SEMINAR – 6CFU
CODE: B020765
(APPROFONDIMENTO: SEMINARIO TEMATICO DI ARCHITETTURA CDS B117)

RENAISSANCE LANGUAGES
FLORENCE AND THE HISTORY OF WESTERN ARCHITECTURE

Mario Bevilacqua, Lorenzo Ciccarelli, Daniela Smalzi
with
Heather Hyde Minor and Alessandro Brodini

The Seminar outlines the development of the new architectural codes that in Quattrocento Florence gave rise to the shaping of new languages and new approaches to style, techniques, materials. The free intellectual role of the architect, the theoretic discourse on building, the rational approach to research, recording and teaching, make Florentine and Italian Renaissance architecture a rational, aggressive, global language. Through a multidisciplinary approach, the lectures, meetings and on-site visits aim at familiarizing students with monuments and theories of Renaissance architecture from its birth in Florence and Rome, to its developing into a global language that shapes our contemporary approach to building, architectural design, history and criticism, heritage preservation and sustainability.

The Seminar is open to students enrolled in the English Curriculum (Master programme) of the University of Florence.
All lectures and visits are held in English.
Attendance is mandatory.

Final evaluation assessment
Students are expected to complete a written paper on a Florentine building of the 15th-16th centuries, or a 20th-21th century building in classical style, to be submitted and discussed at evaluation assessment.

The Italian Renaissance
Florence from Brunelleschi to Alberti
S. Maria del Fiore, S. Maria Novella, Rucellai Palace
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

Architecture in the age of Industrialism and Colonialism
Athens-Rome-Florence: Neoclassicism and Historicism in European architecture: Piranesi, Klenze, Schinkel
Building America's architectural tradition: from Jefferson to Modernism
Chicago, "Paris on the Prairie", "Florence of the West"

Basic Readings
Colin Davies, *Thinking about Architecture. An Introduction to Architectural Theory*, London 2011
Andrew Leach, *What is Architectural History?*, Cambridge 2010
Marvin Trachtenberg, Isabelle Hyman, *Architecture from Pre-History to Post-Modernism. The Western Tradition*, New York 1986

John Summerson, *The Classical Language of Architecture*, London 1980
Rudolf Wittkower, *Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism*, London 1949
Alina Payne, *Rudolf Wittkower and architectural principles in the age of Modernism*, in "Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians", 1994, pp. 322-342

V. Hart, P. Hicks (eds), *Paper Palaces. The Rise of Renaissance Architectural Treatise*, New Haven 1998
M. Bevilacqua, *Learning how to build in a new language. Italian architectural prints in Renaissance Europe*, in K. Ottenheym (ed), *Architects without borders*, Mantova 2014, pp. 91-110

J. Ackerman, *The Origins of Architectural Drawing in the Middle Ages and Renaissance*, in Id., *Origins, Imitation, Conventions: Representation in the Visual Arts*, Cambridge/Mass. 2002, pp. 27-66

Auguste Henri Victor Grandjean de Montigny, Auguste Famin, *Architecture toscane, ou Palais, Maisons, et autres édifices de la Toscane*, Paris 1815
Henry Millon, V. Magnago Lampugnani (eds), *The Renaissance: From Brunelleschi to Michelangelo*, Milano 1994
Gene Brucker, *Renaissance Florence*, Oakland 1983
Mary Hollingsworth, *The Architect in Fifteenth-Century Florence*, in "Art History", 1984, pp. 385-410

www.architectura.cesr.univ-tours.fr: Italian and Western architectural treateses 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 readings and websites will be indicated during lectures
Most books are available at Florence University Libraries: http://www.sba.unifi.it/

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Office hours for students: by appointment-Sezione di Storia dell'Architettura, via Micheli, 2 - 2nd floor

Lectures (room 206):
31st October, 3-5 p.m.
7th November, 3-5 p.m.
21st November, 3-5 p.m.

On-site visits:
Leon Battista Alberti and the architectural patronage of the Rucellai family. 24th October 2018, 3-5 p.m.
The religious complex of Santa Maria del Fiore. 14th November 2018, 3-5 p.m.
The Uffizi, Vasari's Corridor and the Pitti Palace. 12th December 2018, 3-5 p.m.

Further meetings will be scheduled for 2019.