

# DISCOVERING BRAMANTE'S TEMPIETTO



One of the more disturbing scenes of the film is set here. A little girl has disappeared. Her mother desperately calls out her name as Jep arrives. Jep finds the girl hiding in the recesses of the tempietto. While this is a short episode we are nevertheless able to enjoy a view of certain details of this architectural work which tourists generally do not see. Many are familiar with this building. The tempietto - one of Donato Bramante's most successful works - perfectly embodies the principles of equilibrium and the proportions set forth by Vitruvius. The round temple, with its sixteen Doric columns, was built where it is traditionally believed Saint Peter was crucified with his head downward. In the underground vault, a slab covers the hole into which the cross had been inserted. A small statue of the Apostle adorns the altar within the building. This small sanctuary represents an act of devotion on the part of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, in fulfilment of a vow made before the birth of their heir. Little did they know that the work they had commissioned would be considered the most brilliant and most consistent building in the Renaissance style!

*For visitors*

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