

HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

THE WESTERN CONTRIBUTION

(AND BEYOND...)

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The course outlines the development of Western architectural languages and urban forms from early modern Italy to the globalized 21st century, focusing on issues of cultural cross-relations, architects and monuments. Special attention is dedicated to the role of Italian and Western models in 19th and 20th century architecture and urban design.

A multidisciplinary approach emphasizes different interpretations of architecture, and their development over the centuries, from the birth of the discipline to our days.

A basic knowledge of the history of Western architecture and the language of classicism is required, as follows:

Antiquity and the Middle Ages

The Roman Empire: architecture, urbanism, technology

Pantheon, Baths of Diocletian, Villa Adriana, aqueducts

The birth of Christian architecture

Old St Peter's and early Christian basilicas

Florence metropolis of the Middle Ages

Palazzo Vecchio, S. Maria del Fiore, city walls, Orsanmichele

The Italian Renaissance

Florence from Brunelleschi to Alberti

S. Maria del Fiore, S. Maria Novella, Rucellai Palace

New models: urban and rural

Pienza, Urbino, Poggio a Caiano

Rome from Bramante to Michelangelo

New St Peter's

Florence under the Medici: Michelangelo, Vasari, Ammannati, Buontalenti

Sagrestia Nuova and Laurentian Library, Uffizi, Pitti, Cappella dei Principi

Religious clashes: Counter-reformation and Baroque architecture

The Church of the Gesù, Rome; St Peter's square; S. Carlo alle Quattro Fontane

The course includes lectures, guided readings, on-site visits in Florence and other Italian centres.

Final examination: Four written papers, and interview on one the following topics:

Towards a Globalization of Classicism

Prints and books from Europe to the world (16th-19th centuries)

Palladio and Palladianism: Italy-Europe-America, and beyond

Architecture in the age of industrialism and colonialism

Athens vs Rome: neoclassicism and historicism in European architecture: Piranesi to Schinkel

European urbanism in the age of industrialism: Haussmann's Paris

Building America's architectural tradition: from Jefferson to Modernism

Masters of the 20th Century

Gaudi, Wright, Le Corbusier, Michelucci, Bofil, Gehry, Hadid, Piano, Herzog & De Meuron

The Rise and Fall of the City of...

Las Vegas to Dubai, Celebration to Poundbury

Contexts in Western architecture and urbanism. Issues of method, interpretation, approach

Architecture and technology: domes from the Pantheon in Rome to the Reichstag in Berlin

Typologies, functions, symbols: triumphal arches 19th-21st century

Destructions: a political agenda in 20th century architecture

Architecture and dictatorship: Nazi Berlin, Fascist Rome

'I am a monument': Tour Eiffel, Guggenheim Bilbao, Burj Khalifa, pseudo-classicism in pop culture

Basic Reading

Colin Davies, *Thinking about Architecture. An Introduction to Architectural Theory*, London 2011

Andrew Leach, *What is Architectural History?*, Cambridge 2010

John Summerson, *The Classical Language of Architecture*, London 1980

Spiro Kostof, *The city shaped: urban patterns and meanings through history*, London 1991

Spiro Kostof, *The city assembled: the elements of urban form through history*, London 1992

David Watkin, *A History of Western Architecture*, New York 2005

Marvin Trachtenberg, Isabelle Hyman, *Architecture from Pre-History to Post-Modernism. The Western Tradition*, New York 1986

Frank Ching, M. Jarzombek, V. Prakash, *A Global History of Architecture*, New York 2011

Richard Ingersoll, Spiro Kostof, *World Architecture: A Cross-Cultural History*, New York 2012

Barry Bergdoll, *European Architecture 1750-1890*, Oxford 2000

Alan Colquhoun, *Modern Architecture*, Oxford 2002

Further Reading (at least two chapters from the following books)

Rudolf Wittkower, *Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism*, London 1949

Henry Millon, V. Magnago Lampugnani, *The Renaissance: From Brunelleschi to Michelangelo*, Milano 1994 (selected essays)

Rudolf Wittkower, *Art and Architecture in Italy 1600-1750*, eds. J. Connors, J. Montagu, New Haven 1999 (selected chapters)

Jean Des Cars, Pierre Pinon (eds), *Paris-Haussmann*, Paris 2005

Daniel Bluestone, *Constructing Chicago*, New Haven-London 1991

Daniel Hudson Burnham, Edward Hudson Bennett, *Plan of Chicago*, ed. Charles Moore, New York 1993

Donald L. Miller, *City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America*, Chicago 1996

Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, Steven Izenour, *Learning from Las Vegas*, Cambridge/Mass. 1972

Rem Koolhaas, *Delirious New York. A retroactive manifesto for Manhattan*, London 1978

Rem Koolhaas, *Junkspace*, 2001, <http://lensbased.net/files/Reader2012/rem+koolhaas+-+junkspace.pdf>

Yasser Elsheshtawy, *Dubai: Behind an Urban Spectacle*, London-New York 2010

Ugo Procacci, *History of the Italians*, Harmondsworth 1971

Gene Brucker, *Renaissance Florence*, Oakland 1983

Andrew Wilton (ed), *Grand Tour. The Lure of Italy in the Eighteenth Century*, London 1996

www.architectura.cesr.univ-tours.fr: Italian and Western architectural treatises and books published 16th-18th centuries

www.kubikat.org: collective catalogue of the leading research libraries in art and architectural history

www.jstor.org: free access to hundreds of scientific art and architectural history journals (access through unifi.it only)

oyc.yale.edu/history-art/hsar-252: Ancient Roman architecture, a series of lectures by prof. Diana Kleiner, Yale University

academia.edu: academics' sites with downloadable scholarly essays

Further reading and websites will be indicated during lectures

Most books available at University Libraries: <http://www.sba.unifi.it/>

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