



Art and architecture

A tale of two temples

Christy Anderson

Both of these buildings, the church of the 'Redentore' in Venice and the 'Sokullu Mehmet Pasha' mosque in Istanbul are important monuments in their respective cities. But equally, these buildings are moments of their architects 'Palladio' and 'Sinan'.

Both buildings are universally recognised as architectural masterpieces. We are going to compare them to see what we can learn about how great works of architecture are created. It's not enough to say that they are the products of the genius of a great architect. Palladio and Sinan are recognised as outstanding architects. But there are many factors that even they had to take into account.

Christy Anderson

Located so prominently the church would serve as a constant reminder to the Venetians of the benevolence of God and the role of the government, in rescuing their city from the plague.

Palladio had to build the church to be seen.

By contrast, the Sokullu Mehmet Pasha mosque was not intended as a major public landmark. It was commissioned by a private individual in honour of his wife.

Palladio and Sinan were each working within a distinct architectural tradition. But they were both great innovators, adapting their techniques to local conditions, taking both political and geographic factors into account.

The Redentore was to be built by the water and had a ceremonial function. The façade is explicitly based on ancient Roman models and uses the language of classical architecture, which Palladio had described in his *trades*.

The use of major and minor orders. The larger and smaller triangular pediments we can see, suggest the organisation of the space inside. With a large and important central nave and smaller less significant side chapels.

The columns are composite. The most elaborate of the five classical orders Palladio describes. The richness of the façade suggests that the building was to be used for ceremonies involving the highest in the state.