



John Felice Rome Center

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Architecture in Rome: History & Practice

Fine Arts 394/Rome Studies 390

Spring 2009

Professor Debora White, Registered Architect

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Class meeting time: Monday 9:30am-12:30pm

Office hours: Thursday 1:00-2:30pm and by appointment, Rm. 104

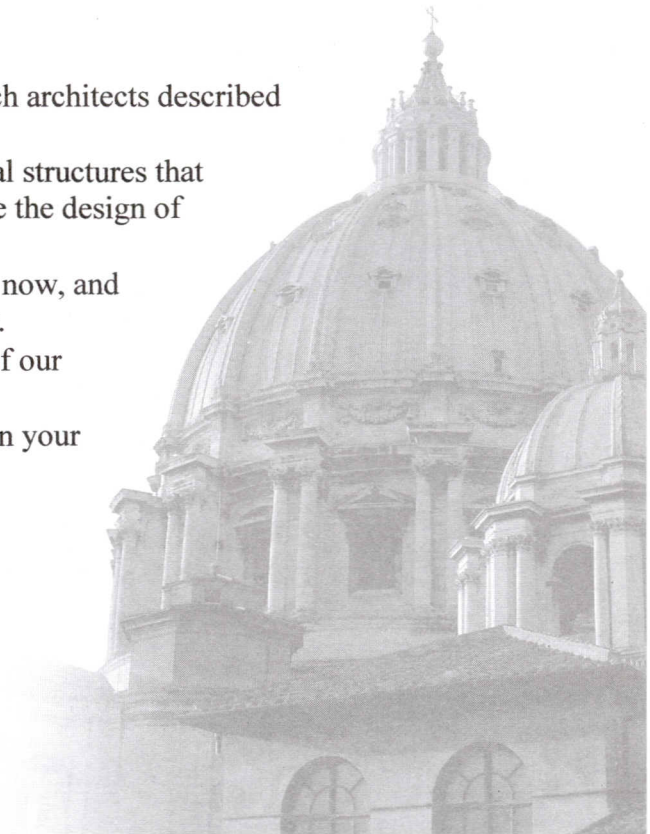
ALL CLASSES ARE ON-SITE. Proposed site visits and readings described below are subject to change. Students should anticipate needing approximately €60 to cover bus tickets and entrance fees to monuments and museums during this course.

Course Description:

Was the Emperor Hadrian, designer of the Pantheon, also an architect? How did he reward the architect who he asked to comment on his drawings? How did Michelangelo's training as a sculptor and painter revolutionize town planning in his design of the Piazza Campidoglio? In this introduction to the profession of architecture from the Roman Empire to the present, we will explore the relationship between the architect and society throughout the history of Rome by learning what it was like to be the designer of the piazzas, monuments and churches we visit throughout the city. We will also investigate the challenges current architects face in developing plans for Rome of the 21st century by visiting significant contemporary Roman buildings. Finally, we will learn about the current practice of architecture, including the education and daily work of an architect by visiting a working architect's office.

Learning Outcomes:

- To understand the social and economic context in which architects described in your history classes created the Rome of today.
- To see how the social trends, technologies, and political structures that exist when important civilizations are created influence the design of buildings and cities.
- To learn about the daily work of an architect, then and now, and how design professionals view and understand the city.
- To use drawing as a method of recording the essence of our observations, with no need for artistic skill.
- To possibly be inspired to pursue a career that draws on your Rome experience, as the instructor was based on her Studies at Loyola University Rome Center in 1978-79 (see attached photos of instructor's work).



Course Requirements and Grading:

Class attendance and participation 15% You are expected to attend each class, to read the assigned material prior to class, and to be prepared with questions and comments for discussion. The quality of this discussion-based course depends on students' preparation.

Student led class discussions 15% Each student will lead a discussion of one week of reading assignments during the semester. Specific assignments will be given in advance of each class.

Sketchbook 20% A sketchbook of drawing and writing will graphically document what we visit. Instruction in drawing as a way of seeing and recording information will help you use the sketchbook as a tool to understand the architecture of Rome. Documenting what we see by annotated drawing forces us to learn about essential physical patterns and relationships in our environment in a way that photography and writing alone cannot. The sketchbook will be evaluated three times during the semester for the depth of descriptive content, not beauty or artistic skill.

Final Paper: 20% The final paper will allow you to investigate one of the topics of the course in more detail through reading and internet research. Topics will be pre-discussed with the instructor.

Final exam: 30%

Required books:

The following texts can be purchased at the bookstore and are also on reserve in the JFRC library. Class discussion topics, final paper topics and exam topics are found in these texts and others on reserve. All reading assignments described are in these texts and internet links, unless otherwise noted.

1. Kostof, Spiro. The Architect: Chapters in the History of the Profession 1977
2. Architecture in Rome: History & Practice – Selected Readings. This reader has been compiled for your convenience. Full versions of the included texts are available as noted in the reader's table of contents. All texts noted in the JFRC library are on reserve.

COURSE TOPICS, SITE VISIT SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

The following plan represents my best prediction as to how class will proceed:

Introduction to the Profession of Architecture**#1 - January 19 - Location: Loyola Rome Center**

- Summary of course goals and expectations
- The definition of architecture, role of an architect
- The determinants and tools of architectural design
- The architectural design process
- Sketching lessons

Architecture of Ancient Rome: Theory, Technology and Practice

#2 - January 26 - Proposed locations: **Roman Forum, Colosseum (€11 fee), Trajan's Markets**

Read for this class:

- Ching. Design Drawing pp. 1-12 Introduction
- Ching. A Global History of Architecture pp. 154-163 Forum & Colosseum
- Nicholson Art in Rome Manual pp. 1-8 The Main Periods, The Visual Arts: Architecture
- Roam. The Back of the Napkin
- Waldrep. Becoming An Architect pp. 1-10 The Definition of an Architect: What Do Architects Do?
- Nicolaides. The Natural Way to Draw pp.1-22 How to Use this Book, Section 1: Contour and Gesture

#3 - January 30 (Friday make-up class) – Proposed locations: **Pantheon, Ara Pacis (€6.50 fee) and Piazza Augusto Imperatore**

Read for this class:

- Ching. A Global History... pp. 192-194 Pantheon
- Kostof. The Architect: Chapters in the History of the Profession pp. 28-58 Roman Architects
- Vitruvius. The Ten Books of Architecture Table of Contents and pp. 1-32
- <http://en.arapacis.it> watch video interview with Richard Meier and English description of the Meier Ara Pacis Museum project
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2008/aug/13/architecture.art> article about the politics of building in Rome today

Emergence of a Christian Architecture

#4 - February 2 – Proposed locations: **Santa Costanza, Sant'Agnese fuori le Mura and catacombs (€3 fee)**

Submit sketchbooks for review

Read for this class:

- Ching. A Global History... pp. 237-239 Emergence of Christianity
- Kostof. A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals pp. 2-18 The Study of What We Built (in reader), pp. 245-260 The Triumph of Christ (on reserve)
- Yarwood, Doreen. The Architecture of Europe – 14 pages of drawings of Rome
- www.santagnese.org/catacombe.htm

Development of Early Christian and Medieval Architecture

#5 - February 9 – Proposed locations: **Santa Sabina and Santa Maria in Cosmedin**

Read for this class:

- Kostof. The Architect: Chapters in the History of the Profession pp. 59-95 The Architect in the Middle Ages, East and West

The Renaissance Architect in Search of the Ideal

#6 - February 16 – Proposed locations: **Tempietto and Villa Farnesina (€4 fee)**

Read for this class:

- Ching. A Global History... p. 457 Tempietto
- Kostof. The Architect: Chapters in the History of the Profession pp. 96-123 The Emergence of the Italian Architect during the Fifteenth Century
- <http://www.lincci.it/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=27> Villa Farnesina

Architectural Practice in the High Renaissance

#7 - February 23 – Proposed locations: **Piazza del Campidoglio and the Renaissance Palaces**

Read for this class:

- Alberti, Leone Battista. On the Art of Building in Ten Books pp. v-vi Editor's Forward and xvii-xx Table of Contents
- Kostof. A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals pp. 485-500 Popes as Planners (on reserve)
- Wittkower, Rudolf. Architectural Principals in the Age of Humanism Introduction and Contents
- Ching. A Global History... pp. 485-487 Italian High Renaissance

#8 - March 2 – Proposed locations: **Saint Peter's Basilica and Piazza**

Submit sketchbooks for review

Read for this class:

- Ching. A Global History... pp. 458-459 St. Peter's Basilica
- Kostof. A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals pp. 500-509 Popes as Planners (continued, on reserve)
- Kostof. The Architect: Chapters in the History of the Profession pp. 124-160 The New Professionalism in the Renaissance

March 9 - No class – Spring Break

Baroque Architecture and the Integration of Complexity

#9 - March 16 – Proposed locations: **Santa Maria degli Angeli, Santa Maria della Vittoria, San Carlino alle Quattro Fontagne and Sant' Andrea al Quirinale**

Read for this class:

- Ching. A Global History... pp. 502-506 Baroque Italy
- Ching. A Global History... pp. 638 Ecole Des Beaux-Arts
- <http://vasi.uoregon.edu/> Review this interactive site comparing 18th century cartography with perspective prints of Rome (also compare to Yarwood drawings)

The Challenge of Modern Architecture in Rome

#10 - March 23 – Proposed location: **Jubilee Church**

Read for this class:

- Architectural Record magazine - articles # 2, 5 & 6 in reader on Meier and the politics of Modern Architecture in Rome
- Ching A Global History... p. 690 Modernism, p.715 Italian Fascist Architecture, p.746 Postmodernism
- Rand, Ayn. The Fountainhead 1948 - watch movie available from instructor (optional reading: novel is in LURC library)
- Yarwood, Doreen. The Architecture of Europe pp. 525-528 20th Cent. Arch. in Italy
- <http://www.richardmeier.com/> review office website, especially Jubilee church description by clicking on: projects – type – civic – Jubilee Church
- <http://wirednewyork.com/forum/showthread.php?t=4168> - interview with Richard Meier re: Jubilee church
- <http://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/exhibition/en/62184.html> - Venice Biennale 9/14-11/23/08 – Rome Exhibit: “The Uneternal City”
- <http://www.mimoa.eu/browse/projects/Italy/Rome/> Survey of modern architecture of Rome

#11 – March 30 – Proposed locations: **Palazzetto dello Sport, City of Music, Museum of the Arts of the 21st Century (MAXXI)**

Final Paper due

Read for this class:

- Architectural Record magazine - articles #1 & 3 in reader on Astra Zarina & Zaha Hadid
- <http://www.mimoo.eu/projects/Italy/Rome/Palazzetto%20dello%20Sport> Palazzetto dello Sport by Pier Luigi Nervi
- <http://www.wired.com/culture/lifestyle/news/2002/05/52597> City of Music by Renzo Piano
- <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9503E6D6133FF930A3575AC0A96E958260> City of Music by Renzo Piano
- <http://rpbw.r.ui-pro.com/> review Renzo Piano office website
- http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=10075- MAXXI museum by Zaha Hadid
- <http://www.maxxi.darc.beniculturali.it/english/progettoarchitetonico.htm> video interview of Zaha Hadid on MAXXI Museum
- <http://www.zaha-hadid.com/> review Zaha Hadid office website

The Current Practice of Architecture in Rome and the U.S.

#12 - April 6 – Proposed location: **Architectural office of ma0, with Cornell Professor of Architecture Alberto Iacovoni.**

Submit sketchbooks for review

Read for this class:

- www.ma0.it review office website
- <http://howdesignworks.aia.org/casestudy-house.cfm> watch American Institute of Architects (AIA) video on design process
- AIA contract documents for DWA projects (handout)
- Kidder, Tracy. House 1985

April 13 – No class - Easter Recess

#13 - April 20 – Proposed location: **Architectural office of Massimiliano Fuksas**

Read for this class:

- www.fuksas.it review office website and watch Fuksas interview on “the cloud” building by clicking on English/Projects/Conference Hall/Congress Center Roma EUR/Video
- http://www.wantedinrome.com/articles/complete_articles.php?id_art=833 re: the cloud
- <http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/architecture/interviews/fuksas-looks-to-the-future,215,AR.html>
- Architectural Record magazine - articles #4 & 7 in reader on Fuksas

Final Exam

April 27, 9-11am - Location: **Loyola Rome Center**

Note: Topics, class locations, specific readings, and dates are subject to change.

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Examples of how the study of architectural history in Rome influenced my own work:

Architecture of Rome	Projects by Debora White
 <p>Bernini's Baldacchino in St. Peter's Basilica</p>	 <p>New house in Gloucester, MA: A step-down living room within an open plan 1st floor. The idea of an intimate room within a larger space separated by a colonnade was inspired by Bernini's Baldacchino</p>
 <p>Michelangelo's Piazza del Campidoglio</p> <p>The Colosseum</p>	 <p>New house in Gloucester, MA & house addition in Natick, MA: The concept of outdoor gathering spaces created by voids in the building and entered through archways was inspired by places like Michelangelo's Piazza del Campidoglio and the Colosseum</p>
 <p>Pantheon</p>  <p>Tempio di Vesta Tempietto di San Pietro</p>	 <p>New house in Gloucester, MA & house addition in Beverly, MA: The porch as an outdoor living area and a human scaled, welcoming entry was inspired by such buildings as the Pantheon, the Tempio di Vesta and Bramante's Tempietto di San Pietro</p>

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ON SITE CLASS INSTRUCTIONS

Each class, except the first and the final, will be held at sites both outdoors and indoors around Rome. Please budget €60 Euro for transportation and admission to various sites. Information on meeting sites and suggested bus routes will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Porter's desk before each class. Please leave a minimum of one hour for transportation. Please bring/wear the following items to each class to be get the most out of this experience:

1. Admission fees (as required)
2. Map, meeting address and suggested bus route (or visit www.atac.roma.it – click British flag for English and then “route planner”)
3. Comfortable walking shoes
4. Bottle of water
5. Sunscreen/hat/sunglasses/umbrella/jacket as appropriate
6. Lunch money or snacks
7. When visiting churches: no tank tops or short shorts/skirts
8. No photography during class
9. Student I.D.
10. Valid bus tickets which can be purchased from the JFRC Porter or any tabaccaio (look for sign with capital “T” outside) and some giornalaio (newspaper stand). 1 Euro for 75 minutes of travel, including transfers - purchase 2 per class.
11. Unlined spiral bound sketchbook with hard back cover (approximately 18x21cm or 21x29cm) and choice of black liquid ink pen or 2B (soft) pencil. Water colors, colored pencils or other media is optional. Stores for art supplies:

Ditta G. Poggi
Via Pie'di Marmo, 38
(near Pantheon)

Ditta G. Poggi
Via Card. Merry Del Val, 18
(Trastevere)

Cartolibreria Lapis Blu
27-29 Via Serrantani
(Monte Mario) (Laura)

12. Lined notebook (your option to take notes in sketchbook OR separate lined notebook)
13. Extra credit site visits: The following sites are not open during our Monday class meeting time. Extra credit will be given for visiting these sites and submitting the following: a sketch and a ½ page written summary of your impressions and why it is important for the theme of this class.
 - a. Villa Guilia – a wonderful Renaissance Villa in the Villa Borgese Park (admission fee) - building, interior and gardens
 - b. Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza – a must see church by Borromini which is a Baroque interpretation of the Roman Pantheon (open only Sunday am)
14. Syllabus, onsite class instructions and all guidelines.

SKETCHBOOK REQUIREMENTS:

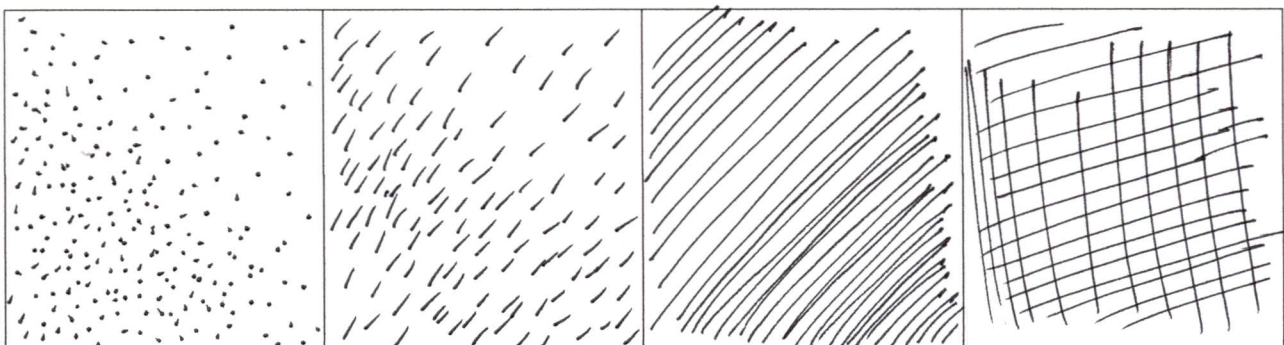
1. Work on a minimum of two sketches per class.
2. Use written notes on your sketch to fill in info you cannot draw and to annotate drawing (dimensions, color, impressions...). Write notes about three things you learned from each sketch on the same or adjacent page.

SKETCHING GUIDELINES:

DO DRAW:	DO NOT DRAW:
the object objectively	the subject sentimentally
what you see and experience	your opinion
darks/lights Shades/shadows	outlines/stereotypes
A variety of patterns/textures/shapes/information...	A beautiful picture for your Mom's refrigerator (ie: a finished work of art)

- Select what part of your view you will draw. No need to be complete.
- Evaluate what is the lightest part of the view and what is the darkest by squinting occasionally. Then leave a generous amount of white space at the lightest part of the page.
- Make some marks at medium dark parts only, and lots of marks at very dark parts. This will help bring out the true contrast and shadow you are seeing by leaving white paper to do some of the work.
- Record patterns of what you see, the feeling of the space (vast/intimate, simple/ornate, crowded/empty...)
- Draw the environment/background/context of the object (ie: adjacent buildings, trees, clouds...). Draw the view, NOT just the object in isolation.
- Practice often by carrying your notebook everywhere you travel. Date sketches to chronicle progress and your travels. Look closely at paintings and drawings for technique ideas while traveling.
- Read Nicolaidis for another method.

Examples of shading patterns:



DISCUSSION LEADER GUIDELINES

1. Describe to the class a summary of the highlights of all assigned readings in 5 -10 minutes for each reading. Then engage your fellow students in a discussion of each reading by asking two key specific questions regarding each reading.
2. Review the syllabus for course description, learning outcomes and course topics. Consider all class discussions to date. Then describe to the class why you think I assigned each reading.
3. Describe to the class what the readings mean to you personally in regard to your own education and travel experiences and what you are learning about Rome.
4. ALL students, not just the discussion leader, are responsible for reading all material assigned and should come to class with at least two questions about each reading in order to facilitate class discussions.
5. Each student will be responsible for leading at least one class discussion. Extra credit is available for leading additional discussions.

FINAL PAPER GUIDELINES

Due date: Monday, March 30, 2009

Requirements: At least 5 typed pages, 12 point, plus a minimum of three sketches to illustrate your points. Photos and maps/floor plans are encouraged. Final paper topics can be a further analysis of what we have discussed in class or any topics on the syllabus (whether or not we have gotten to that topic on the calendar).

Be prepared to propose two paper topic ideas to me by our February 16 class. All topics must be approved by me. Paper outlines will be due in advance of the paper due date. For sources you can start with the list of books at the front of your reader which are either in the JFRC library or my personal library. I am happy to lend you my books. Use the JFRC library, its databases, and its relationships with many other Rome English language libraries. Please ask the librarians for help with your research.

Paper topic ideas:

1. The history of the basilica form and program: Greek, Roman, Christian
2. Innovations in the design and construction of the Colosseum.
3. The impact of the Pantheon on the history of architecture: lessons learned in design and construction
4. The controversy of historic conservation vs. new construction in Rome
5. A comparison and contrast of the architectural theory of Vitruvius (Roman) and Alberti (Renaissance)
6. A comparison and contrast of a two similar buildings or piazzas from different eras (such as Pantheon and Sant'Ivo, Roman Colloseum and Fascist Colloseum, Santa Costanza and Tempietto, San Carlino and Jubilee church, Piazza Campidoglio and Auditorium...)
7. An analysis of a single building or piazza
8. The application of sustainable design principals to an historic structure
9. Any other ideas are welcome!