



# STUDIUM ARCHITECTURAE

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## FLORENCE DESIGN SCHOOL

### SYLLABUS: HISTORY

- **Introduction:**

Architectural history is a discipline that records and interprets architecture. An exploration that enables us to perceive the existence of historical facts, society and culture, as a real occurrence rather than as an idea.

The ability to portray the architect as a person who will give greater importance to a visual phenomenon with more fundamental and cultural inclusive approaches rather than the architect's own taste or style.

Our approach is intended to be strongly linked to personal experience through the transmission of a research method. The personal discovery of architectural origins will broaden the self-consciousness of the architect. The architect who is supposed to design and shape a reference context not only through spatial terms but also through the temporal ones.

In this investigation the art of architecture from the ancient world until today, mostly emphasizes Classicism, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Mannerism, Baroque and Palladio tradition. This course seeks to foster the generation who will be able to comprehend and make critical judgments on matters and therefore to be ready for more specialized studies in the history of architecture.

- **Course objectives:**

This course is an Italian-oriented survey of the history of architecture, from Classicism to Baroque, aimed at introducing both, history of phases and styles and methodologically, examining the contextual issues that give each period a distinctive architecture. It treats monuments and environments, including cities, in the context of the cultural, philosophical and civilization history. It offers an introduction to design principles and analysis. It aims to

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give the students perspective on the historical achievements where the artistic styles were established for the first time and how they fostered and influenced the subsequent ages, architectural viewpoints and expectations.

- **Course structure:**

A general survey of architecture from Classicism to Baroque including an integration of stylistics, art forms, structural forms and ornamental forms used in various architectural contexts of Italy during those times.

In the second level, students are supposed to attend the artistic and historical debates and to discuss the critics on works of art in order to subsequently bring forward the interpretations for today's architecture based on historical achievements.

- **Program:**

### **First Month:**

#### *Classicism*

Content: refers generally to a high regard for a classical period, classical antiquity, different aspects of Ancient Greek architecture and significant developments of Ancient Roman architecture

Field trip\*: Visits Rome, Imperial Forum architecture, Pantheon

### **Second Month:**

#### *Middle Ages*

Content: surviving medieval architecture which is either religious, military, civic and even examples of domestic architecture, considering architectural styles (pre-Romanesque, Romanesque, Gothic)

Field trip\*: Siena, visits the piazzas, monuments and urban space

### Third month:

#### *Renaissance*

Content: Renaissance style which is emphasized on symmetry, proportion, geometry and regularity in addition to demonstrating the conscious revival and development of certain elements of ancient Greek and Roman thought

Field trip\*: Florence, Visits to Ospedale Degli Innocenti, Santo Spirito Church

Field trip\*: Visits the city of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto

**Final Exam:** oral exam and written exam

- **Format:**

Types of Instruction: Lessons, Reading, Visiting, Historical Criticism and exchanges

The students are supposed to pursue the study program even out of class, in order to accomplish their tasks more effectively. Different field trips are predicted with historical introduction, drawing and surveying.

- **Evaluation and Grading:**

Methods of Evaluation: Grading will be assessed according to participation, progress, efforts and presentations (40%), Assignments (30%); Interrogation on historical approaches toward architectural issues(30%)

Grade: The grade is determined by the attitude of the student toward his/her work, the desire to increase his/her own knowledge; how the student has matured as seen through a comparison of the work completed during the semester.

The grading scale used in the course:

100-95 = A

94-90= A-

89-86= B+

85=B

84-80= B-

79-76= C+

75=C

74-70=C-  
69-66= D+  
65= D  
64-60= D-  
59-Below= F

- **Books:**

The Four Books of Architecture, Andrea Palladio

“The city as a work of art” (“La città come opera d'arte”), Marco Romano, Electa

“Meaning in Western architecture” , Christian Norberg Schulz, Electa

“The culture of cities” , Lewis Mumford, Einaudi

“The architecture of the Italian Renaissance”, Peter Murray, Laterza

“Architectural principles in the age of Humanism”, Rudolf Wittkower, Einaudi

“Dictionary of architecture” , Nikolaus Pevsner, Einaudi

- **Credits: ---**

- **Class hours:**

The classe last 50 minutes.

8 hours a week , including class hours and discussions on specific location

- **Rules:**

Attendance of all lecture is obligatory.

- **Special Instructions:**

The use of cell phones during the lecture is prohibited;

Tardiness for the class is not accepted(Students need to be present 15 minutes before the lecture starts);

Students are expected to clean up their area at the end of every class.

\* All Design field trips are not included in tuition fees.They will be billed separately.

All design field trips are optional , but the school strongly advises you to participate as each trip complements the course.