

Summer 2018

Instructors: Martina Frank; Myriam Pilutti Namer – Ca' Foscari University

Email: martina31@unive.it; myriam.piluttinamer@sns.it

Private and public in Venice, in the Renaissance and beyond

Course description

The interaction between private and public life in Renaissance Venice has been discussed recently in the brilliant monograph of Patricia Fortini Brown (2004). Venetian nobles were remarkable commissioners of works of art and architecture as well as of literature and music. Venetian patricians were also cultured collectors of antiquities and even owners of villas and gardens on the mainland (in the *Terraferma*). At the same time many of them were distinguished politicians, able to rule the state with wisdom and ability in order to guarantee social peace and the independence of the Serenissima Republic from other European powers. Their private life was performed in a universe of *palazzi* (buildings), *villie* (villas) and *giardini* (gardens), while their public role was practiced both in the Ducal Palace and the basilica of the *piazza San Marco* (Saint Mark's square), and in the *scuole* (charitable organizations).

The first part of the course will focus on these aspects through the analysis of selected topics. The chronology considered by Fortini Brown will be extended to the 17th and the 18th centuries in order to give evidence to the changes that occurred in economic and cultural life and to determine their influence on the residential behavior of the Venetian ruling class. The analysis will focus on the form, function and iconography of Venetian private palaces and villas, and the ongoing purpose will be to encourage students to consider and debate the advantages and limits of the interaction between private and public life in Venice, throughout the period under consideration.

The second part of the course will focus on a number of meaningful locations where, during the Renaissance and beyond, the boundaries of public and private sphere overlapped and blended. Examined as single case studies, the Fondaco dei Turchi (now the Museum of Natural History), the Fondaco dei Tedeschi (currently a shopping center), the bridge of Rialto, the *Dogana da mar* (customhouse, since 2009 a branch of the contemporary art collection of François Pinault), the *piazza San Marco* (especially the Napoleonic Wing of the Correr Museum) and the *Giardini* (now the location of one of the two main sections of the *Biennale*), will offer examples of critical junctions between private origins and present public use or vice versa, exploring new paradigms in the definition of space in Venice.

Two trips to selected locations will be a key component of the course, providing students with first-hand vision and experience and thus enabling them to engage with the topics presented in class in even greater depth.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required readings

Reading pack provided that includes chapters from the following titles:

- Bellavitis, Anna, *Family and Society*, in: Dursteler, Eric R. (ed.), *A Companion to Venetian History, 1400-1797*, Leiden-Boston: Brill 2013, 319-351
- Benjamin, Paul, *The Venetian Doges and Their Tombs in the Early Modern Period: Observations on Self-Representation in a Republic*, in: Benjamin, Paul, (ed.) *The tombs of the Doges of Venice from the beginning of the Serenissima to 1907*, Roma: Viella 2016, 13-28
- Cosgrove, Denis, E., *The Palladian landscape: geographical change and its cultural representations in sixteenth-century Italy*, Leicester: Leicester University Press 1993
- Cristellon, Cecilia, Seidel Menchi, Silvana, *Religious Life*, in: Dursteler, Eric R. (ed.), *A Companion to Venetian History, 1400-1797*, Leiden-Boston: Brill 2013, 379-419
- Fortini Brown, Patricia, *Private lives in Renaissance Venice: art, architecture, and the family*, New Haven: Yale University Press 2004 7
- Frank, Martina, *From ephemeral to permanent architecture: the Venetian palazzo in the second half of the seventeenth century*, in: Mulryne J.R., De Jonge, Krista, Martens, Pieter, Morris, R.L.M. (eds.), *Architectures of Festival in Early Modern Europe. Fashioning and re-fashioning Urban and Courtly Space*, Abingdon: Routledge 2017a, 119-138
- Frank, Martina, *The Venetian Casino: Form and Function*, in: Dobilova, Sylva, Muchka, Ivan (eds.), *Looking for Leisure. Court Residences and their Satellites 1400-1700*, Prague: Palatium e-Publication 2017b (<http://www.courtresidences.eu/index.php/publications/e-Publications/#Volume4>)
- Hocquet, Jean-Claude, *The system of Venetian trade*, in: Romanelli, Giandomenico (ed.), *Dogana da mar: la punta dell'arte*, Milano: Mondadori Electa 2010 [in Italian, English, French], 198-218
- Morse, Margaret, *From Chiesa to Casa and back: The Exchange of Public and Private in Domestic Devotional Art*, in: De Maria, Blake; Frank, Mary Engel (eds.) *Reflections on Renaissance Venice. A celebration of Patricia Fortini Brown*, 5 continents: Milano 2012, 143-154
- Pertot, Gianfranco, *Venice extraordinary maintenance. A history of the restoration, conservation, destruction and adulteration of the fabric of the city from the fall of the Republic to the present*, London: Holberton 2004
- Pullan, Brian, *Rich and Poor in Renaissance Venice: The Social Institutions of a Catholic State to 1620*, Cambridge Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1972
- Ravid, Benjamin, *Venice and its Minorities*, in: Dursteler, Eric R. (ed.), *A Companion to Venetian History, 1400-1797*, Leiden-Boston: Brill 2013, 419-485
- Romanelli, Giandomenico (ed.), *Dogana da mar: la punta dell'arte*, Milano: Mondadori Electa 2010 [in Italian, English, French]
- Romano, Denis, *Ducal Tombs as Family Concerns*, in: Benjamin, Paul, (ed.) *The tombs of the Doges of Venice from the beginning of the Serenissima to 1907*, Roma: Viella 2016 29-43
- Swartwood House, Anna, *Pageantry and identity: the Fondaco dei Tedeschi frescoes*, in: De Maria, Blake; Frank, Mary Engel (eds.) *Reflections on Renaissance Venice. A celebration of Patricia Fortini Brown*, 5 continents: Milano 2012, 112-117

Grading

The following percentages are approximate weightings used to determine final grades:

Class attendance: 20%

Class participation: 20%

Mid-term test: 30%

Final test: 30%

Policies and procedures

Attendance is required and considered as part of the grading. *Any absence must be registered by the CFHSS office (email cafoscari-harvard@unive.it). All work submitted for this course must be the student's own and must follow proper citation procedures. All students are required to read in advance the policies on "Plagiarism and Collaboration" in the Handbook for Students at <http://hord.me/iXiaLD>. Please familiarize yourself with the **Guidelines for Using Sources**: <http://bit.ly/cQK9A3>. Other guides to reading, writing, and research are available on the course website: <http://hord.me/yYGeJy>*

Field trips

- A half-day trip to Stra along the Riviera del Brenta to see the magnificent Villa Pisani
- We will also visit two historical Venetian palazzi, Ca' Zenobio degli Armeni and Ca' Tron

Seminars

Lesson	Title and Description	Date
1	The Republican Society and the use of public spaces (Frank)	Mon 25 June
Readings	Bellavitis 2013	
2	Self-Representation (Frank)	Wed 27 June
Readings	Benjamin 2016; Romano 2016	
	Field trip: Villa Pisani at Stra'	Fri 29 June
3	The Houses of the Patriciate: form and function of the casa (Frank)	Mon 2 July
Readings	Fortini Brown 2004: 1-22; Morse 2012; Frank 2017a	
4	Villas, Gardens and the Terraferma (Frank)	Wed 4 July
Readings	Cosgrove 1993: 30-58; 93-115; Frank 2017b	
5	Fieldtrip: visit to Ca' Tron and Ca' Zenobio (Frank)	Mon 9 July
Readings		
6	Mid-term exam	Wed 11 July
Readings	Religious life (Pilutti Namer)	
7	Pullan 1972: 33-99; Cristellon, Seidel Menchi 2013	Mon 16 July
Readings	Minorities: Fondaco dei Turchi, Fondaco dei Tedeschi (Pilutti Namer)	
8	Ravid 2013; Swartwood House 2012	Wed 18 July
Readings	'Theaters of the world': collectors and collections (Pilutti Namer)	
9	Fortini Brown 2004: 217-251	Mon 23 July
Readings	Dogana da Mar: from customhouse to museum (Pilutti	

	Namer)	
10	Romanelli 2010: 77-128, 274-277; Hocquet 2010	Wed 25 July
Readings	Metamorphosis of Venice after the fall of the <i>Serenissima</i> (Pilutti Namer)	
11	Pertot 2004: 12-50; 51-59	Mon 30 July
12	Final exam	Wed 1 August