



SYLLABUS

MATERIAL AND DETAIL: EVOCATIONS OF TIME AND PLACE

Instructor: Donald Corner

Language of Instruction: English

UO Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 40

VICENZA, ITALY

ARCH 407/507: MATERIAL AND DETAIL: EVOCATIONS OF TIME AND PLACE

4 credits

This course will examine materials, details and systems of construction across the span of Italian architectural history. Through sequential and comparative studies of the spatial structure and technical means of buildings you will be asked to articulate concepts of time and place in architecture.

MEDIA SKETCHBOOK: WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the term, the sketchbook will be used to compile analytical diagrams, conjectural section drawings, and details of building assembly in each of the places that we visit. During the initial study tour (Roma, Firenze, Siena and Bologna) and throughout our period of residence in the Veneto (Vicenza, Verona, Venice and Switzerland) you will collect examples from characteristic buildings that will allow you to track building technologies through historical periods and geographic locations. Specific drawings will be assigned at each location. You will draw on these materials for the team projects described below.

READINGS -- PHASE ONE

Rome:

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|--------------------|---|
| Mark, Robert. | Architectural Technology up to the Scientific Revolution
Read excerpts describing ancient Roman building techniques. |
| Bruschi, Arnaldo. | Bramante
Readings on the cloister at S. Maria della Pace and the Tempietto. |
| Mainstone, Rowland | Saving the dome of St. Peters.
History of Construction: Repair work undertaken in the late 1700's. |
| Tice, James | Giuseppe Vasi's Rome
Review the sidebar on the techniques of Vasi's famous views of Rome. |

Florence:

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|----------------------|---|
| Goy, Richard | Florence: the city and its architecture
History of the city, how it was built, typical houses of Florence. |
| Trachtenberg, Marvin | Dominion of the Eye. |

Jones, Barry History of the city, development of piazze, Piazza della Signoria.
 Building Brunelleschi's Dome
 History of Construction: Account of replicating the construction techniques used in the dome.

Saalman, Howard. Filippo Brunelleschi: the Buildings
 Read chapter on Pazzi Chapel.

Wittkower, Rudolph. Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism
 Read chapter on Alberti, including Santa Maria Novella.

Siena:

Fanelli, Giovanni. Citta Antica in Toscana
 Examine the material on tower houses and the Campo, text in Italian.

Bologna:

Cervellati. P. L. Bologna: politica e metodologica del restauro nei centri storici
 Drawings of the neighborhood reconstructions in Bologna.

Note: Our days in Rome and Florence will be very full. It is strongly recommended that you undertake these readings in advance of our arrival. Additional readings will be assigned once we are established in Vicenza.

TEAM PROJECTS

There will be two projects during the term. For the first, students teams will be asked to develop a point of view about time and place in architecture as read through the materials and construction details. These propositions will be presented in seminar, supported with field sketches collected during the first half of the term. For the second, longer, project students will work in groups (2-3) to analyze, and document, either a particular time and place (e.g. Venetian gothic buildings), a specific material tradition, or the work of a chosen architect. If an architect, the person chosen should be one who offers an accessible point of view about material and detail in relation to the context of the project and the time of its execution. Research will involve library literature as well as a spatial and technical analysis of the building(s). After having visited the sites, teams will prepare an illustrated final paper, using sketches and photographs.

Format and content of the final paper:

- Multi-page PDF, vertical or horizontal orientation; text word-processed; captions for graphics.
- Title page: the name of the project and architect, or period, relevant dates, a key image, names of group members, date of work, name of course.
- The historical context of the project(s) and the project's architect: history/overview of architect's work – time/place/education/significant precedents/key theoretical ideas.
- As you address the analytical points above, be certain that you put this information in a context. For time and place, this means multiple examples to establish the themes. For buildings, it means that you provide an overview of the work: project description, site, building plans, sections, elevations, views of the exterior and interior, photographs and sketches.
- Working from the outline above, and adding to it as needed, use drawings, diagrams and/or other visuals to illustrate the major points about material and detail as they are manifest in the building(s)

- Compare your response to the buildings to what you have read; what was confirmed and what surprised you in the experience of visiting the building.
- Bibliography clearly stating the resources for the research, including dates of on-site observations

Possible topics:

You may consider significant works from any of the places and periods that we will visit during the term, however, repeat visits to a chosen project site are advantageous. This can be best done for sites that can be reached from Vicenza, or during the open days after Florence.

Readings and References:

The course reader is available on blackboard and in electronic format. A small reference library is available on site in Vicenza. Students who are able to identify a topic in advance are encouraged to collect reference materials for the chosen project focus prior to departure for Italy.

Degree Credit:

It is anticipated that this seminar will satisfy the advanced elective requirement in building technology.