

Ralph Rapson at the Spanish Steps

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Spanish Steps, Rome

the great sweep of the baroque steps connects the Piazza di Spagna with the Pincio Hill and Church of Trinità del Monti.

[Piazza di Spagna](#), in Rome, Italy, designed by [Alessandro Specchi](#), 1721 to 1725.

Color sketch by [Ralph Rapson](#), from [Ralph Rapson Sketches and Drawings from Around the World](#), courtesy of the [Afton Press](#).

"I was fortunate to be able to spend a fair amount of time in Rome both as a tourist and a working architect. Full of history, energy, and architecture – it still seems the center of a far-flung empire.

"There's much to see in Rome and the surrounding countryside, but I was continually drawn to the Spanish Steps. What an enchanting place! More than just a unique mix of building types, uses, materials, and colors, the steps area meeting place for people both night and day.

"The pace – with all the coming and going, the sitting and standing, the symphony of song and voice, musical instruments, laughter, children calling and crying – always left me energized. Whether with students or fellow architects or alone, I loitered there whenever possible." – Ralph Rapson

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St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Rome.
The largest church in the world: completed 1626

[St. Peter's](#) was another of Rapson's destinations in Rome. Image: Ralph Rapson

Source: Architecture Week People & Places Blog