

James Gibbs (1682-1754) was one of Britain's most influential architects. Born in Scotland, he trained as an architect in Rome, and practised mainly in England. His most important works are St Martin-in-the-Fields, in London, and the cylindrical, domed Radcliffe Camera at Oxford University. Gibbs very privately was Roman Catholic and a Tory, and was therefore not part of the Palladian movement which was prevalent in English architecture of the period. His architectural style did incorporate Palladian elements, as well as forms from Italian baroque but was most strongly influenced by the work of Sir Christopher Wren. Gibbs was an individual who formed his own style independently of current fashions and as a stylistic outsider, had little effect on the later direction of British architecture, which saw the rise of Neoclassicism shortly after his death.

