

SEMINAR – 6CFU

CODE: B020765
(APPROFONDIMENTO: SEMINARIO TEMATICO DI ARCHITETTURA CDS B117)

THE CLASSICAL LANGUAGE(S) OF ARCHITECTURE

Mario Bevilacqua with Lorenzo Ciccarelli, Kamela Guza, Riccardo Renzi, Federica Rossi, Daniela Smalzi
November 2019-January 2020

The intellectual role of the architect, the theoretic discourse on style, the approach to technological research and the means of recording and circulating knowledge: Italian Renaissance architectural codes shaped a rational, aggressive, global language, based on the interpretation and standardization of Greek and Roman Classicism.

Lectures and on-site visits aim at familiarizing students with the language of Classicism, and its challenges in contemporary design and sustainability.

All lectures and visits are held in English; mandatory attendance.

We can enroll 25 students. Students must be official UNIFI badge holders.

Final evaluation assessment: written paper.

Order

Classicism and Philosophy

Rules of Harmony: numbers and ratios, Vitruvius to LeCorbusier

An Italian Story: rediscovering and reinterpreting the past, Renaissance to Baroque

Florence from Brunelleschi to Michelangelo, Rome from Michelangelo to Bernini

Paper architecture: writing rules with words and images

Rules and regulations: Vitruvius, Alberti, Vignola, Palladio and the discourse on Architecture

Recording memory and knowledge: drawings, prints and books from Europe to the world

New worlds: towards a globalization of Classicism

Classicism and Modernism

Classicism and dictatorship: Albert Speer and Hitler's *Germany*; Stalin's Moscow

Colonizing Orders: Western standards and the writing of architectural history of non-western civilizations

Classicism/21st century

Orders, Rules, Classicism: a new language of power?

Basic Readings

Colin Davies, *Thinking about Architecture. An Introduction to Architectural Theory*, London 2011

Andrew Leach, *What is Architectural History?*, Cambridge 2010

John Summerson, *The Classical Language of Architecture*, London 1980

Rudolf Wittkower, *Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism*, London 1949

Deyan Sudjic, *The Edifice Complex: The Architecture of Power*, London 2006

Further reading:

- 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. Ottenheim (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
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
Samuel Edgerton, *Leon Battista Alberti vs Quetzalcoatl. Renaissance art theory in the service of the Christian mission to Mexico, 1523-1600*, in R. Sinigalli (ed.), *La Prospettiva*, Fiesole 1998, pp. 103-119
Gulru Necipoglu, *Creation of a national genius: Sinan and the historiography of 'classical' Ottoman architecture*, in "Muqarnas", 2007, pp. 141-183
Hans Belting, *Florence and Baghdad. Renaissance Art and Arab Science*, Cambridge/Mass. 2011
Nancy Steinhardt, *Chinese architectural history in the Twenty-First century*, in "Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians", 2014, pp. 38-60

www.architectura.cesr.univ-tours.fr: Italian and Western architectural treatises published 16th-18th centuries (Vignola; Palladio)

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 during lectures

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

Contacts:

Prof. Mario Bevilacqua: bevilacqua@unifi.it

Prof. Lorenzo Ciccarelli: lorenzo.ciccarelli@unifi.it

Dott. Daniela Smalzi: daniela.smalzi@unifi.it

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