

Florence Semester program – Institute at Palazzo Rucellai

ARCH 413: Advanced Architectural Design Studio

Credits: 5

Instructor: TBA

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisites: Architect Major in 3rd year of higher

Site-visits and material fee: TBA

Course Description:

The course aims to introduce students to the cultural experience of living in a city whose layers date back centuries, while at the same time housing contemporary life for its citizens and visitors. The exercises are designed to acquaint the students with the city of Florence, by enabling them to read the urban fabric, and to map the city in order to facilitate understanding of different environment from the habitual one.

Attention will be directed to addressing the myriad issues of place and context in which architectural projects can be situated. The goal is to equip students with the necessary tools to describe, represent, analyze and interpolate the urban fabric. To this end attention is focused on the issues of context by means of initial intensive exercises in site analysis and documentation. Florence is a city whose layers are deposited throughout the centuries therefore a particular emphasis is placed upon the understanding of the urban context of the city, both in present and historical terms. This directive fosters the development of a comprehensive urban perspective.

The studio will bring together three modes of inquiry that are often considered separately: a theory-based approach, the consideration of historical urban environment, -and a design problem. The site project in the historic neighborhood of Santa Croce, will encompass urban analysis of the present situation and a proposal of recovery plan for public spaces. The second design assignment will be an infill project located in Piazza dei Ciompi. The study of residential typologies entails an understanding of Italian cultural setting and more specifically of Florentine way of dwelling.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

Textbooks:

Fei, Silvano, " Florence: an outline of urban history" Firenze: Alinea, 1995

Naldini, Maurizio " La Piazza, la Loggia, il Palazzo Rucellai" Firenze: Edizioni Medicea, 1989

Zucconi, Guido " Florence: an architectural guide", Venice: Arsenale Editrice, 1995

Wittkower Rudolph "Art and Architecture in Italy, 1600-1750" , London, 1972

Tafari, Manfredo "History of Italian Architecture, 1944-1985" Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1989

Los, Segio "Carlo Scarpa" Cologne: Taschen, 1994

and others, as indicated in the syllabus.

During orientation at the Institute, students will receive a list of textbooks they are required to purchase. Students should not purchase any texts before orientation.