

Variants and invariants in the brickwork of the Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence

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Abstract The surveying of a building as complex as the Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore is particularly difficult to deal with, given the difficulties the structure poses. Everything is pretty much inaccessible: the extrados of the outer dome covered by tiles and the inner one with intrados enriched by paintings. Even the space between the domes is very narrow and only the lower parts can be inspected. This impenetrability has continued until the restoration of the dome began in 1975, when it was finally possible to perform detailed on-site investigations and provide direct and new data for a new historiography closer to the true extent of the dome by Brunelleschi.

Keywords Florence, Cupola of Santa Maria del Fiore, brickwork, building techniques, Filippo Brunelleschi