

FLORENTINE PALACE AND FUNERARY CHAPELS

Course meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:15 to 1:00

While almost every prominent Florentine family had both a palace and a family chapel no book treats them together. This means that we have to piece together the material from various sources, many of which are articles in art history and history periodicals. The literature is uneven. While there is quite a lot of information in English on the fifteenth century, there is rather little on sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In addition to the readings assigned for everyone, each of you will read an article and present its contents on-site to the class. In the first paper you will be asked to relate the Brancacci chapel to an earlier family chapel in Santa Croce. The purpose of this assignment is to get you to think about what constitutes a funerary chapel and how these chapels work. After having spent a whole class on the Medici palace you will do a worksheet on a selection of fifteenth century palaces. When we are in Rome you will do a second worksheet on some Roman palaces near our hotel. In a second paper you will apply what you learned to analyzing and comparing a few sixteenth and seventeenth century Florentine palaces.

You will find that in order to learn about palaces and chapels you have to find out a lot about the families themselves and the society they lived in. Dale Kent's book on Friendship was meant to introduce you to fifteenth century Florence - its politics, economics, religious beliefs, marriage practices. In particular it conjures up images of the churches, palace interiors, street corners and piazzas where the interpersonal relationships of this close-knit community took place. Your other readings will build on this basis and will also include material on religious practices and liturgy. As the Medici family became more and more powerful they commissioned palaces, chapels and furnishing which became models for other families. Their patronage will play a major role in the course.

Towards the end of the program we will want to pull things together and make some conclusions. Each of you will do a power point presentation on a Florentine family. I can provide you with many of the images you will need. You can take photos with your cameras to fill in gaps. The ACM library is not very user friendly so you will want to make appointments with me, so I can give you a hand finding material.

Most classes will be on-site and this means that you need to figure out how to get there in advance, so that you will not be late. Remember that we have fixed appointments for museums and we cannot wait for late arrivals. If you do not enter with the group you will be responsible for paying for your own entrance.

Reading. Most of your readings will be in the plastic boxes, which have an index at the top. The articles are in the order you will be reading them. The exceptions are in a different font. Two readings are from Richard Turner's The Renaissance in Florence, which Ed Burke suggested that you buy and read over the summer. I will put out some copies for those who did not bring it. One assignment is from Peter Murray's Italian Renaissance Architecture. Copies of it will be put on reserve, as well. Finally two readings can be accessed from Jstor. I will put copies on the two newer computers at school, for those who do not have Jstor. Be sure to take some notes on the readings, as you go through the course, because you will be asked to refer to them on the final exam.

September:

Thur. 10 Palace walk: Meet at the column in Piazza Sta. Trinità

Spini, Gianfigliuzzi, Minerbetti, Davanzati, Cerchi, Alberto di Zanobi, Peruzzi, Spinelli

- Read: C. R. Mack, "Building a Florentine Palace: The Palazzo Spinelli", Mitteilungen des Kunsthistorisches Institutes in Florenz, XXVII, 1983, pp. 261-284

Fri. 18 Discuss Dale Kent, Friendship, Love and Trust in Renaissance Florence, Harvard U. Press, 2008.

Before regular classes start do the following reading, which is an introduction to the funerary chapel. This article ties together much of the material we will be covering and it might make sense to re-read it at the end as review.

- Jonathan Nelson, "Memorial Chapels in Churches: The Privatization and Transformation of Sacred Spaces", Renaissance Florence: A Social History, eds. Roger J. Crum and John Paoletti, Cambridge U. Press. 2006, pp. 353-375

Week I

Mon. Sept. 28

Meet at the Ponte Sta. Trinità to go to the Corsini Palace. This visit is completely out of chronological order but we are taking advantage of the bi-annual antiques fair to see the inside of this splendid Baroque palace.

Families and chapels in the 14th century

Wed. Sept. 30

Introduction to the Family Chapel: Meet at Santa Croce (Bardi, Peruzzi, Baroncelli, Rinuccini, Spinelli, Pazzi)

- Read: John Paoletti, Gary Radke, section "The Santa Croce Frescoes and Altarpiece" in Art in Renaissance Italy, London, 1997, pp. 86 -92
- J. C. Long, "Salvation Through Meditation: The Tomb Frescoes in the Holy Confessors Chapel at Santa Croce in Florence", Gesta, vol 34, n. 1, 1995, pp. 77 -88 (access this article on Jstor or copy the digital version, which will be on the computers at school, onto your computer).

Week II

Mon. Oct. 5 Meet at Santa Maria Novella The Tommaso Strozzi chapel. The sacristy and the chapter house

- Joachim Poeschke, "Santa Maria Novella, The Strozzi chapel, Nardo di Cione, from Italian Frescoes in the Age of Giotto 1280 – 1400, NY /Lon. 2005, pp. 338 -241

The Medici Family, their Partners and Friends

Wed. Oct. 7 The palaces in via Ginori and the church of San Lorenzo - meet in front of San Lorenzo

- Read: John Paoletti, "Donatello's Bronze doors for the Old Sacristy of San Lorenzo", artibus et historiae, nr. 21 (XI), 1990, pp. 39-69

Fri. Oct. 9 Meet at San Marco 11:15 The Medici altarpiece and chapel

- Richard Turner, "Home Economics", from The Renaissance in Florence, London, 1997 (read the part on San Marco)

A Medici Villa Poggio a Caiano

- Read: James Ackerman, The Villa, chap. 3 "The Early Villas of the Medici"

Brancacci Chapel Paper due

Week III

Mon. Oct. 12 Medici Palace Meet at the entrance

- Read: Rab Hatfield, 'Cosimo de' Medici and the Chapel of his Palace,' in Francis Ames-Lewis, ed., Cosimo il Vecchio de' Medici, 1389-1464, Essays in Commemoration of the 600th Anniversary of Cosimo de' Medici's Birth, Oxford., 1992, pp 221ff.

Wed. Oct. 14

Meet at the column in Piazza Sta. Trinità

Sta. Trinità Bartolini Salimbeni, Sassetti, the Strozzi Sacristy. Rucellai at San Pancrazio

Sta. Maria Novella, Tornabuoni and Filippo Strozzi chapels

- Read: : Eve Borsook,, catalogue entries on both the Sassetti and the Strozzi Chapels from The Mural Painters of Tuscany, Oxford, 1980

Break Take these two readings in your back pack and read them as you travel. The Lingohr would be the other article to re-read at the end of the course – to review.

- Read: F. W. Kent, “Palaces, Politics and Society in Fifteenth-Century Florence”, I Tatti Studies: Essays in the Renaissance, Vol 2, 1987, pp. 41-70
- Michel Lingohr, “The Palace and Villa as Spaces of Patrician Self-Definition”, Renaissance Florence: A Social History, eds. Roger J. Crum and John Paoletti, Cambridge U. Press. 2006, pp.240-272

Week IV

Mon. Oct. 26 Lecture: Palaces in other cities and villas

- Read: Memoirs of a Renaissance Pope, trans. F. Gragg, ed. L Gabel, N.Y., 1959
- Read: Murray, pp. 81- 93, chaps 7 and 8

Paintings for religious and domestic settings

Wed. Oct. 28 Meet at the reserved entrance of the Uffizi

- Read: Richard Turner, “Home Economics”, from The Renaissance in Florence, London, 1997 (skip the part on San Marco and start at “The Domestic Environment”)
- Roger J. Crum and John Paoletti, “...Full of People of Every Sort”: *The Domestic Interior*, ”, Renaissance Florence: A Social History, eds. Roger J. Crum and John Paoletti, Cambridge U. Press. 2006, pp. 273-291

Transitions from the end of the Quattrocento to the Early Cinquecento

Week V

Mon. Nov. 2 Meet in Piazza Sto. Spirito chapels in the church and then palaces:

Guadagni, Bianca Capello, Lanfredini, Bartolini-Salimbeni, Rosselli del Turco, Ugucioni

- Read: “Painted Facades and Facades Covered with Graffiti Designs”
- Richard Goy, Florence: the city and its architecture, pp. 274 -278
- Jane Bridgeman, “Filippino Lippi’s Nerli altar-piece – a new date”, The Burlington Magazine, vol 130, n 1026, 1988, pp. 668-671

Hand in the 15th century palace worksheet

Sculptures for religious and domestic settings

Wed. Nov. 4 meet at the Museo Nazionale Bargello

- Read: Geraldine A. Johnson, “Family Values: Sculpture and the Family in Fifteenth-Century Florence”, Art, Memory and Family in Renaissance Florence, edited by Giovanni Ciappelli and Patricia Lee Rubin, Cambridge, 2000
- Bonnie Bennet and David Wilkins, sections on Donatello’s David from Donatello, Paidon, Mt. Kisco, NY, 1984, pp. 82 – 90 and 218 -219

Rome Palace waking tour assignment

- Read: Loren Partridge, The Art of Renaissance Rome 1400 – 1600, N.Y. 1996, chap.

The Capponi Family

Week VI

Wed. Nov. 11 meet in Piazza Sta. Felicità, the one with the column, right across the Ponte Vecchio

Capponi Chapel in Santa Felicità

- Louis Waldman, “New Light on the Capponi chapel in Sta. Felicità”, Art Bulletin, June 2002, vol LXXXIV, no. 2, pp. 293-314 (access this article on Jstor or copy the digital version, which will be on the computers at school, onto your computer).

Baroque chapels and Palaces

Week VII

Mon. Nov. 16

Meet in piazza del Carmine to first look at the Corsini Chapel and then the Corsini, Missionari, Strozzi della Poeta, Monte dei Paschi palaces

- Read Mario Carniani, Santa Maria del Carmine and the Brancacci Chapel, excerpt on Corsini

Hand in Roman palace worksheet

More Medici Chapels at San Lorenzo

Wed. Nov. 18 Meet at the entrance to the Medici Chapels behind San Lorenzo

- Read: Erwin Panofsky, Tomb Sculpture, N.Y. 1992, pp. 90 -95
- Licia Bertami, San Lorenzo and the Medici Chapels, Firenze 1998, section on the Cappelle dei Principi

Grand Ducal Palaces

Week VIII

Mon. Nov. 23 Meet the Palazzo Vecchio

Transforming a Republican parliamentary building into a ducal abode

- John Paoletti, Gary Radke, "Florence under Cosimo I (1537-74)", Art in Renaissance Italy, London, 1997, pp. 395-401

Paper comparing 16th and 17th century palaces due.

Wed. Nov. 25 Meet in front of the Pitti Palace

The Grand Ducale Palace

- Read: Burke, Peter, "Conspicuous Consumption in seventeenth-century Italy", The Historical Anthropology of Early Modern Italy, Cambridge, 1987

Week IX

Mon. Nov. 30

Reports

Wed. Dec. 2

Reports

Week X

Mon. Dec. 7

Reports

Thur. Dec. 10 Exam

Assignments:

1. Paper on the Brancacci Chapel Due on Fri. Oct. 7 15%
2. Worksheet on 15th century palaces 15%
3. Worksheet on Roman palaces 15 %
4. Paper comparing 16th and 17th century palaces Due on Wed. Nov. 23 15 %
5. Power Point Presentation 15 %
6. Final Exam 30%