The Micro-Urbanism of Rome  Arch 407/507 Seminar, Fall 2010

This course is strongly recommended as a companion offering for students enrolled in Arch 484/584 Fall Studio “Museum for the Tiber River.”

The course is also strongly recommended as a vehicle for exploring the urban structure of Rome in depth for those students taking terminal studio Arch 485/585, Arch 585/586 Winter/Spring Studio, “What If?”

Seminar Format
Credit Hours: 3
Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday
Prerequisites: 484/584 students or permission of instructor

Introduction
This research seminar will study the inter-relationship between the architecture and urbanism of Rome. In Rome, perhaps more than any other city, context is one of the important, if not the most important, factors in generating built form. The isolated, free-standing building is the exception in Rome for nearly all are inextricably embedded in the city’s fabric. Interventions typically respond to—and contribute toward—the city’s rich and complex urban landscape, both built and natural. Students will examine two types of primary sources: cartography, especially focusing on the Pianta Grande of 1748 by Gimabattista Nolli; contemporary detailed views of the city by artists called vedutisti, especially Giuseppe Vasi’s 238 views of Rome to be found in his Magnificenze di Roma. Students will also learn about the city’s topographic and spatial structure through the use of modern satellite images, photography and sophisticated state of the art GIS software such as ArcGis that will reveal the evolution of the city over time.
The course will focus on great Roman urban interventions and spaces including:

- Spanish Steps (1725) F. de Sanctis
- Trevi Fountain (1732-62) N. Salvi
- Porto di Ripetta (ca. 1705) A. Specchi
- Piazza S. Ignazio (ca. 1725) F. Raguzzini
- Piazza S. Maria dell Pace, (1656-61) P. Cortona
- Bosco Parrasio degli Arcadi (1725) A. Canevari
- Piazza S. Pietro (1656-67) Bernini
- Piazza del Popolo (1816-1824) G. Valadier
- Piazza Navona (ca. 1665) Bernini, Boromini, Rainaldi
- Campidoglio (16th century) Michelangelo, Della Porta
- Tiber Island (various)
- Castel S. Angelo and Ponte S. Angelo (various)

**Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art Exhibition: Vasi’s Rome**

This course is designed in tandem with the exhibition “Giuseppe Vasi’s Rome: Lasting Impressions from the Age of the Grand Tour” that will be on campus and open to the public at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art for the duration of the fall quarter 2010. Beside participating in gallery talks and walk-throughs, students will be required to record, analyze and report on one or more objects in the exhibition which will include views of the city by great 17th and 18th century artists and cartographers such as Giuseppe Vasi, Giambattista Piranesi, Paolo Pannini, Alessandro Specchi, Giambattista Falda and Giambattista Nolli.

**Related Exhibition Events**

During the fall term, several lectures, performances and special presentations will be hosted by the museum that relate to the major themes of the exhibition. Students will be expected to attend these learning enhancements and write a short critique/summary of each.

**Course Requirements**

Students will select an architectural urban intervention for an in depth study. Documentation and analytical drawings will be required to elucidate the subject along with a brief explanatory text. The drawings will be part of a public presentation at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in December and will remain on view for the public at the museum for a portion of the exhibition.

**Course Reading**

A course reader will be issued by authors such as John Pinto, Allan Ceen, John Moore, Mario Bevilacqua. The exhibition catalogue, “Giuseppe Vasi’s Rome” co-edited by James Tice and James Harper will have recommended readings. In addition, the following websites will serve as background information:

- The Interactive Nolli Map Website at http://nolli.uoregon.edu/
- Giuseppe Vasi’s Grand Tour of Rome Website at: http://vasi.uoregon.edu/