

# **HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE ITALY AND WESTERN CULTURE FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY**

Prof. Mario Bevilacqua  
Prof. Riccardo Pacciani

## **Teaching Language:**

English

## **Course Content:**

The course outlines the development of Western architectural languages and urban forms from early modern Italy to the globalized 21st century, focusing on monuments and traditions, architects and monuments, and issues of cultural cross-relations. Themes: Antiquity and the Middle Ages, The Italian Renaissance, Masters of the Roman Baroque, Architecture in the age of industrialism and colonialism, The Rise and Fall of the Cities, Contexts in Western architecture and urbanism.

## **Suggested Readings:**

### Suggested Readings

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

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

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

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

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)

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

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.

## **Training Objectives:**

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

Special attention is dedicated to the role of Italian and Western models in 19th and 20th century design and urban planning.

## **Prerequisites:**

A basic knowledge of classical architecture and theories is required.

## **Teaching Methods:**

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

## **Exam:**

Oral examination.

## **Program:**

*HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE  
THE WESTERN CONTRIBUTION  
(AND BEYOND...)*

*Prof. Mario Bevilacqua*

*Prof. Riccardo Pacciani*

*The course outlines the development of Western architectural languages and urban forms from early modern Italy to the globalized 21st century, focusing on models and traditions, architects and monuments, and issues of cultural cross-relations.*

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

*Special attention is dedicated to the role of Italian and Western models in 19th and 20th century design and urban planning.*

*A basic knowledge of the language of classical architecture and theories is required.*

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

### *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 architecture*  
*The Church of the Gesù, Rome*

*Towards a Globalization of Classicism*  
*The diffusion of Renaissance architectural languages: prints and books from Europe to the world*  
*(16th-19th centuries)*  
*Palladio and Palladianism: Italy-Europe-America, and beyond*

*Masters of the Roman Baroque*  
*Bernini, Borromini, Pietro da Cortona*

*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 and its influence*  
*Building America's architectural tradition: from Jefferson to Modernism*  
*Chicago, "Paris on the Prairie", "Florence of the West"*

*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: the Pantheon, Brunelleschi, and Norman Foster's Reichstag*  
*Drawing: architectural codes in Western culture*  
*Learnig from Pienza: Italian Renaissance 'ideal cities', utopias, and contemporary urbanism*  
*A House of Glass: building with light*  
*Typologies and functions: museums, libraries, railway stations, shopping malls in the 19th and 20th centuries*  
*'I am a Monument': Tour Eiffel, Guggenheim Bilbao, Burj Khalifa*

#### *Basic Readings*

*Marvin Trachtenberg, Isabelle Hyman, Architecture from Pre-History to Post-Modernism. The Western Tradition, New York 1986*  
*David Watkin, A History of Western Architecture, New York 2005*  
*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*

*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*

#### *Further Readings (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)*

*Barry Bergdoll, European Architecture 1750-1890, Oxford 2000*  
*Jean Des Cars, Pierre Pinon (eds), Paris-Haussmann, Paris 2005*  
*Daniel Bluestone, Constructing Chicago, New Haven-London 1991*  
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*Donald L. Miller, City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America, Chicago 1996*

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*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](http://www.architectura.cesr.univ-tours.fr): Italian and Western architectural treatises and books published 16th-18th centuries*

*[www.kubikat.org](http://www.kubikat.org): collective catalogue of the leading research libraries in art and architectural history*

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

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

*[academia.edu](http://academia.edu): academics' sites with downloadable scholarly essays*

*Further readings and websites will be indicated during lectures*