

OPVS INCERTVM

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Opus Incertum

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Coffered wooden ceilings in Florence and Rome in the Early Modern Age

Call for papers

The recent historiography has neglected the studies on the coffered ceilings in the early modern age, despite their exceptional artistic and technical quality, as well as the figurative centrality that those artefacts played in the Renaissance architecture. Carved, sculpted, painted, enriched with woodcuts and stucco, soft wood and papier-mâché; gold coated and lighted in bright red and deep blue, the coffered ceilings are poly-material masterpieces: the result of multiple trades, cross-cutting technical knowledge and multiple artistic statutes. Their diffusion during the Renaissance is immediate and pervasive: in few years they renewed the aisles of the ancient basilicas, such as San Marco and Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome; the abbey church of Farfa; Santa Maria della Quercia in Viterbo and many others. In newly built churches - such as in San Lorenzo and in the Magi Chapel in the Palazzo Medici in Florence - the coffered wooden ceilings emulate the ancient glory, as well as in the halls, in the rooms and in the *studioli*.

The special issue of "Opus Incertum", edited by Gianluca Belli, Claudia Conforti, Maria Grazia D'Amelio and Francesca Funis, aspires to document and analyse, through case studies, the Renaissance revival of the coffered wooden ceilings and their fortune; the techniques and the artists who created and shaped them; their procurement and the particular wood used; the literary and artistic sources that gave information and provide prescriptions and descriptions.

The historical and geographical boundaries are limited into the Tuscany and Florence during the Medici, and in Rome and the Papal States, with particular attention to the XV and XVI centuries.

An abstract of at least 1,000 and no more than 1,500 characters, with three keywords, must be submitted no later than March 10th.