

VITRUVIUS & ANCIENT ORDERS

Tu./Th. Sept. 6/8

Required Readings:

- * Vitruvius, Ten Books on Architecture = De architectura (c25BC, 1486...)
 Skim whole book, *read carefully* **Bk.I:**pref., Chs.1-3; **Bk.II:**pref,1;
Bk.III:pref.,1; **Bk.IV:**pref.,1,2; **Bk.V:**pref., 1; **Bk.VI:** pref.,1,2; **Bk.VII:**pref.;
Bk.X:pref.,1, in ONE of the following sources:
 (In Rowland translation (1999) NA2515 .V6135 Ovsz = pp.21-8, 33-5, 46-8, 55-7, 63-5,
 75-8, 84-7, 119-20) (Avail. as pdf)
 (In Smith translation (2003) NA2515 .V61352 Ovsz = pp.59-73, missing, 85-88, 113-122,
 149-155, 181-186)
 (In Morgan translation (1914) NA2515 .V73 1960 = pp.5-17, 35-41, 69-75, 101-109, 129-
 136, 167-175, 192-201, 281-284; skim whole book, esp. pp. 42-65, 75-97, 139-153.
 (Also as ebook: www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/20239)
Questions to think about: What are the main themes (principles, training, orders, technology)?
 What's the subject matter of each chapter, and how are they organized? What training does
 an architect need? What principles must architecture follow? What are the main criteria to
 follow? What are the "orders" and why are they and proportion so important in Vitruvius? How
 and why is this "theory"? What influence has this book had on architecture & theory?

Assigned Readings:

- * Minor, V.H. "Ancient Theory," in Art History's History (1994), Ch.1 = pp.31-46.
Questions to think about: What was "art" for the Greeks? How are Aristotle's and Plato's
 theories of art different? How is architecture related to art?
- * Onians, J. "Vitruvius," Ch.3 in Bearers of Meaning: the Classical Orders (1988)
 pp.33-40. *Questions to think about:* What is the significance and legacy of Vitruvius?
- Hersey, G. The Lost Meaning of Classical Architecture (1988), pp.1-10, 149-156
 + skim Ch.2 "Architecture & Sacrifice."
Questions to think about: What does Hersey believe is the origin of classical ornament?
- Eisenman, P. "The End of the Classical: the End of the Beginning, the End of the
 End," Perspecta (2006) *Questions to think about:* What does "classical" mean for
 Eisenman? How does Eisenman postulate the persistence of the classical from the
 Renaissance to the late 20th-century? What should replace it?
- Picon, A. "Parametricism Tries to Reconnect with Vitruvius," Log 23 (Fall 2011)
 pp.53-57. This article is a review of: Patrik Schumacher, The Autopoiesis of
 Architecture: A New Framework for Architecture (2011). See for example,
 pp.1-28, 435-444. (Look at both Picon and Schumacher readings)
Questions to think about: What is the relation of Schumacher to Vitruvius? What does it have
 to do with parametric and contemporary design?

Recommended / Other:

- Gelernter. "The Ancient World," Sources of Architectural Form (1995) pp.36-68
Questions to think about: Ch.2: What were the earliest architectural "theories" in ancient Egypt
 and Greece? What was Thales' "organism analogy"? How do "ideal forms" relate to reality in
 Platonic rationalism? How is Aristotelian empiricism different in describing how man "knows"
 the world around him? What are the two main theories of Greek art? What were the basic
 theories of Greek architecture based on? What are the main points of Vitruvius' theory?
- Smith, T.G. "Commentary," in Vitruvius on Architecture (2003), pp.9-57
Questions to think about: Skim or read for good background info on Vitruvius, commentary on
 the text, and how Vitruvius remained relevant through the ages.
- Tzonis, A. & L. Lefaivre. Classical Architecture: The Poetics of Order (1986)
 pp.1-6, as well as pp.9-18, 35-37, 117-119, 273-276.
Questions to think about: What are the "poetics of order" in classical arch.?
- McKewen, I.K. Vitruvius: Writing the Body of Architecture (2003) (no pdf)
- Westfal, C.W. Architecture, Liberty and Civic Order: Architectural Theories
 from Vitruvius to Jefferson and Beyond (2016) (no pdf)
- Hegemann, Werner & E. Peets. The American Vitruvius; an architect's
 handbook of civic art (1922) (no pdf)
- Brophy, Vivienne. A Green Vitruvius : Principles and Practice of Sustainable
 Architectural Design (2011) (Get book at Hunt library: no pdf available)
Questions to think about: Why does Brophy invoke Vitruvius?

* = Most important reading!! Pay particular attention!

