

HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

THE WESTERN CONTRIBUTION

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The course outlines the development of Western architectural languages and urban forms from the Renaissance to the globalized 21st century, focusing on issues of cultural cross-relations. Special attention is given to the role of Western models in 19th to 21st century architecture and urban design.

A multidisciplinary approach emphasizes different approaches to architectural history, and their development over the centuries, from the birth of a critical approach to the discipline to our days.

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

Roman Architecture 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 Rediscovery of Classical Architecture in the Italian Renaissance

Florence from Brunelleschi to Alberti

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

New models: urban and rural

Pienza, Urbino, planned 'ideal cities', the Villa

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 in Europe: 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 (depending on covid sanitary restrictions).

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

Towards a Globalization of Classicism

Palladio and Palladianism: Europe-America, and beyond

Rome vs Athens: Architecture of the Enlightenment

Classicism, Historicism, Eclecticism: Paris London Munich 1800-1850

Classicism, Historicism, Eclecticism: Schinkel's Berlin

Building Russia's classicism: from Peter the Great to Stalin

Cities in the age of industrialism and colonialism

Machinization takes Command: new techniques, new materials, new functions

European urbanism in the age of industrialism: Haussmann's Paris and its global influence

The Rise and Fall of the City of...

Las Vegas to Dubai, Celebration to Poundbury

Vernacular architecture today: new challenges to a fading world

Masters of the 20th Century

Wright, Le Corbusier, Hadid, Piano

Contexts in Western architecture and urbanism. Issues of methods and interpretation

Technology and symbolism: domes from the Pantheon to the Reichstag

Functions and forms: triumphal arches from Rome to the 21st century

Destructions: a political agenda in 20th and 21st century architecture and urbanism

Architecture and dictatorship: Fascist Rome, Nazi Berlin

'I am a monument': modern architecture, kitsch and pop culture

Reference books

Andrew Leach, *What is Architectural History?*, Cambridge 2010
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
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 Kostoff, *World Architecture: A Cross-Cultural History*, New York 2012
Alan Colquhoun, *Modern Architecture*, Oxford 2002
David Watkin, *A History of Western Architecture*, New York 2005

Mandatory Readings

John Summerson, *The Classical Language of Architecture*, London 1980
Deyan Sudjic, *The Edifice Complex. How the Rich and Powerful – and their Architects – shape the World*, London 2006
Add two books of your choice:
R. Tavernor, *Palladio and Palladianism*, London 1991 (chapter 6, Anglo-Palladianism and the birth of a new nation)
Barry Bergdoll, *European Architecture 1750-1890*, Oxford 2000 (at least two chapters)
Colin Davies, *Thinking about Architecture. An Introduction to Architectural Theory*, London 2011
Rudolf Wittkower, *Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism*, London 1949 (part iii, Principles of Palladio's Architecture)

Further Reading

Jean Des Cars, Pierre Pinon (eds), *Paris-Haussmann*, Paris 2005
Daniel Bluestone, *Constructing Chicago*, New Haven-London 1991
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
Colin Rowe, *The Mathematics of the Ideal Villa*, Cambridge/Mass 1976
Alina Payne, *Rudolf Wittkower and Architectural Principles in the Age of Modernism*, in "Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians", 1994, pp. 322-342
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 at the end of each lecture

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

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