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# ITALIAN INFLUENCE IN POLISH ARCHITECTURE

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Renaissance in Polish architecture lasted from the beginning of the 16th century until the middle of the 17th century. At that time, many sacred and secular structures, such as castles, town halls, tenement houses or palaces, were created. Architecture of the Renaissance in Poland is unique in its own way because, thanks to the marriage of Sigismund the Old (Zygmunt Stary) to an Italian woman, Bona Sforza, many architects from Italy, such as Bartolomeo Berecci, created in our country. Latter sovereigns also brought the best Italian designers and builders to Poland. The most characteristic element of architecture of the Renaissance in Poland is attic style – a low wall crowning the facade and covering the roof in the form of a row of steeples or balustrade.



# Representatives of the architecture of Renaissance in Poland include:

❖ Francesco Florentino – directed the reconstruction of the Wawel Castle after it got destroyed by fire



❖ Bartolommeo Berrecci – his most important work is the tomb chapel of King Sigismund the Old in the Wawel Cathedral



❖ Bernardo Morando – designer of Zamość, the ideal renaissance fortress city



# THE WAWEL ROYAL CASTLE

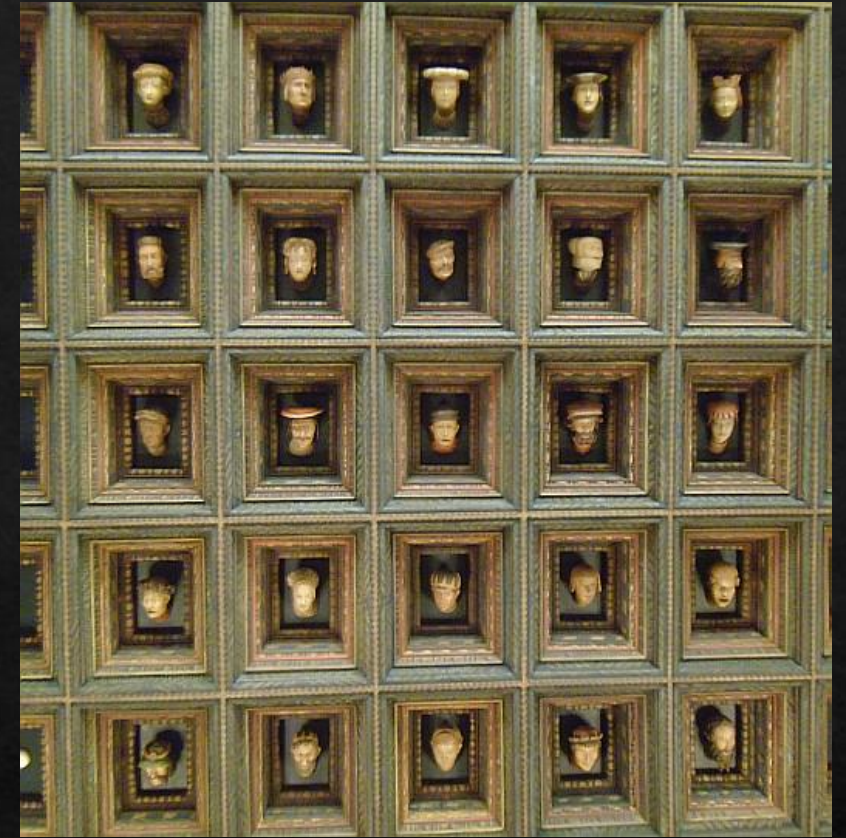


A turning point in the spread of the Renaissance style in architecture was the reconstruction of the Wawel Royal Castle in the years 1507-1536. It was realised by two Italian architects: Francesco Fiorentino and Bartolomeo Berrecci. A square-based Renaissance courtyard was then created, surrounded by three-story cloisters, with arcades on the ground and second floors. The last, third, tier was distinguished by exceptionally high columns supporting the eaves of the roof.





The cloisters were the entrance to the chambers. They provided the main communication link. Chambers received wide three-pane windows. The walls were covered with paintings depicting mythological and battle scenes, commemorating the glory of Polish arms.



The ceiling of the Deputies' Hall was decorated with the most outstanding piece of woodcarving work of the 16th century in Poland: a set of 194 carved human heads.

# Sigismund's Chapel, Wawel, Cracow

Next to the Wawel Cathedral Sigismund the Old funded a tomb chapel, later called in the name of the king the Sigismund's Chapel. It is an exemplary work of Italian Renaissance art in Poland. The chapel, built on a central plan, is crowned with a dome supported by an octagonal drum. At the top of the dome there is a cylindrical lantern topped with a crown.



# Cloth Hall/Sukiennice, Cracow



Buildings of an economic nature were built in or adjacent to cities. Cracow's Cloth Hall owes its magnificent Renaissance form to Italian architects. The Cloth Hall is distinguished by its magnificent attics.



# POZNAŃ TOWN HALL

The Poznań City Hall is one of the most magnificent and beautiful monuments of Renaissance urban architecture in Poland. Poznań City Hall was rebuilt in the Renaissance style by Giovanni Battista di Quadro, drawing patterns from Roman antiquity. The front of the building is decorated with a representative loggia.



# ZAMOŠĆ



The most spectacular project in 16th-century Poland was the construction from scratch, according to Renaissance urban planning, of an entire city - Zamość. The city was founded by Jan Zamoyski in 1580. It combined economic, residential and defensive functions: in addition to economic and municipal facilities, the Zamoyski residence was built there, and the whole was surrounded by a modern bastion fortification system.



# BARANÓW SANDOMIERSKI CASTLE



Italian architect Santi Gucci was the builder of the Leszczyński Palace in Baranów Sandomierski. It featured an arcaded courtyard of exceptional beauty with classical proportions, enriched with striking stairs and a balcony.

# BRZEG CASTLE

Brzeg Castle is considered one of the most beautiful Renaissance buildings in Silesia. Between 1544 and 1547 there was a major reconstruction of this medieval castle, giving the castle a Renaissance look. It was inspired by the Wawel Castle in Cracow. First the south wing was altered, then the east wing was built on the Oder side.



After the death of Duke Frederick II, the work was continued by his successor George II, who brought Italian architects to the castle: James and Francis Parra. It was then that the four-wing complex surrounding the courtyard, decorated with columned galleries, was shaped.



At that time, a gate building with bas-relief busts of the Piasts was also built.



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# NIEPOŁOMICE ROYAL CASTLE

The castle was built in the 14th century, and its Renaissance form was given by a reconstruction carried out between 1551 and 1568 under the direction of Tomasz Grzymała and the sculptor Santi Gucci. At that time the castle became a regularly planned building on a square plan, with an inner acradical courtyard. Among other things, staircases on the side of the courtyard and cloisters supported by three pillars were built.



Italian gardens, created by the will of Queen Bona, were established near the south wing of the castle.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

