

# THE EARLY RENAISSANCE

1400-1494

# Introduction

- Began in Italy and spread throughout Europe
- Was a cultural **rebirth** (*Renaissance* translated)
- Saw great advancements in the arts and learning.

# Geo-politics

- Northern Italian city-states were affluent as commercial centers and finished woolen manufacturers
- By 1500 the affluence would diminish.
- City-states were led by autocratic *signori* who came from ruling families (Oligarchies)
  - Venice (the exception- it had ruling bodies)
  - Milan (**Francesco I Sforza**)
  - Naples (**Alfonso I** [of Aragon & Barcelona])
  - Florence (**Medicis**)
  - Papal States (Vatican, papacy returned to Rome from Avignon)

# FLORENCE

- Cultural leader of the Renaissance
- Went from republic to oligarchy to autocracy
- Decline began with death of Lorenzo de Medici
  - Invasion by France under Charles VIII
  - Iconoclastic crusade for republicanism under Dominican monk Fra Savoranola

# Political changes

- Wars were fought by mercenaries (*condottieri*)
- Technology improved weapons
  - Mortars
  - Bombards
- Venice had over 3300 ships in its fleet
- Diplomacy developed as a peaceful alternative to battle

# NOTABLE ARTISTS

- Sculptors
  - Donatello (*David, Gattamelata, Feast of Herod*)
  - Lorenzo Ghiberti (*The Annunciation, The Story of Cain & Abel*)
- Painters
  - Masaccio (*The Holy Trinity, The Tribute Money*)
  - Fra Angelico (*Annunciation*)
  - Piero della Francesca (*The Flagellation*)
  - Sandro Botticelli (*Primavera, The Birth of Venus*)
- Architects
  - Filippo Brunelleschi
  - Leone Battista Alberti

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## Donatello's *David*

Featuring contrapposto stance





*Gattamelata*  
by Donatello



*The Feast  
of Herod*

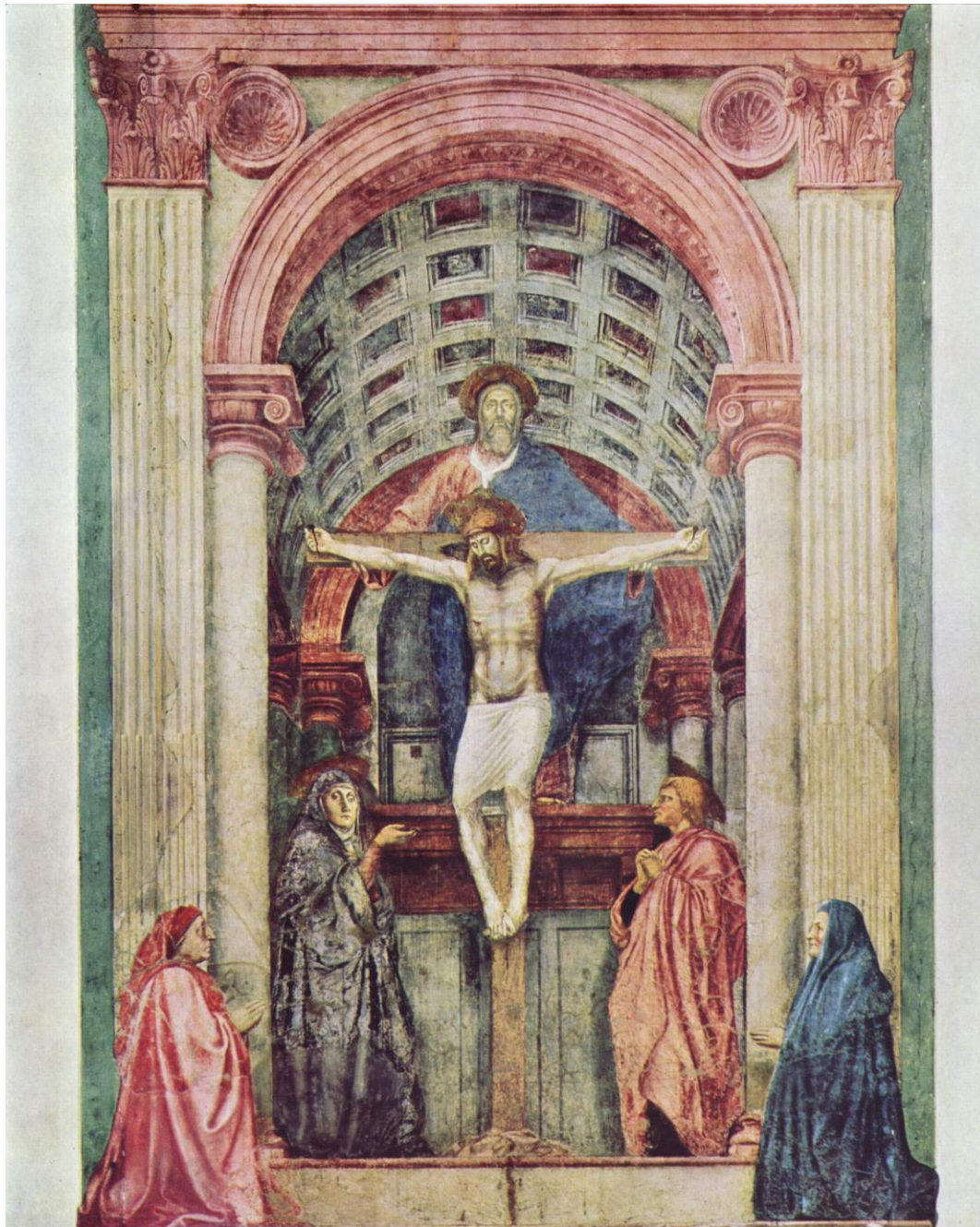


**North Baptistery Doors in  
Florence by Ghiberti**



***The Annunciation***  
by Ghiberti

A panel from the  
North doors of the  
Baptistery in  
Florence



***THE HOLY TRINITY***  
Masaccio

# ***THE TRIBUTE MONEY***

Masaccio



## Matthew 17:24-27 (New International Version)

### The Temple Tax

24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax<sup>[a]</sup>?" 25 "Yes, he does," he replied.

When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?"

26 "From others," Peter answered.

"Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. 27 "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

# ***THE TRIBUTE MONEY***

Masaccio







***THE TRIBUTE  
MONEY***

Group detail

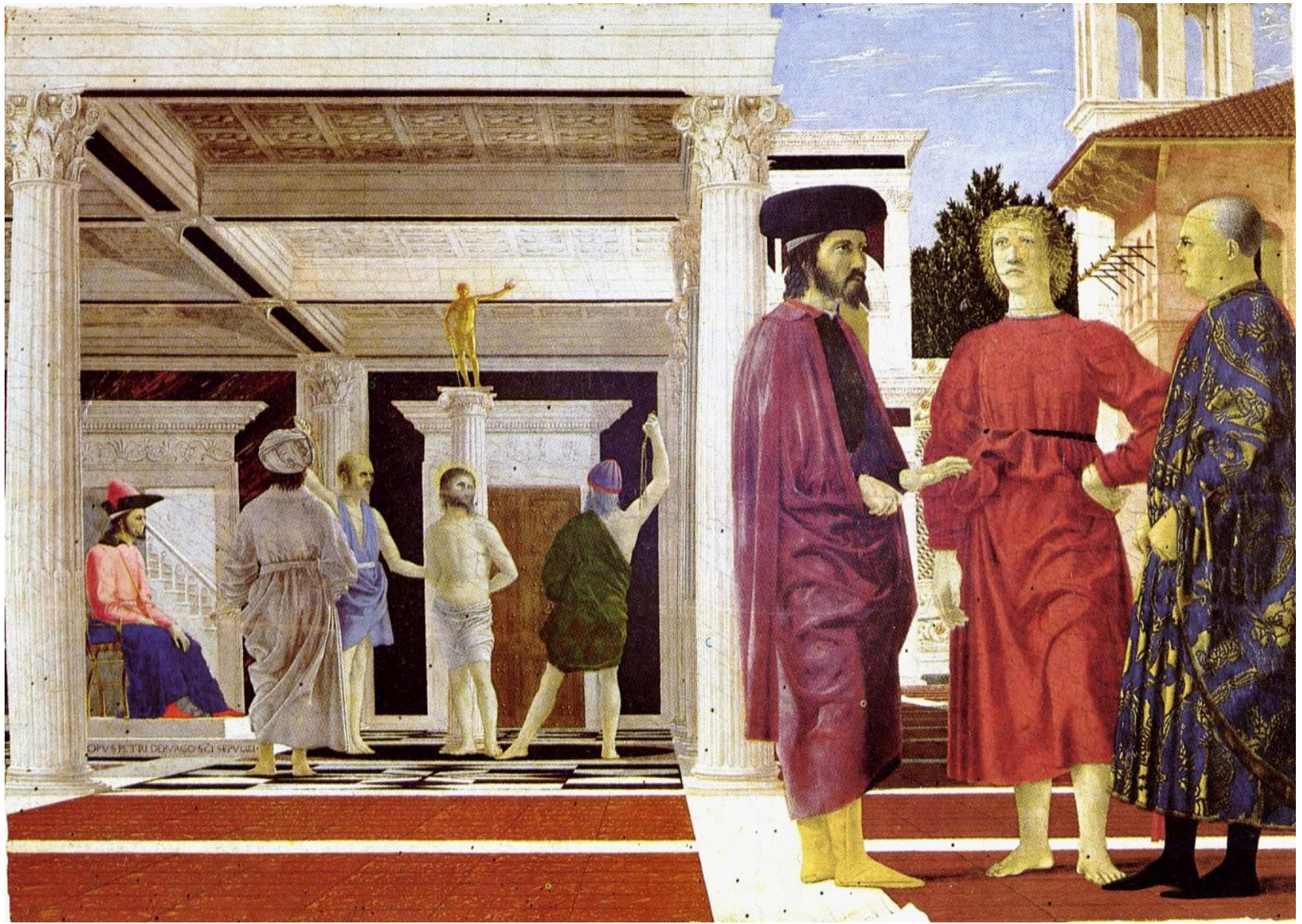


***THE TRIBUTE MONEY***

Duo detail



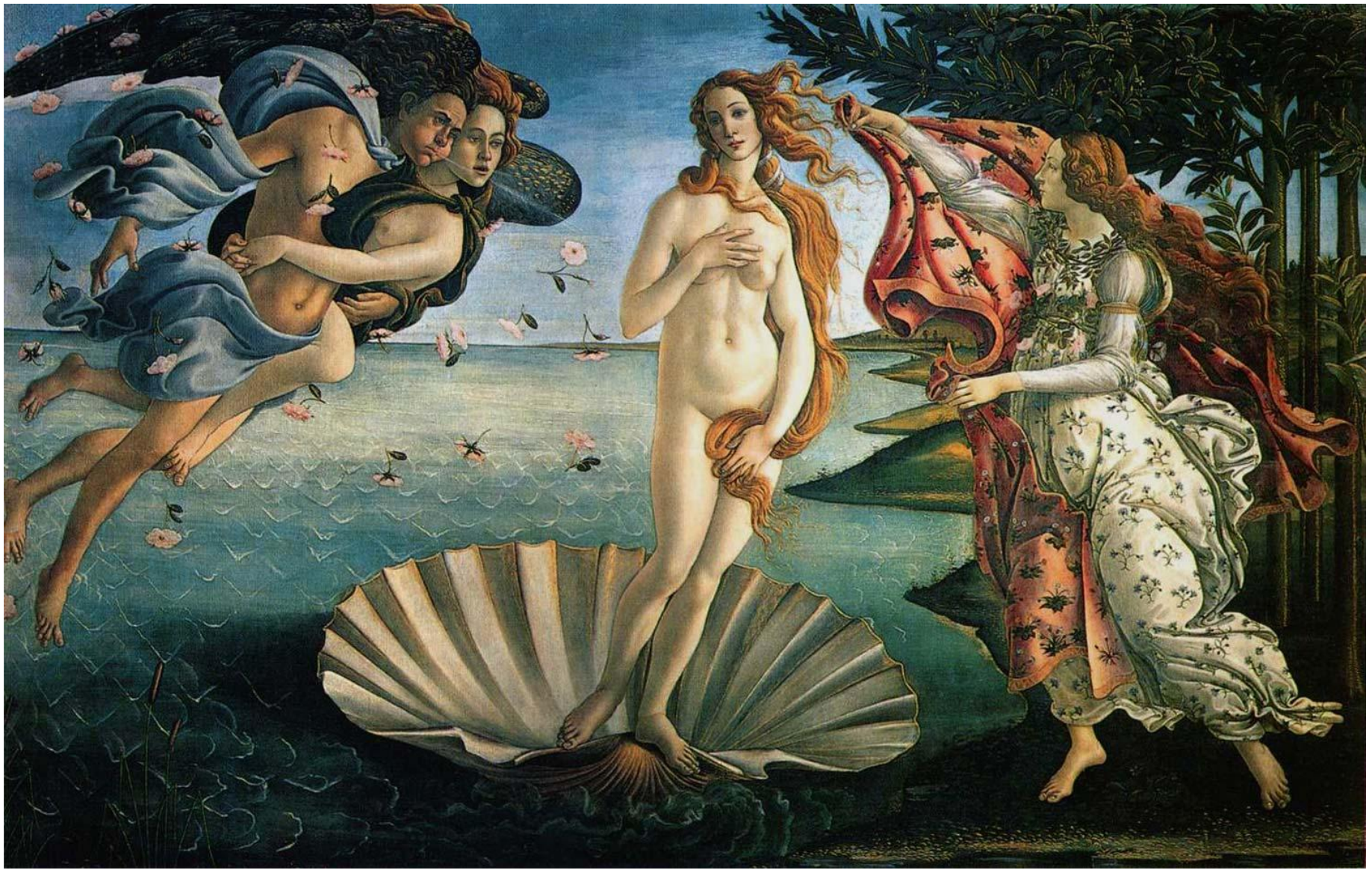
***The Annunciation*** by Fra Angelico



***The Flagellation*** by Piero della Francesca



**PRIMAVERA** by Sandro Botticelli



***THE BIRTH OF VENUS*** by Sandro Botticelli



## **Cathedral Dome in Florence**

designed by  
Filippo  
Brunelleschi

completed in  
1436



Exterior of PAZZI CHAPEL , Basilica di Santa Croce.



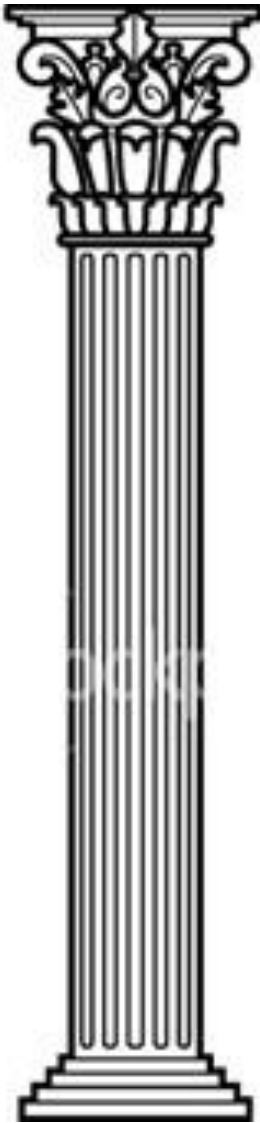


PAZZI CHAPEL  
interior



MALATESTA  
TEMPLE  
in Rimini,  
Italy

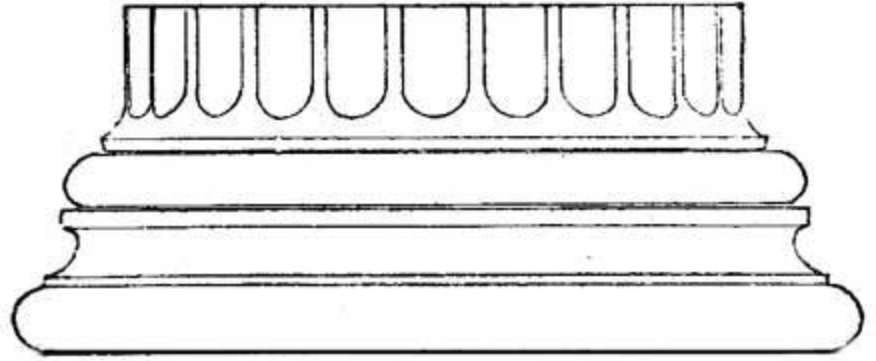
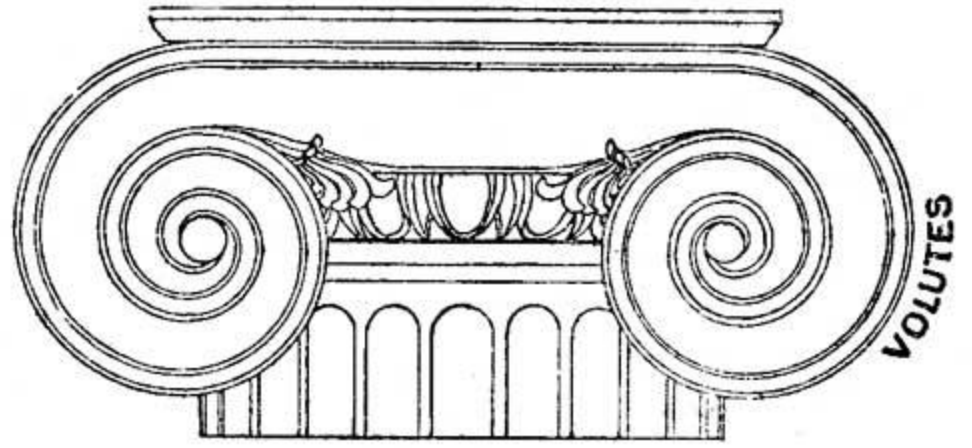
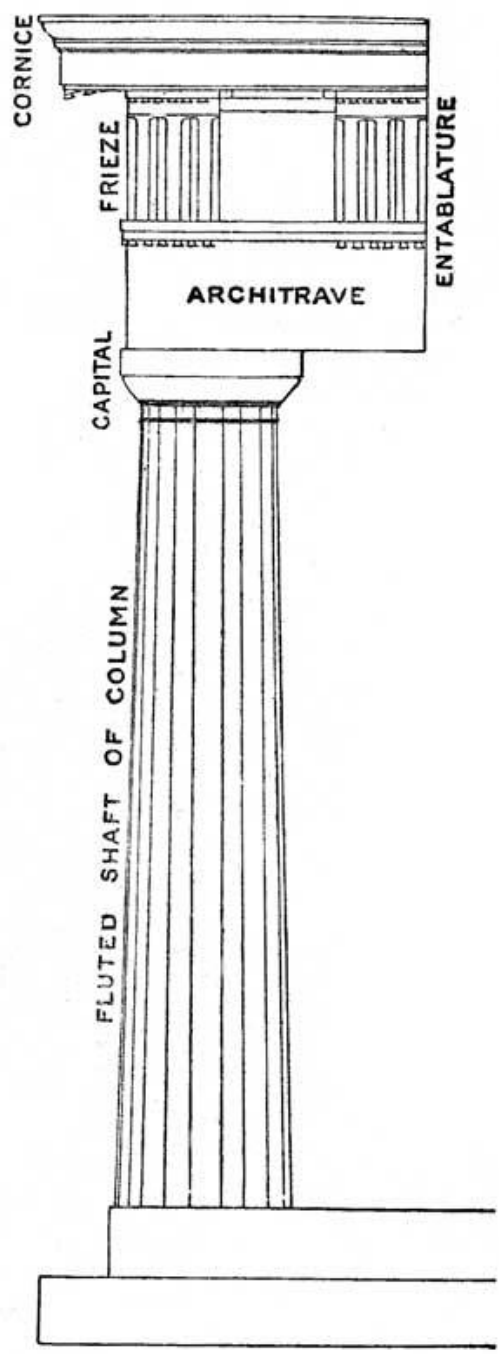
Designed by  
Leone  
Alberti



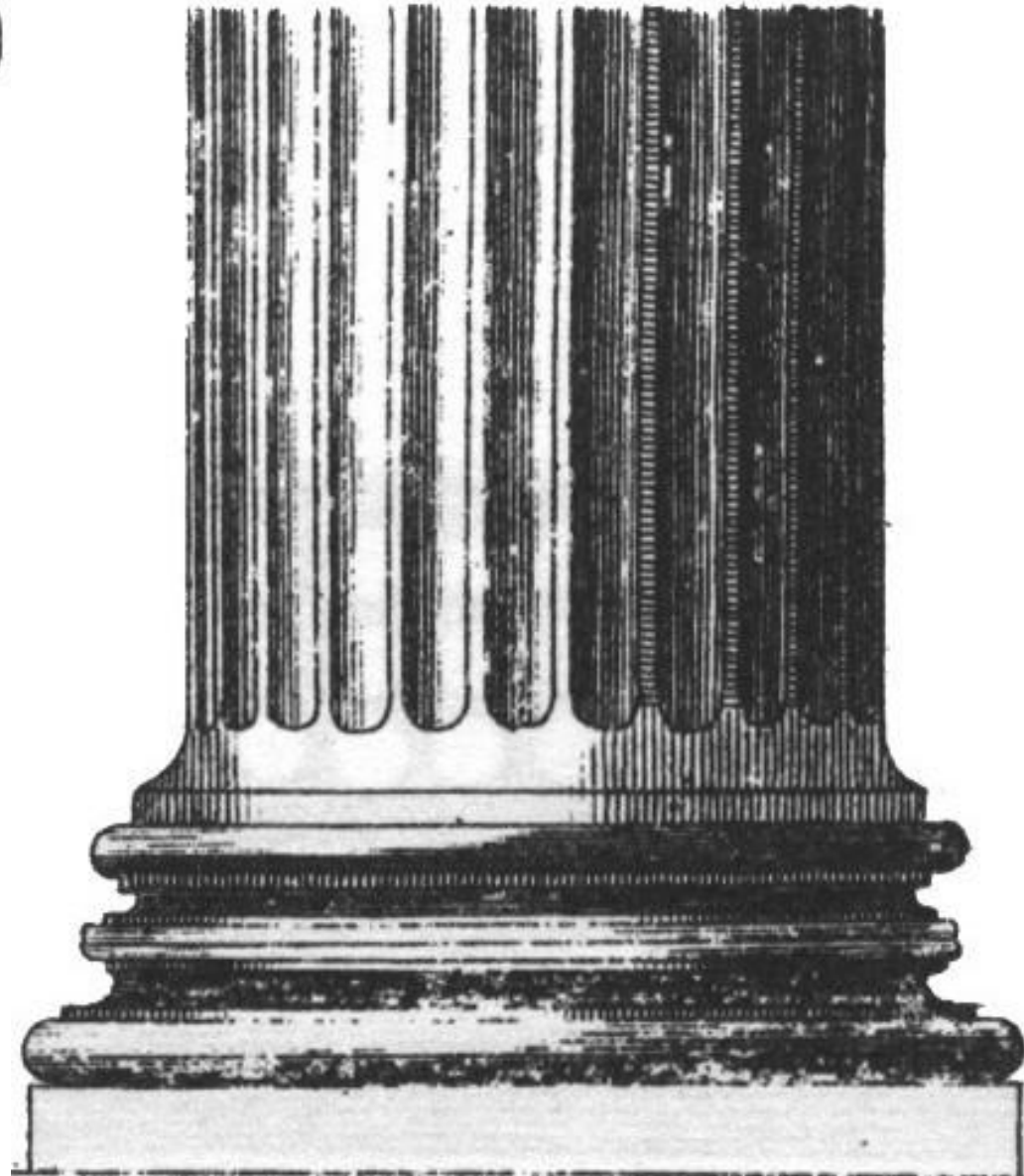
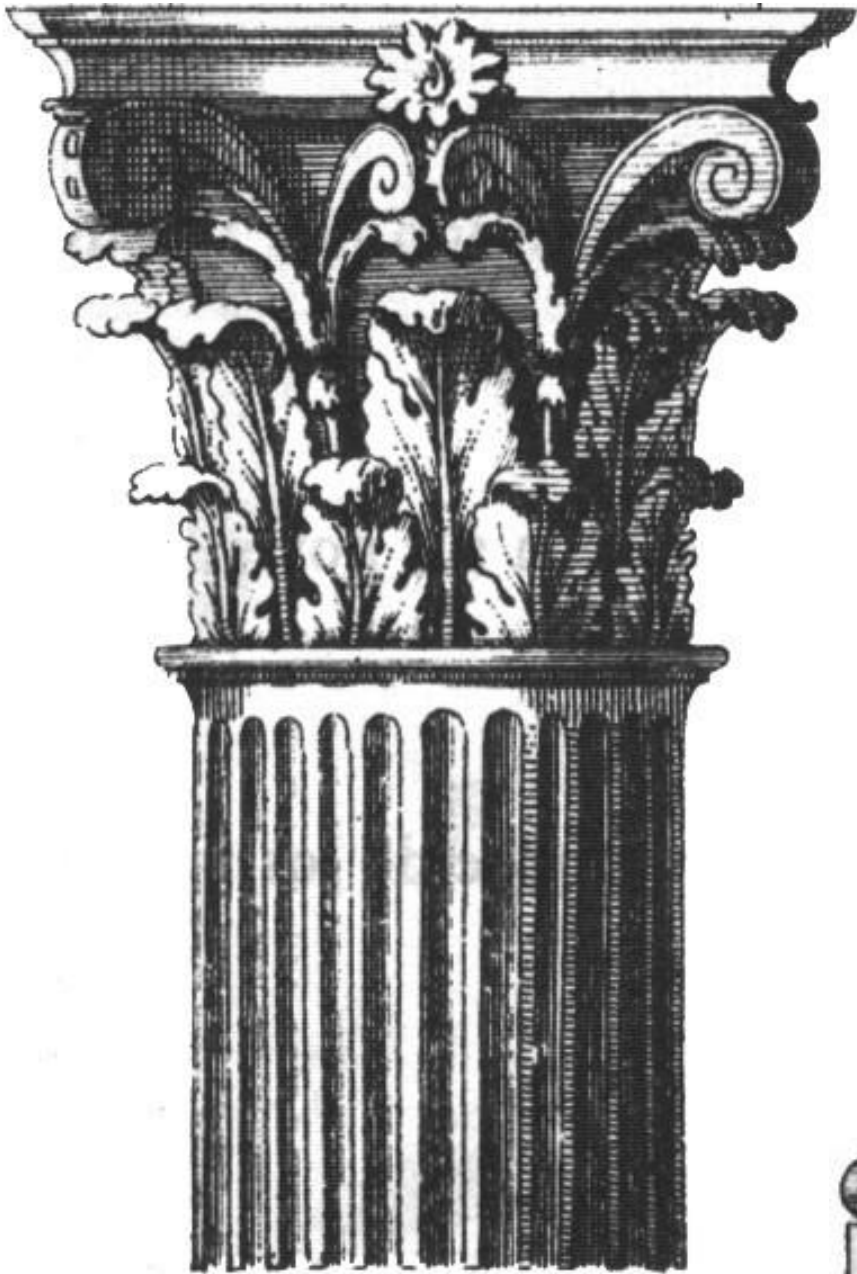
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CORINTHIAN



# CORINTHIAN COLUMN



- Leonardo da Vinci – the true Renaissance Man
  - Painter (*The Virgin of the Rocks*)
  - Architect
  - Inventor
  - Engineer
  - Scientist (strict empiricist)



# ***VIRGIN OF THE ROCKS***

by

Leonardo da Vinci

# Renaissance Music

- Principal works were
  - Latin masses
  - Motets for multiple voices w/ words of sacred text
  - **Chansons** (secular songs with French texts)
    - French ballade (using two voices)
    - Italian madrigal (designed for 6 voices)
- Performed ***a capella*** (w/o instruments)
- Composers
  - John Dunstable (England)
  - Josquin des Prez (Burgundy)- sounds matched words, using major & minor scales with related harmonies