Special Thesis in Architectural History
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The Farnese Palace - Rome -

The Farnese Palace, which was built for the Cardinal who latter became Pope Paul the III, represents to us the best of the central period of the Roman Renaissance -

The architect of this stately edifice was Michelangelo - as we well know - this great artist is the central figure of the Italian Renaissance - It has been said that he left behind him specimens
that might have immortalized three different artists, but when we consider that the David, the figures on the Sistine chapel, and the cornice of the Farnese were all done by one human soul, no wonder we all bow down to his greatness.

And it is his Architectural genius or portraiture in the Farnese palace that I wish to say a few words about.

First let us consider the floor, we enter of a heavy rusticated drum, and the central Port of the great limestone façade with its three story rusticated marble column horizontal lines.
From the door-way we pass into a large vestibule with a colonade + niches. This entrance hall leads through into the square inner court, formed of engaged columns against piers which generate the intervening round arches.

It will be seen in the tracing of the plan the rest of the ground floor is taken up by more or less smaller round stair cars, offices etc.

Looking at the Palace from the garden the unity and majesty of the façade is rather marred.
of a loggia which forms the central feature—this was added in 1580 by an imitator of Michelangelo, an artist della Porta.

It is not in keeping for Michelangelo's scheme evidently was that the orders should merely be used for window decoration, not to form the construction of the building—

But the glory of the whole building is logically at the top is the superb cornice. Michelangelo evidently had that of the Duomo in mind when designing the Fornace because it is no less virile than the Florentine
Example - Its profile is strong and sharp, with enough pressure to make it graceful and delicate but in no way weak.