COURSE DESCRIPTION
HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE

SSD: STORIA DELL'ARCHITETTURA (ICAR/18)

DEGREE PROGRAMME: ARCHITETTURA (N14)
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

INTEGRATED COURSE: NOT APPLICABLE
MODULE: NOT APPLICABLE
CHANNEL: 03 Cognome A - Z
YEAR OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME: II
PERIOD IN WHICH THE COURSE IS DELIVERED:
CFU: 8

REQUIRED PRELIMINARY COURSES
There are no required preliminary courses.

PREREQUISITES
It is advisable to refer to a textbook of Western Architectural History and a Dictionary of Architecture.

LEARNING GOALS
The course aims to train students in the basic knowledge of the History of Western Architecture in the Modern Age, analysing the linguistic meanings of historical buildings, the stratification of the built environment and the urban processes that govern their form and meaning. In the time span between the 15th and the 18th century, the course aims to provide the basic notions for the knowledge and interpretation of architecture in the different historical phases investigated, fostering the understanding of the formal and spatial significance of the works studied and nourishing a critical reflection on the meaning of the design exercise.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES (DUBLIN DESCRIPTORS)

Knowledge and understanding

The course aims to provide the basic methodological tools for the knowledge of the characteristics of architecture between the 15th and 18th centuries, within the framework of the processes of formation and transformation of the built environment and landscape in relation to the political, social, economic and cultural reality of the periods investigated. The study of these topics will enable the student to describe and critically interpret the meaning of the formal characteristics of architecture and the relationships between these and the historical dimension of reference, linking works, authors and cultural geographies.

Applying knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course of study, the student will have to show knowledge of the meaning of the linguistic code of architecture in the Modern Age, controlling the critical value of the architectural project in the time span investigated and in the framework of the political, social and cultural processes of the period. They will also have to know the history of thought and theories on architecture between the 15th and 18th centuries, between Humanism and the Enlightenment, being able to connect theoretical formulation and design practice.

COURSE CONTENT/SYLLABUS

Preceded by an introduction on the outlines of the History of Greek and Roman architecture, with references to the classical architectural orders and the main exempla of the period, the programme focuses on the memory of antiquity in European architecture from the Renaissance to Neoclassicism: in the time span between the 15th and 18th centuries, the teaching illustrates the historical dimension within which architectural thought and works mature, evaluating the cultural geographies and contributions of individual authors. The construction of stylistic categories in the modern age - the Renaissance, the Baroque and Neoclassicism - will then be treated with particular attention to the historical context of each period, evaluating the outcomes of architectural theories and illustrating the works and authors of relevant interest destined to influence research in art and architecture. An in-depth study will also be devoted to the urban and architectural dimension of Naples. A crossroads of Mediterranean contaminations of ancient ancestry, the city is an extraordinary case study of how historical events and cultural systems have determined, over the centuries, an indissoluble bond between architecture, urban form and landscape in every phase of the historical sedimentation of the urban layout, from the Greek foundation to developments in the medieval, modern and contemporary ages. On this topic, particular attention will be devoted to the 16th century and the work of Giovan Battista Cavagna (Rome c. 1530 - Loreto 1613), a central figure in the updating of Neapolitan classicism in the mirror of 16th century Rome.

The programme is structured around the following topics:

PREMISE. OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE FROM THE CLASSICAL WORLD TO THE MIDDLE AGES: Elements of Greek architecture between the Archaic and Hellenistic ages. The architectural orders. The lesson of Roman architecture: the sense of space.

Vitruvius: De Architectura libri decem and Vitruvianism. The 'renaissance of antiquity' between Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Elements of Gothic architecture.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE RENAISSANCE: Themes and centres of the Renaissance. Florence and the work of F. Brunelleschi. L. B. Alberti and Filarete. The ideal city: theories and praxis. Realisations in Pienza, Urbino and Ferrara. The work of D. Bramante. The building site of the reconstruction of St. Peter's Basilica. Raphael, B. Peruzzi and A. da Sangallo the Younger. Mannerism in architecture: the work of G. Romano and Michelangelo. Architecture in the age of the Counter-Reformation. Albertian ancestry in the work of Vignola. The mature Renaissance and the work of Andrea Palladio. The spread of the Renaissance in France and England.

SEMINAR ARCHITECTURE AND THE CITY IN NAPLES FROM THE ORIGINS TO THE XVI CENTURY: The origins of the city: the Greek foundation, the Roman city, developments in the Middle Ages. Urban expansion in Angevin programmes. The Aragonese city and the spread of the Renaissance. The Spanish viceregal age (1503-1707): don Pedro de Toledo's plan and the formation of extramoenia villages. 16th century architecture in Naples: a long Renaissance. The architecture of the Counter-Reformation and the Neapolitan work of G. B. Cavagna.

THE BAROQUE AGE: Themes, centres, protagonists. Rome: G. L. Bernini, F. Borromini, P. da Cortona. Turin: G. Guarini, F. Juvarra. Naples: C. Fanzago, F. Sanfelice, D. A. Vaccaro. The European Baroque: the work of J.-H. Mansart and J. B. Fischer von Erlach. The Baroque city and the theatre of Absolutism: the model of the capital city. Paris and the model of the place royale. The European fortune of the project for Versailles. C. Wren's plan for London.

CLASSICISM IN THE 18TH CENTURY: Enlightenment and architecture: the themes, centres and protagonists. Marc-Antoine Laugier and the Essai sur l'Architecture (1753). Antiquity and nature in the mirror of the Grand Tour. The Poetics of the Picturesque. Neoclassicism in France from J.-A. Gabriel to J.-G. Soufflot. The work of E.-L. Boullée and C.-N. Ledoux. The influence of Rome and the work of G. B. Piranesi. F. Milizia and the Principles of Architecture (1781). Neoclassicism in England: R. Adam, G. Dance and J. Soane.

READINGS/BIBLIOGRAPHY

D. Watkin, History of Western Architecture, Bologna, Zanichelli 2016, from which chapters related to the topics covered in the lectures will be selected.

Critical selection of writings on architecture between the 16th and 18th centuries from: L. Benevolo, Le città italiane nel Rinascimento in, Id., Storia della città, Roma-Bari, Laterza 1975. A. Bruschi, Bramante, Roma-Bari, Laterza 1985. P. Murray, Architettura del Rinascimento, Milan, Electa 1989. C. Norberg-Schulz, Architettura barocca, Milan, Electa 1978. L. Patetta, Storia dell'architettura. Antologia critica, Milan, Etas Libri 1975. G. Villetti, L'architettura paleocristiana, in Lineamenti di storia dell'architettura, Roma, Carucci 1978. R. Wittkower, Arte e Architettura in Italia: 1600-1750, Turin, Einaudi 1972.

S. Di Liello, Giovan Battista Cavagna. Un architetto pittore fra classicismo e sintetismo tridentino, Naples, Fridericiana Editrice Universitaria 2012.

TEACHING METHODS OF THE COURSE (OR MODULE)

Teacher will give ex cathedra lectures with PowerPoint presentations for approximately 80 % of the total 64 teaching hours; the remaining hours (20 %) will be devoted to study visits.

a) Exam type

☐ Written

☑ Oral

☐ Project discussion

☐ Other

In case of a written exam, questions refer to

☐ Multiple choice answers

☐ Open answers

☐ Numerical exercises

b) Evaluation pattern