Sovereignty

- The exercise of supreme and absolute power over a delimited territory.
Towards a stronger European economic governance
Das heilige römische Reich mit dem Kreuz Seiner Huldigung.
The conquer of the Rione di Borgo or the Vatican Hill represented for the church the first and more strategic victory over the people of Rome. Surrounded by medieval walls this fortress was an almost invulnerable apparatus of sovereignty with only one bridge as entrance controlled from the Castello di Sant’Angelo. This outstanding new location allowed a panoramic view over the whole city strengthening its presence not only in the conscious but in the subconscious of the people. The main intention of the Vatican was a clear manifestation of power and governance and a surveillance method over the people and the city as a physical representation of the catholic dogma of being observed by the holy vision of God.
Commissioned by the Pope Paul III in 1536 to Michelangelo the construction of the Campidoglio was the first time that a public project was made by and with the people's money and with the Church as a client. This represented and officialised the power and the control of the Church over the people of Rome. At the same time the Campidoglio works as an ending and focal point for the Via del Corso, which was the entrance to the city and one of the most ancient straight streets in Rome starting in the Piazza del Popolo. The project was implemented as an artefact clamming control along the Via del Corso and as a visual reference for anyone who enters to Rome showing that the city was under the control of the Church.
The Renaissance Palazzo was an expanding apparatus of conquest established by Popes whom after being ascended to the throne started to refurbish or build from scratch their family’s houses. One of the main examples of this is the Palazzo Farnese, which after becoming Pope, Paul III decided to build. This four square artefact, completely different in scale and form to any existing medieval house in the city, forced to rebuild new straight streets around it and plazas in the front to make it fit in the ancient medieval city fabric. These modular elements had a social responsibility to become public places, being a multi-programmed building with shops in the ground floor and benches for public activities in the frontal square worked as punctual interventions to trigger a whole urban renewal and therefore expand the Papal control.
After Leo X was elected Pope, as the same way as Paul III did, he renewed his family house in the city becoming a new centrality but he also decided to create a new straight street running from his house to Piazza del Popolo. This new street cut all the existing medieval urban fabric bulldozing an enormous amount houses without any consideration and building instead speculative row housing along Strada di Ripetta. The row housing was a new typology introduced to Rome that little by little became a city of apartment blocks instead of single housing. With the money and from the rental and the taxation of these properties the Church started to accumulate lots of money and to become the landlords of a big part of the city, selecting and controlling in this way the tenants which in almost of the cases were artisans and middle class people.
The apparatus of governance applied by Julius II during his Papacy constituted the formalization in the use of the city planning as a tool for political instrument of dominion connecting different buildings with the same program. Julius II built a couple of straight streets, one on each side of the Tiber. The main one of these was Via Giulia that stepped over existing urban fabric cutting it through the middle of it and claiming power and control over the Campidoglio and connecting it to the Vatican in a more straightforward way with the construction of a new bridge. A series of artefacts dedicated to the implementation and administration of justice were also placed along the street such as the Justice Palace, the new prison and the Palace of the Chancellery.
Pope Sixtus V was without any doubt the Pope with more awareness of the urban planning as an apparatus of power and governance. He decided to create an extensive infrastructural intervention connecting the main seven Basilicas through a series of straight street axis that always ended up with one of these basilicas as a visual reference and as a surveillance method of control. Sixtus V understood prioritized as any other Pope before the importance of the infrastructure and the transport as a device per excellence of the managements of the assets. This was then the first and most clear vision of the city as a whole network of flows interconnected by referential points and the whole city as an apparatus of production and distribution.
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THE BUREAUCRATIC ARCADIA
steel profile (connected to timer frame)
aluminum profile (Schueco 90 SL)
HR++ glass
waterproof layer
timer frame (insulated) 20cm

screed floor 7cm
reinforced concrete 30cm
water drain channel
aluminum profile
waterproof layer
timer frame (insulated)

steel profile
aluminum profile (Schueco 90 SL)
HR++ glass
waterproof layer
timer frame (insulated) 20cm
reinforced concrete

waterproof layer
thermal insulation
steel trusses (2d grid)

+0.50
+0.05
+8.75
+0.00
+0.57
+6.55
+8.90
+9.20
+9.65

waterproof layer
thermal insulation
steel floor 15cm
steel trusses (2d grid)