

Reconstructing the Palatine temple of Apollo: a case study in early Augustan temple design

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Despite its fundamental importance for early Augustan temple design, the architecture of the temple of *Apollo in Palatio* remains notoriously unknown.* Insufficient and contradictory documentation of the archaeological remains and a lack of the principal measurements has prevented any conclusive reconstruction of this pivotal structure of the early Augustan period. Dedicated in 28 B.C., it played a key rôle in Rome's religious, political and intellectual history. It was Octavian's earliest independent building project there and an integral part of both his Palatine residence and the *area Apollonis*, a sanctuary to Apollo, which also encompassed a library and served as a meeting place for the Senate.

Although remains are scarce, the extant foundations and few architectural fragments are of strategic value. A close re-examination of the remains and a critical assessment of earlier scholarship allow a reasonable reconstruction of the structure's ground-plan and façade. My new reconstruction represents the first result of an ongoing project which is providing several key data on the temple's complex design and opens up possibilities for a new assessment of early Augustan temple design, the wide spectrum of which is demonstrated by a close comparison with the temple of Apollo Sosianus. The results give insight into design and construction strategies of early Augustan architects. The design of Apollo Palatinus now stands as an imposing revival of Republican architectural traditions.

Remains

In its current state of preservation, the ruin essentially consists of the temple's foundations and scattered blocks of the *cella* walls. Almost no remains of the elevation survive *in situ* (fig. 1). At least in part, the site's modern appearance is the result of the restoration work of Pietro Rosa who, upon excavation in 1865, consolidated the foundations and overbuilt them with a flight of stairs.¹ However, several architectural marble fragments, probably from the quarries of Carrara (Luna),² still lie on the site: an architrave and a cornice fragment belong to the tem-

* Bibliographic abbreviations

Colini	A. M. Colini, "Il tempio di Apollo," <i>BullCom</i> 68 (1941) 9-40.
Lugli	G. Lugli, "Il tempio di Apollo Aziaco e il Gruppo Augusteo sul Palatino," <i>Atti Accad. San Luca</i> 1 (1951-52) 26-55 = id., <i>Studi minori di topografia antica</i> (Rome 1965) 258-90.
Strong & Ward Perkins	D. E. Strong and J. B. Ward Perkins, "The Temple of Castor in the Forum Romanum," <i>PBSR</i> 30 (1962) 1-30.
Strong	D. E. Strong, "Some observations on Early Roman Corinthian," <i>JRS</i> 53 (1963) 73-84.
Bauer	H. Bauer, "Das Kapitell des Apollo Palatinus-Tempels," <i>RömMitt</i> 76 (1969) 183-204.
Carettoni	G. Carettoni, "I problemi della zona Augustea del Palatino alla luce dei recenti scavi," <i>RendPontAcc</i> 39 (1966-67) 55-75.
von Hesberg	H. von Hesberg, <i>Konsolengeisa des Hellenismus und der frühen Kaiserzeit</i> (RömMitt ErgH 24, 1980).
Adam	J. P. Adam, <i>Le Temple de Portunus au Forum Boarium</i> (Rome 1994).
Viscogliosi	A. Viscogliosi, <i>Il tempio di Apollo in Circo e la nascita del linguaggio architettonico augusteo</i> (Rome 1996).
Haselberger	L. Haselberger, "Debent habere gravitatem. Pyknostyle Säulenstellung und augusteische Tempelbaukunst," <i>RömMitt</i> 110 (2003) 151-97.
Quenemoen	C. K. Quenemoen, "The Portico of the Danaids: a new reconstruction," <i>AJA</i> 110 (2006) 229-50.
Iacopi & Tedone	I. Iacopi and G. Tedone, "Biblioteca e Porticus ad Apollinis," <i>RömMitt</i> 112 (2005-6) 351-78.

1 On P. Rosa's working method and interpretative restorations, see Lugli 34, and in particular M. A. Tomei, "Gli scavi di Pietro Rosa per Napoleone III (1861-1870)," in G. Morganti (ed.), *Gli Orti Farnesiani sul Palatino* (Roma Antica 2, 1990) 70-77, 88-89.

2 Identification of the marble type is mostly based on a passage in Servius (*ad Aen.* 8.720: *de solido marmore*