

"EL PIQUETE"

FORMER CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF SAINT MARY

The current condition of this building results from several phases of enlargement and reconstruction.



It was built on the ruins of a previous church, and the beginning of the construction is dated between 1401 and 1416. It is therefore a Mudejar style building from the early 15th century, designated **BIC (Listed building) and UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

The works, carried out during the archbishopric of *Francisco Clemente Pérez*, were finished when *Fadrique of Aragón* was lord of Quito, and its construction is attributed to Mudejar master builder *Mahoma Ramí*, architect of antipope Benedict XIII.

1401

1416



Side door of the temple with the shields of *Fadrique* and *Francisco Clemente Pérez*.

1550

In the mid-16th century, several chapels were modified and the gallery of arched windows that surrounds the building above the central nave was added. The upper part was also added to the tower as a belfry.

In 1697, the master builder *Joseph Bardaxí* completed another construction phase, the enlargement. It consisted in two new chapels at the end of the church, dedicated to **Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Francis**, as well as the sacristies and the ascent to the choir. In addition, the new entrance was provided by an atrium, to serve as a shelter for the parishioners.

1697

1761

The last major work after the enlargement of the church was the construction in 1761 of the **chapel in honour of Saint Anne**, the largest in the temple.

The later alterations, of less importance, were the construction of two sacristies, one attached to the north side (next to the chapel of Saint Anne), and the other one beside the main door. Those works almost damaged the aspect of the building.

