

San Salvatore in Campo



San Salvatore in Campo is a small 17th century church in the rione Regola.

History:

The church of San Salvatore in Campo was erected in the early 10th century, and it is mentioned in a papal bull promulgated in 1186. It was endowed to monks from the monastery of Farfa. The word "Campo" was for a long time considered to allude to the fact that the medieval church was located at a piazza covered with grass and without pavement. "Campo" may be translated into the English word "field". Later research has been able to confute this theory and proposes that "Campo" refers to the infamous 10th century abbot Campone of Farfa, who, through criminality and deception, tried to appropriate huge advantages for himself at the expense of others. (1) (2)

San Salvatore in Campo became a parish church in the 16th century, but there are scarcely any documents to describe its architectural forms. The only comment on the medieval church is given by Giovanni Antonio Bruzio (1610-1692), who says it had three naves. During the enlargement of the adjacent Palazzo del Monte di Pietà in 1638, the medieval church was demolished, but one year later, in 1639, Cardinal Francesco Barberini commissioned the architect Francesco [Peparelli](#) to design a new church. Peparelli was, at the time, active at the aforementioned amplification of the Palazzo del Monte di Pietà together Carlo Maderno and Francesco Borromini. (1) (2)

Soon after its erection in 1639 San Salvatore in Campo became a parish church, but the parish was suppressed by pope Leo XII in 1824. Shortly after this the *Arciconfraternita del Santissimo Sacramento e Congregazione di Santa Maria della Neve* was established in the church. Between 1841 and 1856 the Missionaries of the *Preziosissimo Sangue* were the proprietors of the church. (1) (2)

In the beginning of the 20th century the church was declared untreadable and was closed for the public. In 1968 the church was entrusted to the association "Una Voce" (One Voice), which had it restored. (1) (2)

From 1978 the church fell into a state of abandon. In the beginning of the 1980's it was conceded to the *Centro Neocatecumenale "Servo di Javé"*, which had the interior renovated. The church has been restored in 2008, during which the entire area has been completely repainted, leaving intact only the fresco on the original pediment, and at present it is being administered by a Eucharistic and Marian confraternity. (1) (2)

Exterior:

The two-storeyed façade is divided into three vertical sections. (1) (2)

The entrance door is topped by an oval tablet with a wavy surround, and above this is a segmental pediment broken into two halves and with small volutes on the top breaks. Within this is a triangular pediment with the top broken. The oval tablet contains the title of the church: ECCLESIA / SANCTI SALVATORIS / IN CAMPO. On either side of the entrance is a gigantic pilaster running up to the crowning pediment, the latter being broken at the bottom and containing a faded fresco (now almost completely ruined) depicting the Savior. The capitals of these pilasters are stylized fascas. (1) (2)

The second storey presents a large rectangular window with a segmental pediment above a swag relief, decorated with a relief with a drapery and festoons. (1) (2)

On the corners of the façade are two other pilasters, which run up to above the blank architrave running horizontally above the entrance and which have degenerate Doric capitals. These outer pilasters support gigantic volutes, which form the end of concave curves sweeping down from the crowning pediment. (1) (2)

The façade used to be painted in reddish orange with the architectural details in ochre, but the restoration has left it rendered in white. (1) (2)

Interior:

The interior of the church has one single nave, but the architect Peparelli had the obvious intention to combine a longitudinal plan with a symmetrical scheme to be able to give the two lateral altars a pronounced position. (2)

The main altar has a painting of the *Transfiguration*, a recently executed copy of Raphael's early 16th century original. (2)

The apsidal arch is decorated with frescoes - unfortunately in poor condition. In the centre is the Christogram surrounded by rays of golden light and cherubs. This motive is flanked by two angels holding the nails of the Cross (left) and the Inscription plate (right) with the letters INRI, i.e. Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. (2)

The lower walls of the apse have rectangular panels with frescoes. To the right a putto is holding the *Veronica*, i.e. the veil of Veronica with the true image of Jesus Christ. (2)

The body of Saint Candidus, martyr at *Ursum Pileatum*, rests under the main altar. The two lateral altars present sober artistic execution. The one on the right hand has an 18th century painting depicting the *Virgin Mary with saints*. The one on the left has a false marble decoration and a metal Cross, which had a unusual wooden Crucifix (purloined in 1984), where one could see both feet of Christ fastened with nails. (2)

The side walls of the church have two additional niches. The one on the right once had the painting of the *Madonna della Neve*, i.e. the Madonna of the Snow, but as a precautionary measure it was transferred to the church of Santa Maria in Traspontina in 1887. (2)

Notes:

The expatriate Coptic Eritrean Orthodox community in Rome makes use of it, the worshipping community being under the patronage of St Michael the Archangel (*San Michele*). (1) (2)

Location:

Addr: Piazza di San Salvatore in Campo, Rome
 Coord: [41° 53' 37.1"N, 12° 28' 26.2"E](#)

Links:

1. http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Salvatore_in_Campo
2. <http://web.comhem.se/~u13117202/ssalvcampo.htm>
3. <http://web.comhem.se/~u13117202/ssalvcampo2.htm>
4. http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_San_Salvatore_in_Campo
5. <http://www.romeartlover.it/Vasi180.htm#S.%20Salvatore>
6. http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti_dettaglio.asp?ID_schede=1120&css_font=verdana
7. <http://www.060608.it/en/cultura-e-svago/luoghi-di-culto-di-interesse-storico-artistico/chiese-cattoliche/san-salvatore-in-campo.html>