

Task 5.

SYNTHETIC FRIENDSHIPS

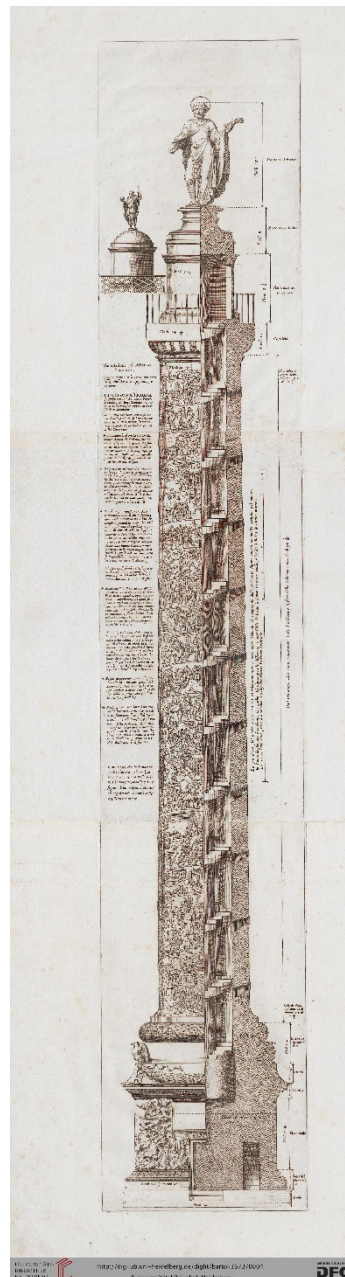
Colonna Traiana: Hello, I'm the book *Colonna Traiana* and I was written by the author Pietro Santo Bartoli in 1673. I portray the Trajan's Column a roman triumphal placed in Rome, Italy, that memorializes the Roman emperor Trajan's victory in the Dacian Wars. My pages are covered with illustrations that array from the bottom of the column to the top just as the staircase that winds up inside of it.

Grand Escalier: Hi Colonna Traiana I'm Grand escalier du Château de Versailles. I am describing a staircase in the Chateau of Versailles. Unfortunately, the stair was destroyed many years ago. The construction was known for it's magnificence and it's design. Quite similar as you I have many illustrations about the design and construction. I was written by Charles Le Brun who also designed the ornaments and the staircase.

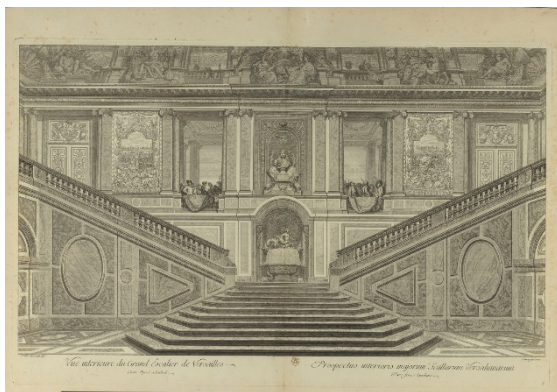
My staircase has been constructed for Louis XIV and was a great representation of his power. When a visitor walked up the stairs, he could see the historical dominance of France. In the middle was a bust of the king himself. By overlooking the space in front of the staircase his dominance was illustrated clearly.

The decoration of this staircase recalled the great victories of Louis XIV, which was shown on the first floor, with different paintings of his victories. Under the bust of King Louis XIV there was a fountain. Cascading from the centre of the stair near eye level, the fountain's water formed the focal point of the room.

Colonna Traiana: Unbelievable that a construction with such a magnificent appearance has been demolished! Would you be able to send me an image to be able to see it my own? The column that I represent has also been under the removal of a statue of the one and only emperor Trajan and has been replaced by the Apostle Peter in 1587. I will attach you the image of the Trajan's column and you will be able to judge for your own.



Grand Escalier: Well, that's quite an impressive building. Of course, I can attach a Picture or two myself. As you can see the Staircase is divided in two parts, which lead to the upper floor. Due to the width of the Staircase the visitors must have gotten an overwhelming feeling when standing there. One can imagine how the visitors must have been standing at the bottom of the staircase and were embracing the scenery that showed in front of them.



Furthermore there is another fascinating feature which you can't see on the picture. In front of the staircase is a vestibule with three arcades before you enter the room. This vestibule is held quiet dark. So when you first enter the room you get a sort of retarding moment before you get overwhelmed by the magnificence of the staircase.



The floor was built in marble inlays set into the floor which patterns formed circles, diamonds, and suns. Visitors crossed this floor on their approach to the first flight of steps. This pattern extended up onto the walls of the first level of the room. The ceiling vault was covered with entirely fictive architecture and was populated by an assembly of allegorical and mythological figures.

Colonna Traiana: This sounds breathtaking, especially with all the detail you provided me that I couldn't see on the images. I believe you have comprehensive text that describe the images? How would you define your structure and to what ratio do you have text or images? I only consist out of one image per pages that has a short descriptive text placed underneath it.

Grand Escalier: Well not really comprehensive but in my first 9 pages I'm just consisting out of texts and descriptions. Those pages are well decorated and carefully centralized with just a few images. I believe I was written with a green color but now as I am getting older everything gets grey and boring. I think you know what I mean.

The Illustrations in my book have free pages next to them, this allows the reader to take notes while reading the book. Some of the Illustrations have more free pages than others. This could be understood as a sort of hierarchy between the pictures. The ones with more free pages could be considered as more important or interesting than the ones with less pages.

Thank you for the very exciting conversation Colonna Traiana. I was very pleased to have met you. I wish you all the best and see you soon.