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## ***ArtPATHS-Medieval Archaeology- History of Architecture***

Early Christian Churches and the Roman Double Truss: The case  
of Basilica Ulpia.

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**Abstract:** The present paper analyses with comparative method the early Christian basilicas of Old St Peter's and San Paolo fuori le Mura, as recorded in the eighteenth century by Jean-Baptiste Rondelet and very similar in size to those used for the Basilica Ulpia. The spacing of roof determined by the nave column spacing. The engineering analysis determines that the trusses had the capacity to support the roof and that the double-truss as arrangement was critical to avoid overloading the stone architraves. The later early Christian basilicas relied on the Roman double truss as a continuity that was recognised by Auguste Choisy and others who considered their use to be a reflection of earlier Roman practice.

**Key words:** : christian churches, Roman double truss, Basilica Ulpia, double-truss.

