# Vilnius - City of Baroque (Part I)





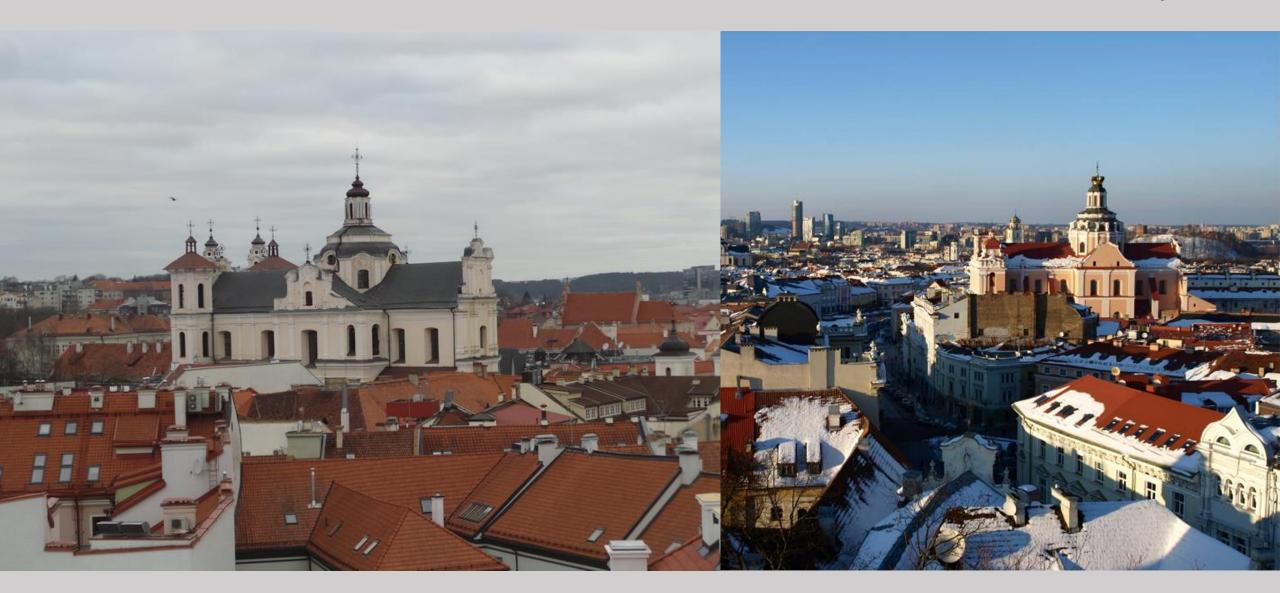


Cycle of lectures promoting appreciation of Vilnius World Heritage Site and its treasure of cultural properties



# Vilnius – City of Baroque

Vilnius Baroque is most impressive and dominant architectural style



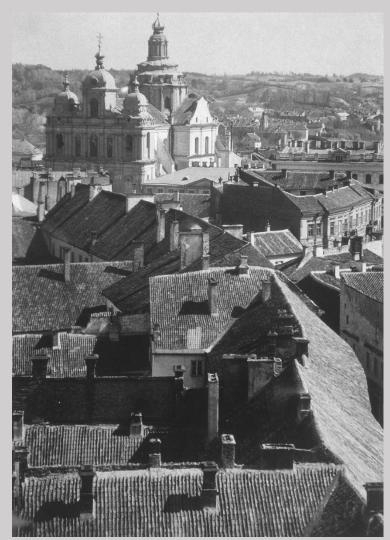
## Vilnius Historic City Centre – UNESCO World Heritage





**Criterion (ii):** Vilnius is an outstanding example of a medieval foundation which exercised a profound influence on architectural and cultural developments in a wide area of Eastern Europe over several centuries.

## Vilnius Historic City Centre – UNESCO World Heritage

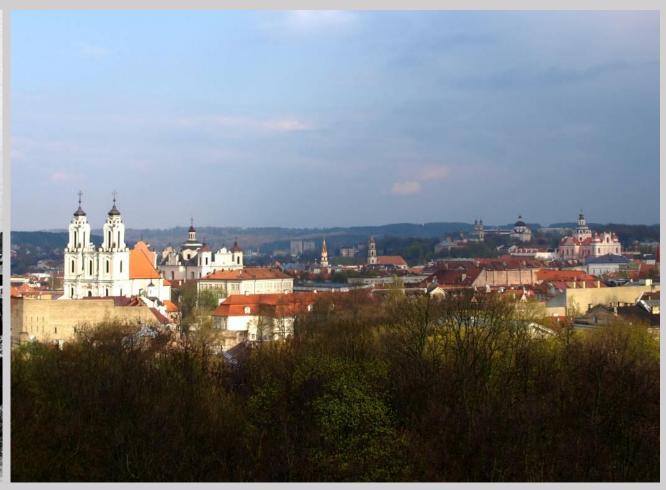




**Criterion (iv):** In the townscape and the rich diversity of buildings that it preserves, Vilnius is an exceptional illustration of a Central European town which evolved organically over a period of five centuries.

## Historic panoramic views

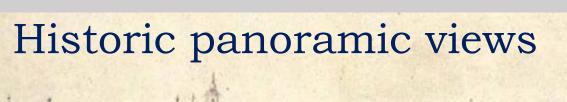




Most of Vilnius Old Town churches were built or reconstructed during baroque period from the 17th to the 18th centuries.

# Historic panoramic views





Picture by F. Smuglewicz, Panoramic view from the south 1785





## Influence of the Royal Palace





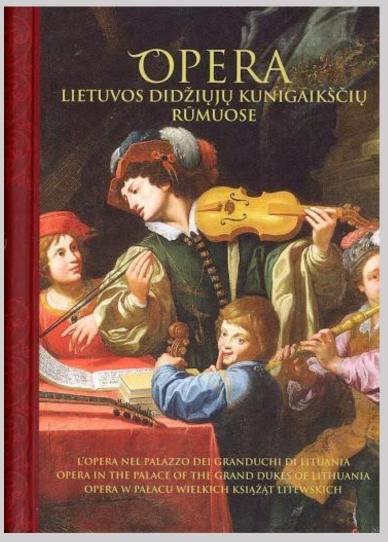
The Royal Palace in the 17th century, the model

The Royal Palace was reconstruted in 2002 – 2013

## Influence of the Royalty







Sigismund and Ladislaus Vasa remodelled the Palace in the early Italian Baroque style

The first opera (The Abduction of Helen), was performed in Lithuania in 1636

## Influence of nobility and Jesuits







Michał Kazimierz Pac

Murals at Vilnius University "Virgin Mary with Jesuits"

Kazimierz Jan Sapieha

#### Influence of Saint Casimir's cult



Dedicated Church of Saint Casimir 1618



Saint Casimir (1602)



Dedicated Chapel of Saint Casimir 1636

## Churches of early Baroque in Europe





Jesus (*Il Jesu*) Church, Rome, 1568 - 1584

The Corpus Christi Church, Nesvizh, Belarus, 1587-1593

Saints Peter and Paul Church, Kraków, 1597 - 1619

## Early Baroque Churches in Vilnius







Church of All Saints, 1631

St. Teresa Church, 1654

Demolished St. Joseph Church, 1668

## Saint Joseph Church in 19th century







Established by Stefan Pac in 1636 - 1668

St. Joseph Church and Carmelites Monastery

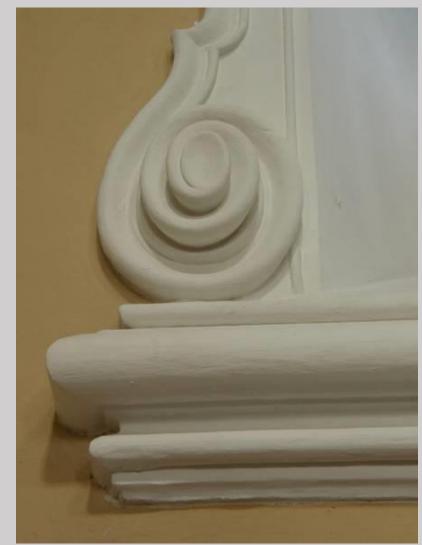
Ruins of the Church in 1877

### Church of Saint Casimir



Church construction took place in 1604 -1618

## Church of Saint Casimir



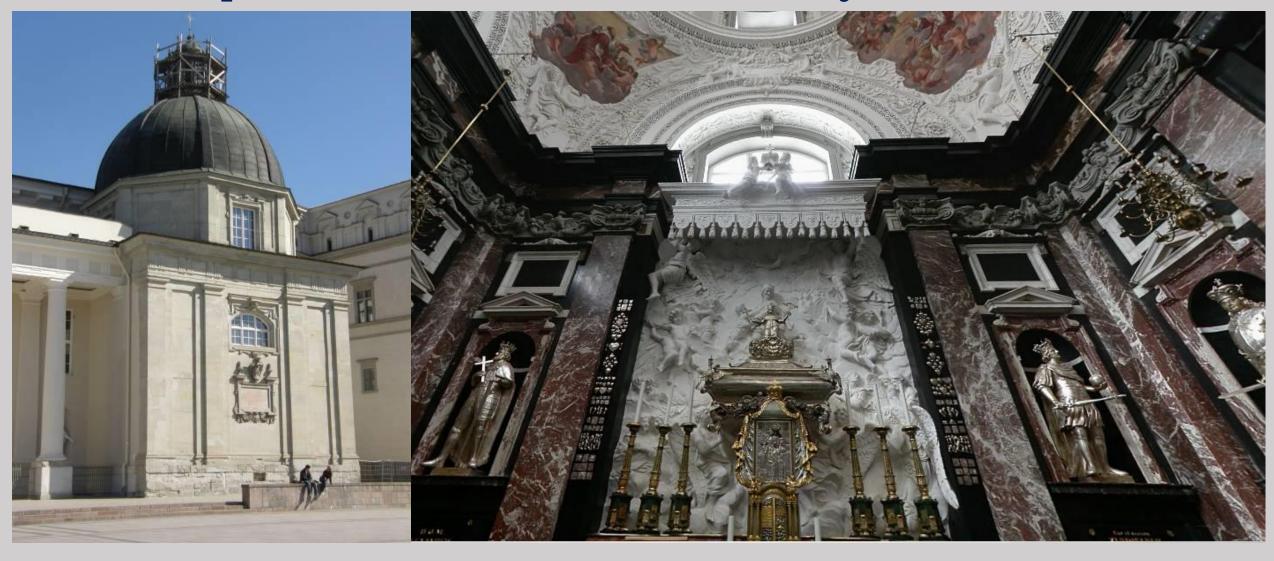




Renovated interior of St. Casimir Church

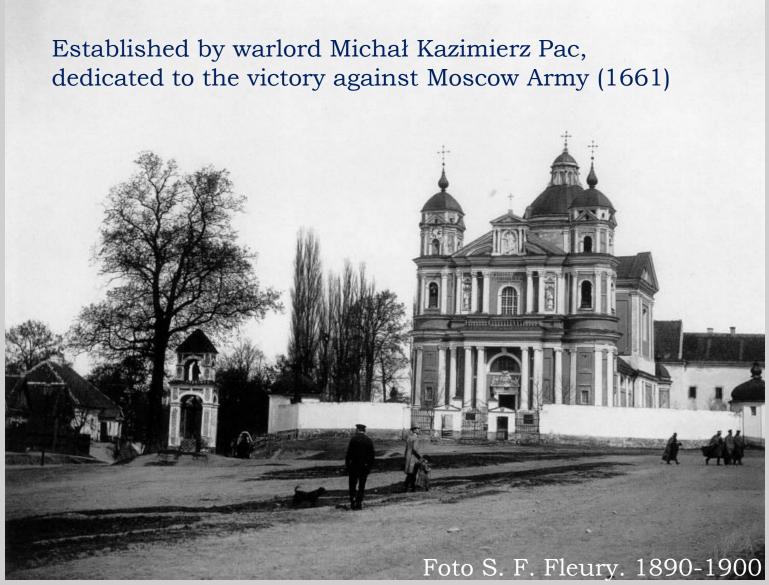
Interior of Jesus (*Il Jesu*) Church in Rome

## Chapel of Saint Casimir created by Italian masters



Architects Matteo Castelli and Constante Tenkalla (1636), sculptor Pietro Perti (Peretti), painter Michelangelo Palloni (end of 17th century)

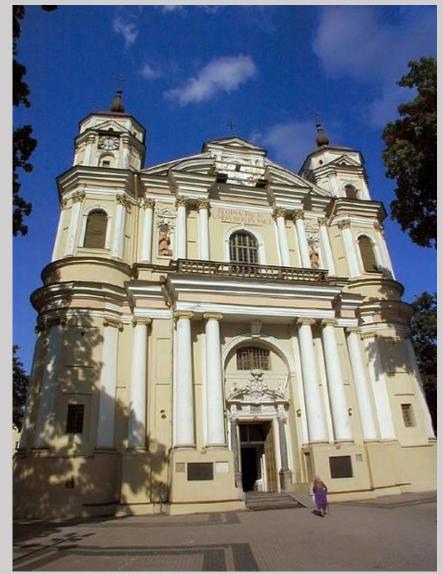
## Baroque masterpiece - Saints Peter and Paul Church



Saints Peter and Paul Church, 1668 - 1675

St. Teresa, sculptor P. Perti

## Baroque masterpiece - Saints Peter and Paul Church







Architects Jan Zaor from Kraków and Giovanni Batista Frediani

#### The duet of artists – Pietro Perti and Giovanni Maria Galli









Interior of Saints Peter and Paul Church was decorated in 1677 – 1684.

P. Perti created figures and G. M. Galli – ornamental decorations.

## Pacai Family Palace





The Palace was built by warlord Michał Kazimierz Pac in 1673 -1677. Converted to the hotel "Pacai" in 2017 – 2018.



Slushko Palace was built in 1690-1694

# Sapieha Palace

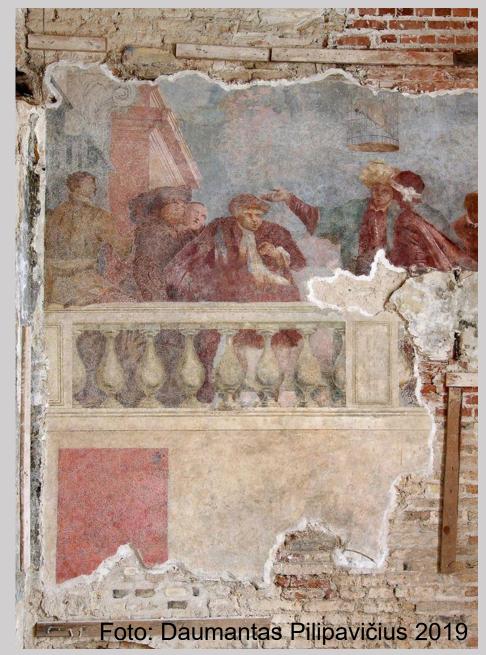






Sapieha Palace, 1691 – 1697, restored in 2012 - 2020

# Sapieha Palace





Sapieha Palace, 1691 – 1697. Restored in 2012 - 2020

### Church of Jesus the Redeemer



Church of Jesus the Redeemer (1694 - 1717) decorated by sculptor Pietro Perti (1700 – 1705)

#### Church of Jesus the Redeemer





There were 7 altars, demolished after the Church was converted into Russian Orthodox Church in 1864. The Church belongs to the Community of St. John brothers since 1993.

#### Baroque Churches built in 17th century in Vilnius



St. Casimir 1618, St. Catherine 1622 (wooden), St. Ignatius 1622, All Saints1631, Holy Spirit (Orthodox)1632, Bonifratres 1635, Chapel of St. Casimir 1636, St. Teresa 1654, St. Peter and Paul 1675, Trinapolis 1703, Jesus the Redeemer 1694 -1717