

INSTITUTE AT PALAZZO RUCELLAI

ARCH 430 / AAH 430: Special Topics: The Villa and The Garden

Credits: 3

Instructor: Silvia Catitti, Ph.D. candidate, Licensed Architect

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisite: None

Site visit fee: TBA

Course description:

The course will seek to explore the ways in which men and women from different times, cultures, and countries, transformed the relationship between Architecture and Nature. We focus on the dynamic relationship between villas and their gardens, mainly Renaissance and Baroque in Tuscany and Rome, where gardens were conceived as part of a multifaceted architectural system. The 'villa & garden' complex originates in the Mediterranean area, especially ancient Greece and Rome. In Renaissance Tuscany the early formal garden took shape, later becoming the 'rational' geometrical garden as an extension of the architecture of the villa. From our base in Central Italy, we look North, to the late Renaissance Palladian villa (a model for the 18th and 19th century villas in Northern Europe and America); then East, to a different way of opening architecture to nature: the Japanese home and its garden. We look West, to the modern villa in America by great masters active at the beginning and end of the 20th century, from Frank (Lloyd Wright) to Frank (Gehry). Back in Tuscany, we study the impact on Florentine culture of a new sensibility for gardens in 18th century England, and the re-birth of the Renaissance formal Garden in late 19th-early 20th century Tuscany.

Lectures indoors with powerpoint support will be followed by the direct experience of villas and gardens on site visits.

Basic Bibliography:

- Edith Wharton, *Italian Villas and Their Gardens*, New York, 1904
- James S. Ackerman, *The Villa. Form and Ideology of Country Houses*, Washington, D.C., 1990
- Daniela Mignani, *The Medicean Villas by Giusto Utens*, Florence, 1991
- David R. Coffin, *The Villa in the Life of Renaissance Rome*, Princeton, 1979
- Christopher Thacker, *The History of Gardens*, London, 1979
- Claudia Lazzaro, *The Italian Renaissance Garden*, New Haven - London, 1990
- *The History of Garden Design*, ed. by Monique Mosser - Georges Teyssot, London, 1991

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

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.