

Designs for Fortifications

After the expulsion of the Medici, the Republic of Florence continued with the work, already begun under the Medicean government, of adaptation of the city's medieval defenses. In October 1582, Michelangelo was asked for advice on the fortification of the hill of San Miniato. But it was not until January 1529 that the artist was elected one of the Nine of the Militia and then, in April, made Governor and Procurator General of the fortifications. Michelangelo wanted to inspect the fortifications of Pisa, Leghorn, and Arezzo.

None of the defenses that he designed, listed by Varchi, have survived as they were built from beaten earth mixed with straw and covered with unbaked bricks. However, we have numerous study drawings in the master's own hand. It is believed that the permanent fortresses that Antonio da Sangallo the Younger built for the Medici after 1534 were based on the ones planned for the republic by Michelangelo.