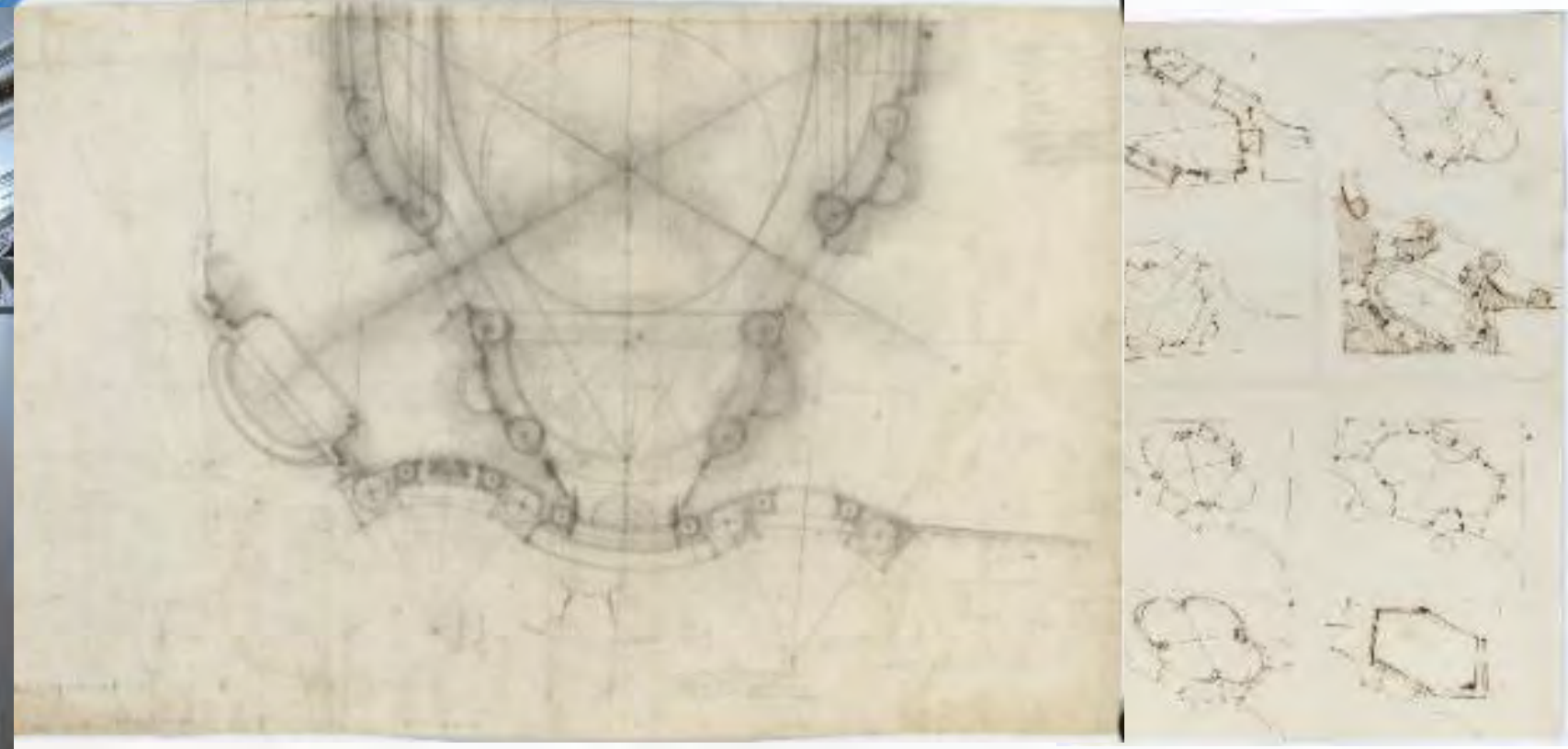


Francesco Borromini's Drawings of San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Rome, 1634 - 1667

THE DRAWINGS

There are 68 sheets of drawings by Francesco Borromini of San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Rome, dating from the 1630s to 1660s, in the Von Stosch Collection in the Albertina in Vienna. 20 of these sheets have drawings on both the recto and verso. In addition, there is one drawing in Berlin.

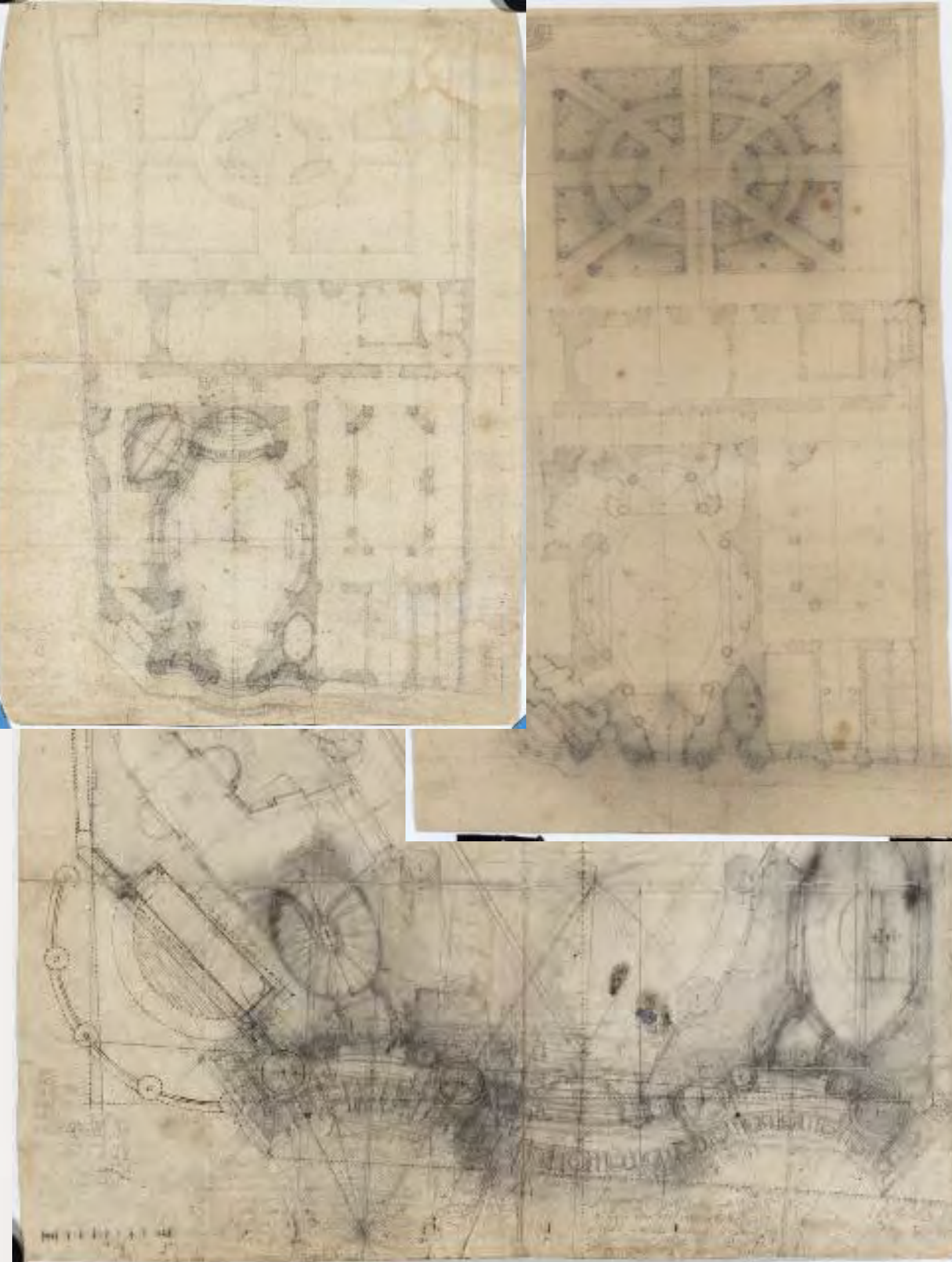


THE ORIGINS AND INSPIRATION FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

I have long been fascinated by San Carlo. My B.A. dissertation here at Trinity College in 2008 dealt with 11 of the drawings and proposed a hypothesis for the geometric setting-out of the building. This project takes a more comprehensive look at all of the drawings. It examines the original drawings in the Albertina in great detail, including paper quality, watermarks, content, draughting techniques and style. It will compare and contrast the drawings with each other, noting their similarities and differences.

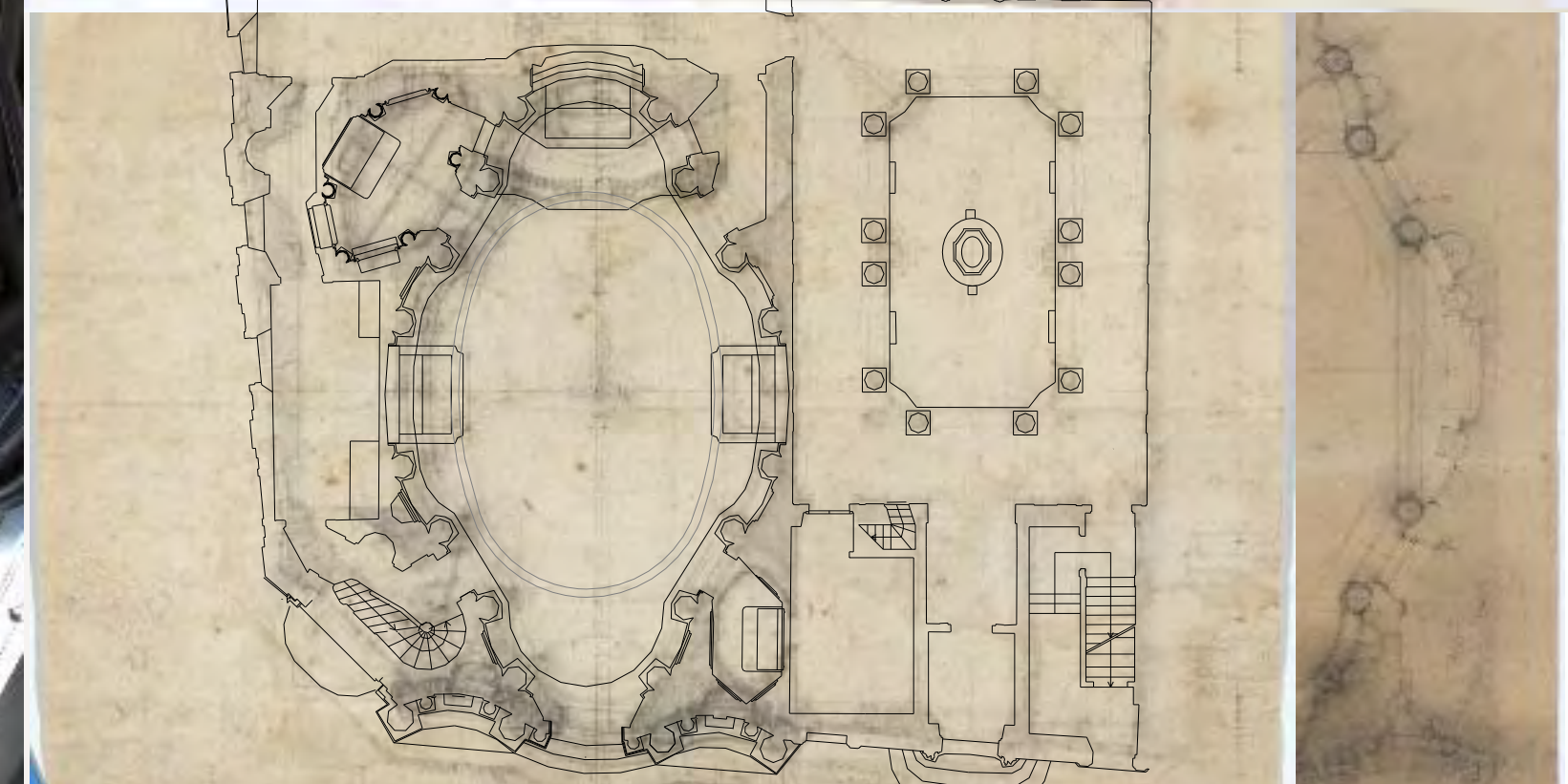
SURVEY OF THE EXISTING BUILDING

A computer survey of San Carlo was carried out by Alessandro Sartor. Using AutoCad software, it is possible to overlay digital images of the Albertina drawings on to the Survey. In this way, similarities and divergences from the completed building can be observed.



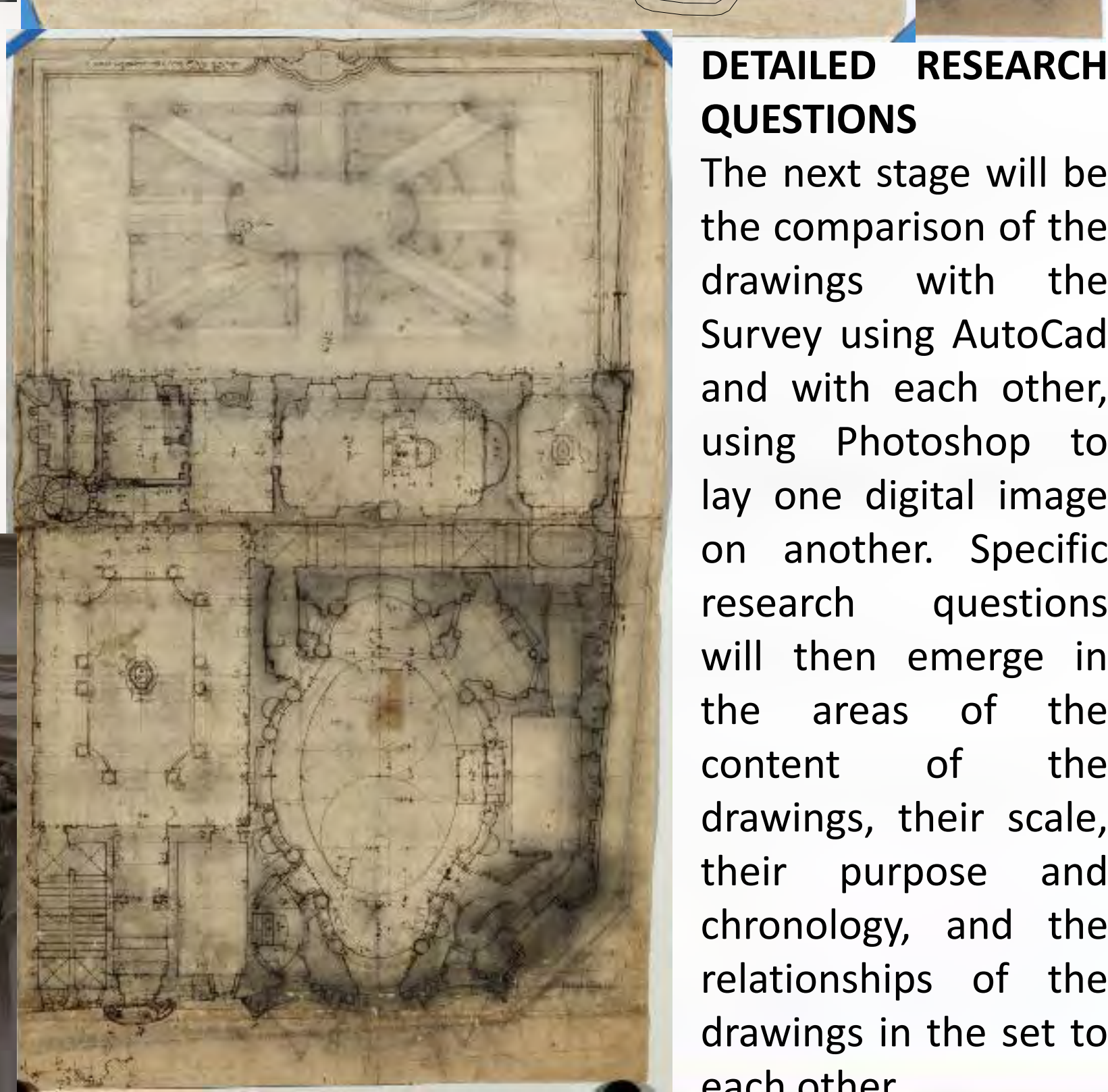
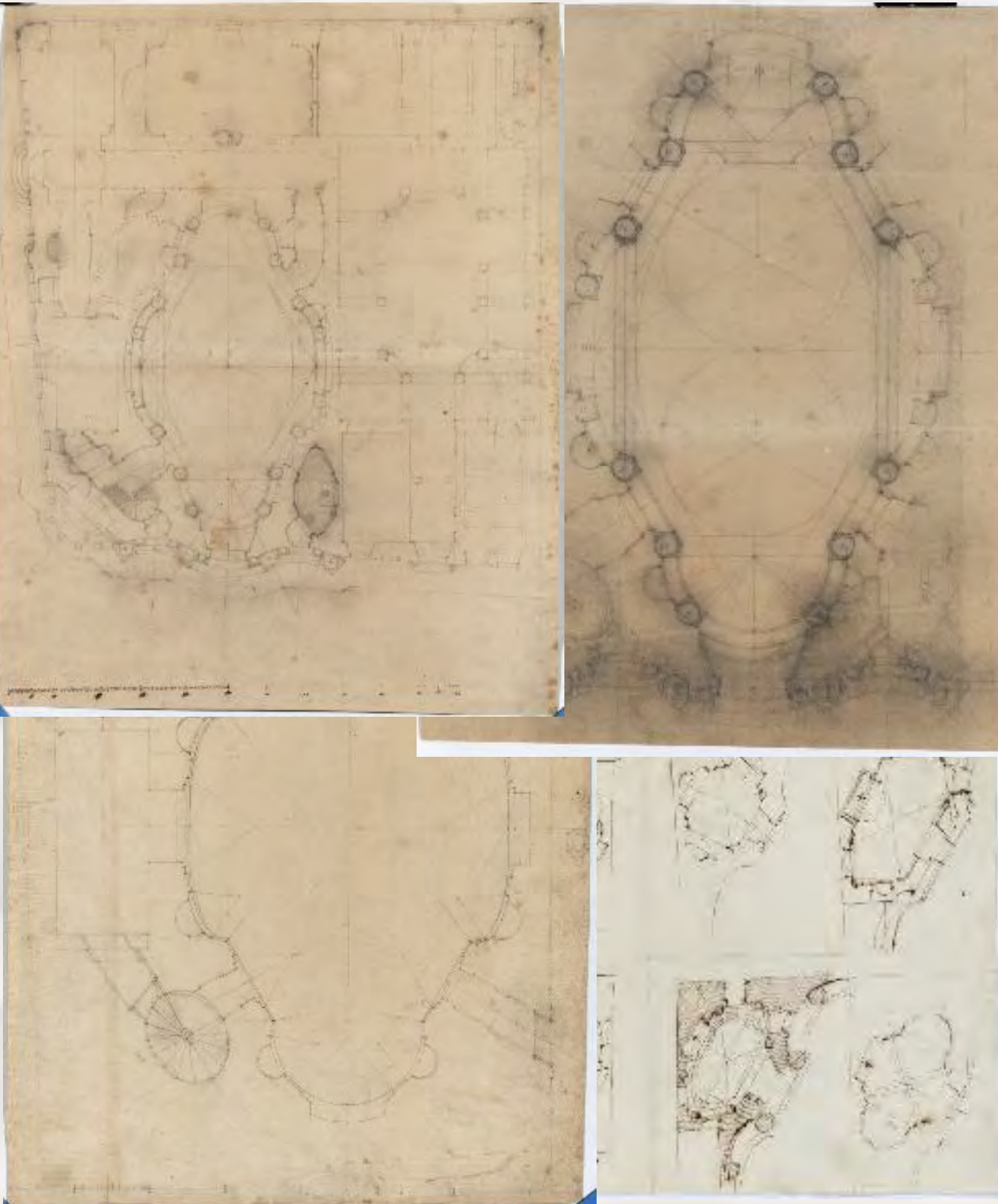
RESEARCH QUESTION

I have identified that, despite the considerable literature on San Carlo, there is a gap: there has been no comprehensive, detailed study of the drawings of San Carlo as a set. Broadly speaking, that is the research question. In addition, computer techniques will be applied to the study of the drawings for the first time.



PROGRESS TO DATE

The first year was spent delving into the reading of the considerable literature that exists on Borromini and San Carlo. This year, the reading continues and I spent nearly three weeks in the Albertina, studying the drawings themselves, complete with white gloves – a great thrill!



DETAILED RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The next stage will be the comparison of the drawings with the Survey using AutoCad and with each other, using Photoshop to lay one digital image on another. Specific research questions will then emerge in the areas of the content of the drawings, their scale, their purpose and chronology, and the relationships of the drawings in the set to each other.