

Week #3: RENAISSANCE & GOTHIC IDEALS

Tu./Th. Sept. 13/15

REMINDER: Pre-20th-Century Paper Topic Forms Due Next Week, Sept. 11

Required Readings for all Students:

- * H.F. Mallgrave, ed. "Classicism & Renaissance", readings in Architectural Theory: Vol.1: An Anthology from Vitruvius to 1870 (2006), pp.15-56.
Questions to think about: Read the excerpts of medieval theory quickly; the most important one is Abbot Suger (#8). How does medieval "theory" differ from Vitruvius & classical theory? Why? Then read the excerpts of Renaissance theory, focusing on Alberti, Serlio, & Palladio, etc.. How are they different? Who is the audience of each? How do they start to constitute a "language" of arch.?

V. Hart, "Intro." Paper Palaces: From Alberti to Scamozzi, in Hart & Hicks, eds., Paper Palaces: the Rise of the Renaissance Arch'l Treatise (1998), pp.1-29

Comparison of Table of Contents of Vitruvius, Alberti, Palladio (Website)

Questions to think about: Compare the contents of Vitruvius, Alberti & Palladio: how are they different? What is the general structure of the book and argument? How are various themes dealt with differently in the three?

Assigned Readings:

- * Alberti, L.B. Ten Books on Architecture = On the Art of Building = De Re aedificatoria = (c.1450) Preface, **Bk.I:**Chs.1,2*,9,10; **Bk.VI**, Chs1,2,3; **Bk.VII**, ch.6*, **Bk.IX:** Chs.1-11, esp. 5,9. (** Please go to the library and check out the actual book; any version will do. If that is not possible, there are links to digital reprints through the course website)
Questions to think about: Skim the entire treatise. How is Alberti's treatise similar to, and different than Vitruvius? Read esp. carefully Bk.IX:5: what does the word *Concinnitas* (or Collocation) mean?
- Borsi, F. "The *De Re Aedificatoria*," Ch.11 in Leon Battista Alberti: the Complete Works (1989), pp.221-243, for commentary
- * Palladio, The Four Books of Architecture = I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura (1570) Preface, **Bk.I:**Chs.1*,12,15; **Bk.II:**1,2, skim 3-17; **Bk.IV:**pref. (** Please go to the library and check out the actual book; any version will do.... excerpts are available on website & Blackboard)
Questions to think about: Skim the entire treatise. What differentiates Palladio's treatise from Vitruvius? How is the text organized? Who was Palladio's target audience? What is innovative about Palladio's illustrations?
- Tavenor, R. "Palladio's 'Corpus': *I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura*," in Paper Palaces; p.233-246, for commentary.

Other Readings:

- Burns, H. "Palladio's project and Palladio's Drawings," and C. Loth, "Palladio's Legacy to America," in C. Hind & I. Murray, eds. Palladio and His Legacy: a Transatlantic Journey (2010), pp. 8-16, 142-151.
- Wittkower, Rudolf. "Principles of Palladio's Architecture," Part III in Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism (1949).
- * Rowe, Colin. "Mathematics of the Ideal Villa: Palladio & Le Corbusier Compared," in Architectural Review v.101 (Mar. 1947), republished in Rowe, Mathematics of the Ideal Villa (1976), pp.2-21.
- Summerson, J. The Classical Language of Architecture (1963), pp.7-26, 40-46.
- Jantzen, H. "Ecclesia Spiritualis," High Gothic. (1962) Pt.II = pp.169-81 (website)
Questions to think about: How does "form" and "material" relate to "meaning" and "symbolism" in Gothic architecture? What things were symbolized by the church building?
- Von Simson, O. "Gothic Form," Gothic Cathedral: origins of Gothic Arch. & Medieval Concept of Order (1956) Pt.I:1=pp.3-20
Questions to think about: What are the main determinants of Gothic form according to Von Simson? What role did geometry play? How is this "theory"?
- Panofsky, E. Gothic Architecture and Scholasticism (1951)
Questions to think about: What is "scholasticism"? How does Panofsky relate the design of Gothic cathedrals to "Scholasticism"? Is this a "theory of architecture"?
- Spuybroek, L. "The Digital Nature of Gothic," in Textile Tectonics (2011) pp.8-41 (also in The Sympathy of Things (2011) pp.11-74).

