

Wren's vision for London

'London was but is no more.' Over 13,000 buildings were destroyed. It was the calamity of the age, but the smouldering hole at the heart of the city would prove to be a huge inspiration.

Plans were drawn up to bring a new order of beauty to London.

Architect Christopher Wren proposed a London to rival the glories of ancient Rome - triumphal avenues and great piazzas.

At its heart - the new Cathedral of St Paul's.

Wren would create the first dome to be seen in London. It would be a new age of classicism, of harmony and proportion, banishing forever the chaos of the old Gothic city. St Paul's would be the symbol of a London reborn, a great phoenix risen from the flames.

Had Wren's plans for the whole city been realised, the look of London would be very different.

Clip from A Picture of London, BBC Two (2012).