



St. Dominic Church, Macau

Largo de São Domingos, Macau, China

Location: Largo de São Domingos, Historic Centre of Macau, China (Macau SAR)

Denomination: Roman Catholic
Originally built by: Three Spanish Dominican priests from Acapulco, Mexico

Completed: 1587

Category: Historic colonial church and UNESCO World Heritage Site

Known for: Its striking yellow Baroque façade, centuries of Catholic history, and its place within the UNESCO-listed Historic Centre of Macau.



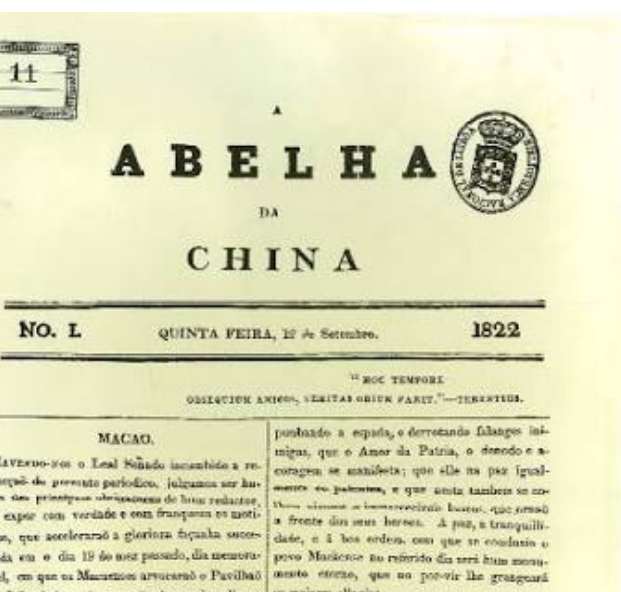
板樟堂

Why this church matters?

One of the oldest churches in East Asia, this church reflects more than four centuries of Portuguese and Chinese history. It became an important centre of missionary work and cultural exchange, offering a remarkable insight into Macau's unique heritage.

What not to miss

- The bright yellow Baroque façade.
- The high altar dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary.
- The Treasure of Sacred Art Museum.
- The UNESCO-listed Historic Centre surrounding the church.
- The lively square, perfect for sketching and people-watching.





The best viewpoint is from the open square directly in front of the church. The three-tiered façade creates a strong vertical composition, while the surrounding paving and neighbouring colonial buildings naturally lead the eye towards the entrance.

Pay attention to the balance between the broad geometric shapes and the decorative details. The yellow walls and white mouldings can be suggested with simple washes rather than heavy detail.

Including a few people in the foreground helps show the scale of the building and the lively atmosphere of the square.

Visiting information

Location: Largo de São Domingos, Historic Centre of Macau.

Best time to visit: Early morning or late afternoon for quieter surroundings and softer light.

Sunday visits: Respect Mass times and keep noise to a minimum.

Time required: Allow 30–60 minutes.

Nearby attractions: Senado Square, Ruins of St. Paul's, Monte Fort and the surrounding UNESCO heritage streets.

A brief history

1587 – Foundation

Three Spanish Dominican priests from Mexico founded the church. The original building was made of timber.

Early 17th century – Rebuilt in stone

The wooden church was replaced with the brick and stone building seen today.

1822 – Historic first

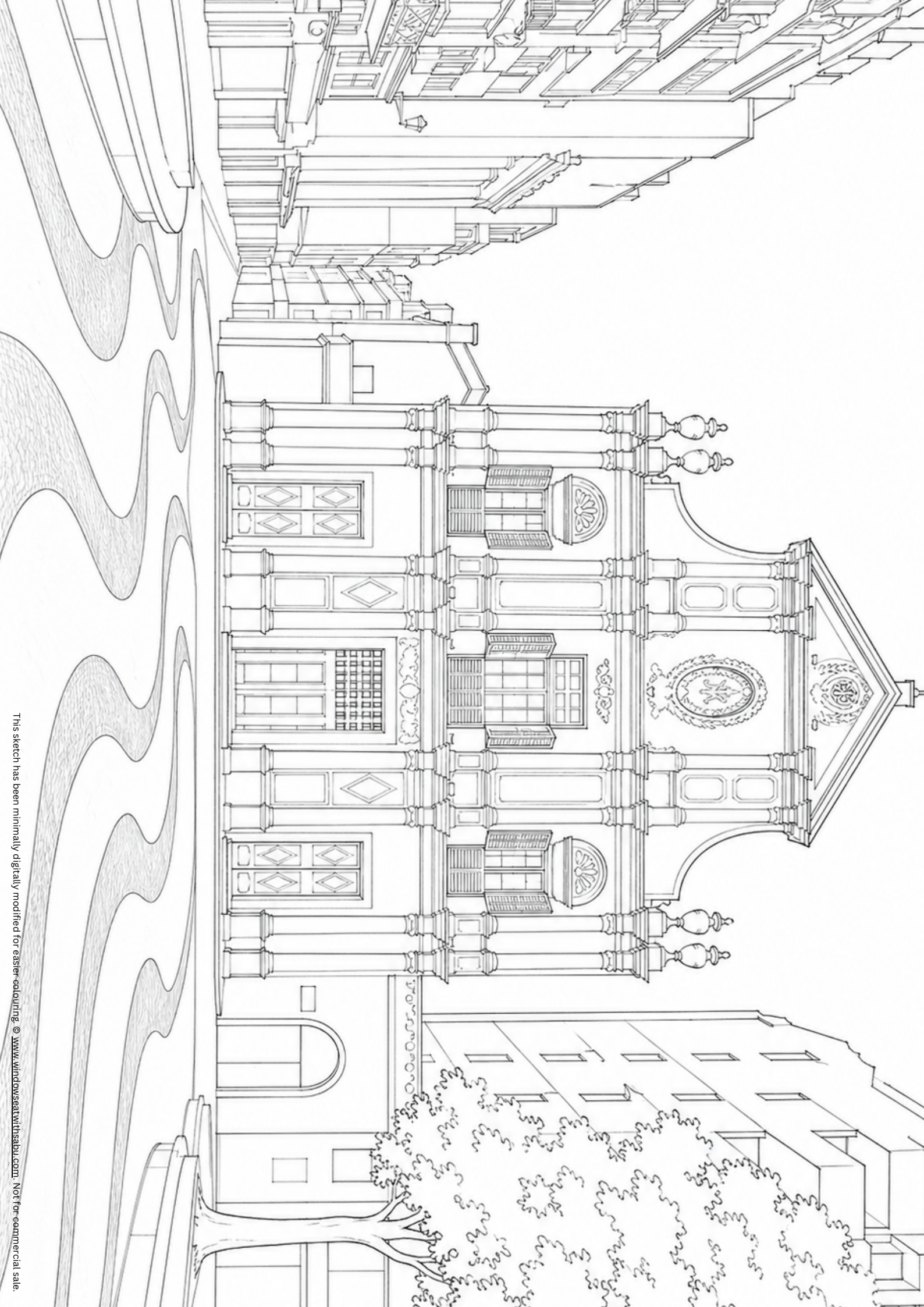
China's first Portuguese-language newspaper, *A Abelha da China*, was published here.

1874 – Fire and rebuilding

A fire damaged the church, which was rebuilt the same year.

Today

The church remains an active Roman Catholic parish and is part of the UNESCO-listed Historic Centre of Macau.



A Prayer at St. Dominic's Church, Macau

Our Lady of the Rosary, patroness of this house of prayer,
you have watched over this church since three Dominican
priests first raised it in wood, and since it was rebuilt in
stone to stand for centuries more.

Saint Dominic, father of the order that built this church and
carried your name across oceans, from Spain to Acapulco,
and from Acapulco to this shore, intercede for us as you
once taught the faithful to pray the Rosary you received
from Our Lady herself.

This church has seen conflict within its walls, and faith has
outlasted it. Teach us that peace, not fear, is the true
shelter of a church.

Each year, this altar again remembers Mary as Our Lady of
Fatima, as the faithful of this city carry her statue through
these streets. We ask for the same steady devotion in our
own lives, quiet, patient, and unbroken by time.

Saint Dominic, preacher of the Word, and Our Lady of the
Rosary, Mother of this church, pray for all who enter here
seeking refuge, for the city of Macau, and for those far from
home who carry this place with them.

Amen.



Historical note: tradition holds that Saint Dominic himself received the Rosary from the Virgin Mary, which is
why Dominican churches like this one are so closely tied to that devotion, it isn't incidental that the order
chose to build a church for Our Lady of the Rosary here.