

from 45 deg. to 70 deg. it may then be concluded, that every part of architectural decoration susceptible of height will appear too low, if viewed under 20 deg. and too elevated if the visual ray exceeds 70 deg.

Having considered the most convenient situation for viewing the high parts of a building, let us offer the proper point to place the spectator, that he may see to the best advantage the whole range of any considerable front of what extent soever; this distance is the summit of an equilateral triangle, the base of which is the front in question.

When a building extends five or six hundred feet, the depth is not considered as a necessary proportion. The extent of length must be divided into several distinct breakings, as the square of its height, square and half, &c. without which, no such design can ever appear beautiful, each must correspond with the whole, and yet be independently agreeable: but to examine the correctness of the particular members, and the neatness and spirit of the ornaments, we must approach near enough to observe the minutest divisions.

Fig. IV. A block modillion cornice, the profile taken from the second external cornice of the Rotonda at Rome.

* The profile of another cornice, taken from the bridge at Rimini. Under it is the method of tracing stone quoins, the edges being left sharp and not chamfer'd; if either of these block cornices are used, the height of the building must be divided into eleven equal parts, one of which is given to the cornice.

Fig. V. VI. VII. Three methods from Serlio to describe globular and oval vases. The last may serve to describe the eggs for mouldings; the pine buds may be traced in the same manner, observing to place the narrow end upwards.

C H A P. IV.

Of the Doric Column, with the Flutings. Of the Doric Entablature. Of the Doric Portal. Of the Doric Colonnade. Of the Doric Arcade.

P L A T E V.

THE Doric shaft D. is without a base, as may already have been remarked in the first plate, but it should always be placed on a basement, plinth, or (a) ground fill, whose height from the ground may admit of one, (b) three, or a greater unequal number of steps, each step being from six to eight inches high. The Doric ruins of Greece, and those of the temples at Paestum, have all such basements. The addition of a base to the Doric shaft is a downright innovation against the most deliberate intentions of the ancients; may it not be reasonable to conjecture, that as the foot of this column is sufficiently broad in proportion to its height, they who first designed it, as well as those skilful masters who immediately suc-

(a) Supraque terram parietes extruuntur sub columnis dimidio crassiores quam columnæ sunt futuræ; uti firmiora sint inferiora superioribus que stercobate appellantur: nam excipiunt onera. Spirarumque projecturæ non procedant extra solidum.
(b) Namque cum dextro pede primus gradus ascendatur, item in summo templo primus ponendus est. Lib. III. c. 3.