HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE

• Renaissance Architecture
• Baroque Architecture
• Transitional Period
• Industrial Revolution in Europe
• Modern Architecture
• The entrance is through a **Narthex**, or entrance hall, which stretches across the building. One of the decorated **bronze doors** leading from the narthex is the **Holy Door**.
• The **interior** is of **vast dimensions** when compared with other churches.
• The **nave** which leads to the central dome is in **three bays**, with piers supporting a barrel-vault, the highest of any church.
• The nave is framed by wide aisles which have a number of **chapels** off them. There are also **chapels surrounding the dome**.
• At the heart of the basilica, beneath the high altar, is the **Confession or Chapel of the Confession**.
• **Two curving marble staircases** lead to this **underground chapel** at the level of the church and immediately above the **burial** place of **Saint Peter**.
• The entire interior of St. Peter's is lavishly decorated with marble, reliefs, architectural sculpture and gilding.
• The basilica contains a large number of **tombs of popes and other notable people**, many of which are considered outstanding artworks.
• There are also a number of **sculptures in niches and chapels**, including **Michelangelo’s Pieta**. The central feature is a baldachin, or canopy over the Altar, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini.