



ERIC FULFORD, ASLA, researched and drew the Chiesa di San Lorenzo in the historic Roman forum while a fellow at the American Academy in Rome in 1991. Originally constructed in 142 A.D. as the pagan temple of Antoninus and Faustina, the building has undergone fire, flood, partial demolition and incorporation into the present Christian church. Fulford read widely on Roman ruins and interviewed archaeologists to imaginatively reconstruct what the temple may have looked like at nine moments in its 1,850-year history. "A question occurs," writes Fulford. "Where did the landscape fit into the cultural traditions of time past, and how did each succeeding generation claim this temple as their own? What begins to emerge, like these drawings, will be part truth, part fiction, history in the realm of illusion."

For Fulford, the mutilated ruins represent an "awkward meeting between two religions—one pagan, one Christian—two worlds in one building, along a broken line at a boundary still separate. . . . For me, [the temple] is an opportunity to explore the mystery of an erased past. . . . These stones beg to be drawn." Fulford executed all nine drawings in ink and colored pencil on white tracing paper (four are shown here). Currently, Fulford is an associate at Run- dell, Ernstberger & Associates in Indianapolis.

