

An introduction to architecture: the history of building design

Start date 6th September 2019 **End date** 8th September 2019

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Sarah Pearson **Course code** 1920NRX003

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus
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Tutor biography

A specialist in the architectural history of Italy from the architecture of the Renaissance to rationalist architecture of the Fascist era. Sarah's MA focused on the architecture of Andrea Palladio, whilst her PhD investigated convent building in Northern Italy with particular reference to the Duchy of Urbino and the Sienese architect Francesco di Giorgio Martini. She has published on this subject, including *'La Scala Elicoidale: The Spiral Ramps of Francesco di Giorgio. An Architectural Re-Invention'* in *Reconstructing Francesco di Giorgio Architect*. Further research interests include Renaissance art and English Brutalist architecture. In addition to undertaking invited lectures, she has taught at the University of Reading and the University of East Anglia, and for Martin Randall Travel.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 **Introduction and discussion of terminology**

The first session will introduce the format of the course and provide an opportunity to consider how architectural design has been subdivided by style and chronology. It will examine the geography of architectural development and in the course of discussion will allow students to identify areas of particular interest within the broad sweep of architectural design.

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **The Classical Period**

The second session will examine the architecture of Ancient Greece, Classical Rome and the Early Christian period. This architecture provides a foundation for all subsequent building and introduces the classical language of architecture.

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **The International Gothic Style**

The third session considers the Gothic, the style associated with churches and cathedrals whose spread across the breath of Europe affords it the term 'International'. The gothic style evolved over hundreds of years and provided a vast new architectural language centred around the pointed arch and the quest for height and light.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 **Renaissance and Rediscovery**

The fourth session considers the Renaissance in Europe from its Italian origins to the spread of classicism in the low countries and beyond. The Renaissance marked a rebirth of interest in the classical past and was deeply influential on later architectural styles, in particular the classical revival of the eighteenth century.

18:00 – 18:30 Free

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 **Baroque, Mannerism and National styles**

After the formality of the Renaissance, the Baroque and Mannerist styles encompass the disparate qualities of power, monumentality playfulness and humour. In session five we will also examine the geographic differences in these styles and consider how and why architectural styles shifted in influence across Europe.

21:30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **Technology, Revival and Revolution**

New technologies allowed for new architectural possibilities and in session six we move from the Grand Tour era of country house building toward the modern age and the birth of metal frame construction in the architecture of the industrial age. This was a time of revival architecture and we will consider the way in which architectural styles were re invented.

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **The Present and the Future**

The final session of the course will examine the architectural developments of the twentieth century, including the international modern style, brutalism and post modernism. We will consider the future of architectural construction and conclude with a summary of the many architectural styles examined in the course as a whole.

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

This course will provide an overview of the design and development of western architecture in the past two thousand years.

Over the duration of the various sessions students will learn and employ the terminology – the so called language of architecture – to describe and discuss buildings.

Students will engage with stylistic development and consider architectural design as a reflection of the time in which it was created.

Content:

The overall intention of the course is to acquaint students with the basic terminology of the language of architecture and the chronology of architectural styles in the past 2000 years of architectural design. Within this broad overview we will examine the classical architecture of Greece and Rome and the Classical Orders. The Gothic era will examine the Early Christian, Decorated and Perpendicular styles whilst the Renaissance lecture will examine the transition from Gothic design to the formal classical language. Continuing with a chronological appraisal students will examine the Baroque, Mannerist and Neo Classical styles to appreciate and understand the differences between the various stylistic labels. We will consider the advent of technology as a part of architectural design and the revival styles of Victorian Gothic and Tudorbethan. The modern period will include the examination of styles such as Futurism, Brutalism and Postmodernism. In addition to understanding the chronology of these styles we will engage with aspects of architectural design including planning, construction, materials and methods. There will be scope within the format of the course to pay particular attention to architectural styles of particular interest to students.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be delivered as a series of lectures illustrated with PowerPoint presentations, with a strong emphasis on student interaction. Class discussion will be a key component of the course and students are encouraged to ask questions and engage in debate on the given topics.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

Identify and explain different architectural styles in western architecture

Understand and correctly use the basic terminology of architecture including the classical language

Confidently evaluate and discuss the design of an individual building

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Honour, H and Fleming, J	The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture	Penguin, 1999
Pevsner, N	An Outline of European Architecture	Thames and Hudson, 2009
Summerson, J	The Classical Language of Architecture	Thames and Hudson, 1980

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 06 August 2019