

COLUMBIA GSAPP

ARCH 4330

**Urban History I: Configurations of the City
from Antiquity to the Enlightenment**

Meeting time: Monday 11-1

Classroom: TBA

Office Hours: By appointment

Professor Daniel Sherer

The course traces the development of the European city from classical antiquity to the Industrial Revolution. Focusing on the configuration of architecture in urban space, it follows the evolution of the city through a complex series of exchanges between typological, morphological and topographical factors. The first part of the course addresses the typological transformation of the agora and acropolis and the parallel articulation of paradigmatic urban forms from 5th century Athens, the Hellenistic cities, to the rise of the Roman republic. We will then study the formal and functional dimensions of domestic, civil and sacred architecture in the Roman Empire from Augustus to Constantine. At this point our aim is to show how these dimensions, in concert with an extended network of provincial centers connected by a highly organized system of roads, bridges, and aqueducts, effected a reciprocity of topography and politics in North Africa, the Roman East and Constantinople.

Turning to the medieval period, we will isolate continuities and discontinuities between classical and Christian conceptions of the *forma urbis*, analyzing the typological refunctionalization of ancient monuments (taking Split as exemplary of this process), the unique morphogenetic articulation of a maritime urban singularity in the Venetian Republic to 1204, and the constant interplay of urbanization and its territorial contexts on European scale. This will provide a prelude to a discussion of new urban strategies, architectural languages and discursive practices associated with utopian schemes, aristocratic and communal use of public space, and the rise of new towns in the Italian Renaissance. Our primary test-cases at this point will be Alberti's proposals for ideal city in *De re aedificatoria*, Florence under Lorenzo the Magnificent, Pienza under Pius II, Urbino under Frederigo da Montefeltro, Albrecht Dürer's utopian schemes, Rome from Nicholas V to Leo X, and Venice under Doge Andrea Gritti.

The second part of the course charts the emergence of new urban models and related architectural interventions from the inception of the Baroque era to the end of the *ancien régime*. Focussing initially on the interplay of street axes and monumental nuclei from the Rome of Sixtus V to the Paris of Louis XIV, we will then turn to the role of morphological and typological invention in the urban fabric of London from Inigo Jones to the Great Fire of 1666, the interventions of Perrault, Le Vau, Wren and Hawksmoor in Paris and London, the relation between archeological inquiry and urban and architectural fantasy in Piranesi, and the subsequent

theoretical debate on the relationship between nature, reason and the city -- a discourse with a European resonance that helped consolidate the Enlightenment vision of the city. The course will end with a comparative analysis of the effects of industrialization on the urbanism of Western Europe. This was a rupture which, in concert with the demographic explosion of 1800, projected the city beyond traditional modes of typological, morphological and topographical articulation by contrasting the economic advantages of technical rationality to the aesthetic and philosophical values of naturalism and the picturesque.

Objectives:

In this course students are expected to develop:

--A working knowledge of figures, works of architecture and urban design initiatives from the different historical eras covered by lectures and readings;

--A grasp of the relations of continuity and discontinuity between architectural history, urban history, and other domains of knowledge and practice in the period under study;

--An ability to describe, analyze, and compare urban projects and strategies in formal and material, as well as theoretical and practical terms;

--A mastery of the relevant primary and secondary literature;

--An ability to communicate effectively and clearly within the discourse of urban history and architectural history, in both written and oral formats.

Requirements:

Students are required to do all readings, participate in class discussion, submit a paper topic with bibliography and submit a final research paper of no longer than 15 pages. The final assignment is a substantial analysis of a figure or topic to be approved by the instructor. The paper should be around 3,500 words, plus footnotes, bibliography, and copious illustrations. Its purpose is to explore the theme of the course – the development of the European city from antiquity to 1800 – by studying specific artifacts, monuments, urban initiatives, practices and theories and to insert these within their multiple historical contexts.

Basic bibliography:

A. E. J. Morris, *A History of Urban Form before the Industrial Revolution*

J. J. Pollitt, *Art and Experience in Classical Greece*

H. W. Kruft, *A History of Architectural Theory*

A. Rossi, *The Architecture of the City*

W. L. MacDonald, *The Architecture of the Roman Empire, vol.2 An Urban Appraisal*

P. Grimal, *Roman Towns*

J. Rykwert, *The Idea of a Town*

R. Krautheimer, *Rome: Profile of a City, 312-1308*

The Rome of Alexander VII

Three Christian Capitals: Politics and Topography

D. Howard, *The Architectural History of Venice*

Jacopo Sansovino

E. Concina, *History of Venetian Architecture*

F. Choay, *The Rule and the Model*

A. Grafton, L. B. Alberti, *Master Builder of the Italian Renaissance*

W. Lotz, *Studies in Italian Renaissance Architecture*

J. S. Ackerman, *The Architecture of Michelangelo*

H. P. L'Orange, *Art Forms and Civic Life in the Late Roman Empire*

M. Tafuri, *Architecture and Utopia. Design and Capitalist Development*

Interpreting the Renaissance: Princes, Cities, Architects

Theories and History of Architecture

Venice and the Renaissance

The Sphere and the Labyrinth

G. Ciucci / M. Tafuri, The American City from the Civil War to the New Deal

R. Wittkower, Art and Architecture in Italy, 1600 – 1750

Sir John Summerson, Inigo Jones

J. W. Reys, The Making of Urban America

J. P. Vernant, Myth and Society in Ancient Greece

Introduction: What is Urban History; The Greek Polis in the 5th century; Political Significance of the Acropolis and Agora; Planned vs. Organic Growth

Thucydides, Funeral Oration of Perikles, reader.

Plutarch, Life of Perikles, reader.

A. Rossi, Architecture of the City, 28-57

J. B. Ward Perkins, Cities of Ancient Greece and Italy, chapter 3.

R. Meiggs, “Political Significance of the Parthenon,” in V. Bruno, The Parthenon, 101 -109

J. P. Vernant, “City State Warfare”, in *Myth and Society in Ancient Greece*

J. J. Pollitt, *Art and Experience in Classical Greece* (optional)

Imperial Rome: The Center of Power. Urbanization of the Empire, Augustus to Constantine

Vitruvius, *On Architecture*, reader.

W. L. MacDonald, *Architecture of the Roman Empire*, vol.2. reader.

The Pantheon, reader

P. Veyne, *Bread and Circuses*, reader

P. Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*, reader

A. E. J. Morris, *History of Urban Form*, reader

J. Rykwert, *The Idea of a Town*, chapter 1.

Constantinople, The New Rome: Politics and Topography

Eusebius, *Life of Constantine*, reader

R. Krautheimer, *Three Christian Capitals*, chapter 2.

Rome: Profile of a City, reader

Medieval Urban Configurations I: The Typomorphological Transformation of Diocletian’s Palace at Split

Augustine, *City of God*, reader

A. Rossi, *Architecture of the City*, 169 – 177

H. P. L’Orange, *Art Forms and Civic Life in the Late Roman Empire*

Medieval Urban Configurations II; The Morphogenesis of Venice from the Origins to 1204

Cassiodorus, description of the primitive Venetians, reader

D. Howard, *Architectural History of Venice*, chapters 1 – 3

E. Concina, *History of Venetian Architecture*, chapters 1 – 2

Florence from Brunelleschi to Lorenzo de' Medici; The Tuscan Revolution in Urban Form

L. B. Alberti, Letter to Brunelleschi, preface to *On Painting* (1436)

Manetti, *Life of Brunelleschi*, reader

Vasari, *Life of Brunelleschi*, reader

C. Elam, "Lorenzo de' Medici and the Urban Development of Renaissance Florence," *Art History* (1978), 43ff; reprinted in the reader

M. Tafuri, *Theories and History of Architecture*, chapter 1, esp. 1 - 16

Interpreting the Renaissance, chapter 3

L. H. Heydenreich, *Architecture in Italy, 1400 – 1500*, reader

Renaissance Utopias and Ideal Cities: Pienza; Urbino; Filarete's *Sforzinda*, Leonardo; Sir Thomas More

Alberti, *On the Art of Building in Ten Books*, reader

Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*, reader

F. Choay, *Rule and the Model*, reader

Kruft, *History of Architectural Theory*, chapter 3; chapter 4, 110 – 111

Grafton, *Alberti*, chapter 9.

Urban Strategies in Rome, Julius II to Paul III

M. Tafuri, *Interpreting the Renaissance*, chapters 3, 4

M. Tafuri, 'Roma Instaurata. Strategie urbane e politiche pontificie nella Roma del Primo Cinquecento,' *Raffaello Architetto*. C. L. Frommel, S. Ray and M. Tafuri (Milan, 1984), 59ff.

J. S. Ackerman, "The Capitoline Hill," *The Architecture of Michelangelo*.

J. S. Ackerman, "The Planning of Renaissance, Rome," in *Rome in the Renaissance: The City and Its Myth*, ed. P. A. Ramsay (Binghamton, NY 1982).

Renovatio Urbis: Sansovino and Venice under Doge Andrea Gritti

Tafuri, *Venice and the Renaissance*, chapters 1, 5.

Interpreting the Renaissance, chapter 7.

D. Howard, Jacopo Sansovino, 1 – 47.

W. Lotz, *Studies*, 74 – 116; 140 – 151.

Baroque Rome: Sixtus V to Alexander VII

S. Giedion, *Space, Time and Architecture*, 24 – 39.

J. Connors, “Alliance and Enmity in Baroque Rome,” reader

R. Wittkower, in *Art and Architecture in Italy, 1600 – 1750*, reader.

C. S. Burroughs, “Absolutism and the Rhetoric of Topography: Streets in the Rome of Sixtus V, in *Streets: Critical Perspectives on Public Space*, ed. Z. Celik et. Al (Berkeley / London, 1974), reader

R. Krautheimer, *The Rome of Alexander VII*, reader.

London from Inigo Jones to The Great Fire of 1666

Sir John Summerson, *Inigo Jones*, reader.

“The Urban Image,” in *The Architecture of the
Eighteenth Century*, reader.

A. E. J. Morris, *History of Urban Form*, reader.

Piranesi and the Crisis of Urban Form in Eighteenth-century Europe

Piranesi, *Parere*, reader.

Tafuri, *Architecture and Utopia*, chapter 2.

Sphere and the Labyrinth, chapter 1.

The European City, the American City and the First Industrial Revolution: Washington vs. New York

A. E. J. Morris, *History of Urban Form*, 249 – 291; 321 – 364

J. W. Reps, *Making of Urban America*, chapters 5, 6, 9, 11, 15

M. Tafuri, *Architecture and Utopia*, chapter 2

M. Tafuri / Dal Co, *Modern Architecture*, New York 1976, I, chapters 1 - 3