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 Renaisiance 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, Gianfigliazzi, Minerbeti, Davanzati, Cerchi, Alberto di Zanobi, Peruzzi, Spinelli

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.


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)
- 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

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

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

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 pocket and read them as you travel. The Lingohr would be the other article to re-read at the end of the course – to review.


**Week IV**

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

- 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


**Transitions from the end of the Quattrocento to the Early Cinquecento**

Mon. Nov. 2  Meet in Piazza Sto. Spirito  chapels in the church and then palaces:
Guadagni, Bianca Capello, Lanfredini, Bartolini-Salimbeni, Rosselli del Turco, Uguccioni

- Read: “Painted Facades and Facades Covered with Graffiti Designs”

**Hand in the 15th century palace worksheet**

**Sculptures for religious and domestic settings**

Wed. Nov. 4  meet at the Museo Nazionale  Bargello

- 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


**The Capponi Family**

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

Grand Ducal Palaces

Week VIII
Mon. Nov. 23 Meet the Palazzo Vecchio
Transforming a Republican parliamentary building into a ducal abode

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%