http://www.ekatontapyliani.org>





Baptistry.

Church of 100 Doors. Katapoliani.
Amorgos Island, Greece Stereo-
optic view.
<http://www.ekatontapyliani.org>



Cruciform Baptismal Font.

Church of 100 Doors. Katapoliani.
Amorgos Island, Greece Stereo-
optic view.

<http://www.ekatontapyliani.org>

Basilica di Santa Restituta

Naples



At more than 1,700 years old, the Cappella di Santa Restituta is the oldest church in Naples, and one of the oldest in the whole of Italy. Christian emperor Constantine ordered the construction of this ancient church and it was built on the site of a temple to Apollo. Highlights include the Baptistery of San Giovanni in Fonte, with an octagonal dome built in the 5th century, impressive early Christian mosaics and also an underground archaeological area.



Font. Baptistry, the Cappella di Santa Restituta. eucharisto deo. www.flickr.com



Canna. Baptistry mosaic, Cappella di Santa Restituta. eucharisto deo. www.flickr.com



Fish Catch. Baptistry mosaic, Cappella di Santa Restituta. eucharisto deo. www.flickr.com



“Matthew.” Baptistry mosaic, Cappella di Santa Restituta. eucharisto deo. www.flickr.com



“Mark.” Baptistry mosaic, Cappella di Santa Restituta. eucharisto deo. www.flickr.com



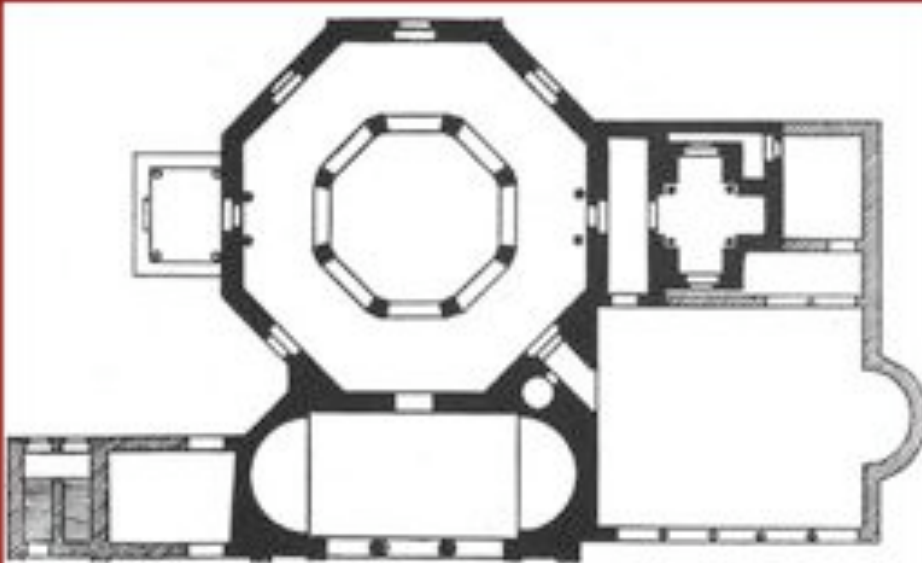
Transfiguration? Baptistry mosaic, Cappella di Santa Restituta. eucharisto deo.
www.flickr.com



Dome. Baptistry mosaic, Cappella di Santa Restituta. eucharisto deo. www.flickr.com

The Baptistry

St. John's Lateran, Rome



Lateran Baptistry -- plan and photo



Un-documented image from educational website.



St. John's Lateran Baptistery, Interior. Edith OSB's photostream. www.flickr.com



St. John's Lateran Basilica, Interior view.

The Baptistry

Florence, Italy



Baptistry. Florence. annieA's photostream. www.flickr.com



Baptistry dome. Florence. mcsixth's photostream. www.flickr.com



Eastern Door of Florence Baptistry
Gilded Bronze, 1425-52.
Reproduction.

This is the masterpiece of Ghiberti, who worked on it for 27 years

The door has ten panels depicting Biblical scenes. At the centre of the door at left is the self-portrait of Ghiberti. The door's original gilding has recently been recovered from beneath the patina formed over the centuries. It was badly damaged by Florence's flood in 1966 when the waters of the Arno reached a height of more than 180 cm. After restoration it was moved to the museum of the Cathedral and substituted by a copy.

<http://gallery.euroweb.hu>



Eastern Door of
Florence Baptistery
Gilded Bronze, 1425-
52. Reproduction.

The panel depicts the
Creation of Adam
and Eve, the Fall
and the Expulsion
from the Paradise.

[http://gallery.euroweb.
hu](http://gallery.euroweb.hu)



St. Catherine's Monastery. Sinai, Egypt.

Icons

St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai



The Baptism of Christ 11th -
14th century.

St. Catherine's Monastery,
Sinai.

[http://touregypt.net/featuresto
ries/catherines2.htm](http://touregypt.net/featurestories/catherines2.htm)



St. Peter. 5th to 7th century.
St. Catherine's Monastery,
Sinai.

<http://touregypt.net/featurestories/catherines2.htm>



Transfiguration of Christ. Apse Mosaic. 16th Century. Restored, 20th Century.
St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai. <http://touregypt.net/featurestories/catherines2.htm>



Dormition of the
Theotokos.

Ancient Coptic Icon.

www.stmaryslouis.bizland.com



Dormition/Assumption of the Theotokos.

Ancient Coptic Icon.



Baptism, St. Stephen's Church.
Somewhere in North America.