

# The dome in the churches' projects by architect Gaetano Rapisardi

Elena Ippoliti

**Abstract** The architectural culture in Italy in the '30s is characterized by a broad reflection on issues of "renewal". Particularly, in Roman's milieu, the main reference adopted is that of classicality. In this direction, one possible solution is identified in the simplification of the masses, in the synthesis of volumes and shapes, in the abolition of decorative elements, in the gradual return to the pure geometric forms. In the field of religious architecture the reworking of the central Renaissance's plant is made for liturgical requirements. The conjugation of modernity and tradition is resolved with the possible variations of the dome's theme. In the Roman milieu this theme pervades and informs the research on church's building type, finding realization especially after the war. The paper seeks to dwell on the constant interest about the dome's theme shown by Gaetano Rapisardi in his churches' projects developed between 1945 and 1960 through analysis of some of his original drawings.

**Keywords** architectural culture in Italy in the '30s, modernity and tradition, design drawings