Roman Architecture:
How Rome was not built in a Day

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm - April 6 - May 11

Syllabus and Course Outline

Course Aims:
The old adage: “Rome wasn’t built in a day” is relevant because the distinctive architecture of Ancient Rome wasn’t built overnight but rose out of Greek and Etruscan styles as well as from burgeoning technology and engineering. It evolved over centuries until it produced the structures (e.g., the arch) and materials (e.g., stone, brick, and concrete) that we so often associate with the Roman architectural style. In this course, students will learn what makes Roman architecture Roman and how its features evolved over more than a millennium, from around 800 BCE to around 500 CE.

Some of the structural styles associated with Roman architecture—for example, the temple, theater, bath, and amphitheater—were originally borrowed from Greek and Etruscan predecessors. But the Romans took them and made them their own. Memorable Roman buildings such as the Pantheon, the Colosseum, the Ara Pacis, the Arch of Titus, the Mausoleum of Hadrian, and Pompeii’s urban structures will be studied to demonstrate the evolution of the Roman style. That Roman architecture has survived through the centuries—and was even reused in later eras, including the Renaissance—is a tribute to its well-planned durability and strength. Maybe because Rome wasn’t built in a day, it was also built to last.

Note: This course will be recorded.

Course Requirements/Grade Options:
Students attend the six lecture sessions and complete assigned readings from assigned texts, and supplemental texts as provided. If taken for Credit (CR), attendance is required. If taken for Letter Grade (as undergraduate, MLA or prospective graduate students must fulfill), students complete a brief 10 page critical paper with topic having instructor consent or post ample quality discussions on Canvas.

Required Course Text[s]:
ARCH 44  ROMAN ARCHITECTURE    Course Outline:

4/6    Introduction, How to Tell Greek from Roman Architecture, Republican Rome, The Arch, Types of Structures  
       Reading: F. Sear, Roman Architecture, chs. 1-2  
       Vitruvius, De Architectura IV, 1-4 Architectural orders  
(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Vitruvius/4*.html)

4/13   Augustan Rome, Architectural Composite Materials  
       Reading: F. Sear, Roman Architecture, chs. 3-4  
       Vitruvius, De Architectura, II, 3-7  
       (begin at chapter 3 continue through chapter 7)  
(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Vitruvius/2*.html)

4/20   Julio-Claudian Rome, Pompeii (Urban Plans)  
       Reading: F. Sear, Roman Architecture, chs. 5-6  
       Non Vitruvian? The Basilica at Pompeii  
(http://www.vitruvius.be/pompei.htm)  
(http://www.pompeionline.net/pompeii/)

4/27   Flavian Architecture, the Colosseum  
       Reading: F. Sear, Roman Architecture, chs. 7-8  
       “Roman Power/ Roman Architecture” SUNY Oneonta  
(http://employees.oneonta.edu/farberas/arthur/arh200/politics/roman_architecture.html)  
       Vitruvius, De Architectura II, 8-9  
(http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Vitruvius/2*.html)

5/4    Trajanic and Hadrianc Rome, The Pantheon, Trajan’s Market  
       Reading: F. Sear, Roman Architecture, chs. 9-10  
       “Roman Concrete in Trajan’s Market” Berkeley Lab UCB-LBL  
(http://newscenter.lbl.gov/2014/12/15/roman-architectural-concrete/)  
       P. Hunt, “Imperium and Genius in the Pantheon of Rome”  
(http://www.electrummagazine.com/2016/05/imperium-and-genius-in-the-pantheon-of-rome/)  
       P. Hunt, “Pantheon”, Encyclopedia of the Ancient World 2002 (tbp)

5/11   Provincial Roman Empire, Ephesus, Constantinople and Gaul  
       Reading: F. Sear, Roman Architecture, chs. 11-12
“Ephesos: Library of Celsus” Classics, University of Cincinnati

“Constantine’s Constantinople”
(https://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/sozomen-constantinople1.asp)
(http://explorethemed.com/RomProv.asp?c=1)

Note: instructor reserves right to amend schedule