THE CLASSICAL LANGUAGE(S) OF ARCHITECTURE

Mario Bevilacqua with Lorenzo Ciccarelli, Kamela Guza, Riccardo Renzi, Federica Rossi, Daniela Smalzi
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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 Germania; 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
Rudolf Wittkower, Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism, London 1949
Further reading:


V. Hart, P. Hicks (eds), Papier 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. Ottenheimer (ed), Architects without borders, Mantova 2014, pp. 91-110


Henry Millon, V. Magnago Lampugnani (eds), The Renaissance: From Brunelleschi to Michelangelo, Milano 1994

Gene Brucker, Renaissance Florence, Oakland 1983


Gizem Necipoğlu, Creation of a national genius: Sinan and the historiography of ‘classical’ Ottoman architecture, in “Muqarnas”, 2007, pp. 141-183


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/

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