



### PROGETTO:

**LE SCUOLE ADOTTANO I  
MONUMENTI DELLA NOSTRA ITALIA**

**A cura degli studenti del  
Progetto Beni Culturali**

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**LICEO SCIENTIFICO PLINIO SENIORE  
ROMA**

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### THE FOUNTAIN OF THE NAIADS

The fountain in Piazza della Repubblica was originally the fountain of the Acqua Pia (connected to the aqua Marcia aqueduct). The fountain was commissioned by Pope Pius IX in 1870. Completed in 1888, it originally showed four chalk lions designed by Alessandro Guerrieri. These were then replaced in 1901 with sculptures of four groups of reclining nymphs, symbolizing the spirits of rivers and springs by Mario Rutelli from Palermo.

The Naiads represented are the *Nymph of the Lakes* (recognisable by the swan she holds), the *Nymph of the Rivers* (stretched out on a monster of the rivers), the *Nymph of the Oceans* (riding a horse symbolising the sea), and the *Nymph of the Underground Waters* (leaning over a mysterious dragon). In the centre is Rutelli's *Glauco* group (1911/12), symbolizing the dominion of the man over natural force and replacing a previous sculpture.

Piazza della Repubblica is a semi-circular square in Rome, at the summit of the Viminal Hill, next to the Termini station. On it is to be found Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri.

The former name of the piazza, *Piazza dell'Esedra*, still very common today, originates in the large exedra of the baths of Diocletian, which gives the piazza its shape. The porticos around the piazza, built in 1887–98 by Gaetano Koch, were in memory of the ancient buildings on the same sites, while the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri on the piazza is based on a wing of the baths (with its architect Michelangelo, using the tepidarium as one of the wings of its spacious Greek cross plan).



**Fontana delle Naiadi**

*Piazza della Repubblica  
Roma*