

21st Century Rome: Arts and Architecture
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Syllabus

Rome continues to renew its cultural and artistic relevance as the centuries go by. This class will bring the Italian capital city to life through the exploration of Roman architecture, urban planning, art, and cinema. Lectures and guest presentations will enrich participants' perspective of a metropolis deeply aware of its past, while moving forward.

Lesson 1. A SYNTHETIC OVERVIEW OF ROME ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

This introductory talk will provide an overview of the course material and the guest speakers. For such a complex and unique city as Rome, innumerable forms of representation are valid and relevant. Through a cross-disciplinary approach to urban living and its traces over time, Rome will be presented as an ever-evolving metropolitan organism contending the shape of its present identity with the glorious heritage of its own past. Architecture and Urban Design, Food Culture, Opera performance, and Photography of its sprawl presents a highly textured account of the Eternal City.

Lesson 2. THE FASCIST ARCHITECTURE OF ROME

Much of the urban identity of Rome was shaped under the twenty years of the Fascist regime. In its earlier stages, Mussolini established a ground-breaking program to reshape vast sectors of the historical center as well as the outskirts of the ever-growing metropolis. Italian Rationalism was a point of pride for the then new political era, involving some of the best design talents Italy ever produced. This talk delves into the urban and architectural contribution to the pioneers of the avant-garde, whose works continue to garner attention to this day.

Lesson 3. FOOD CULTURE IN ROME: GUEST SPEAKER: LINDA CARUCCI

In Italy, all matters get resolved at the dinner table, but especially so in Rome. If food is culture, then Rome is also the capital of a deeply rich cuisine. From produce selection at farmer's markets, sometimes as old as 7 centuries, to preparation and consumption of meals at various settings, food is both a nutritional and social affair. Renown guest speaker Linda Carucci will offer an overview of the culinary rewards of reading the city through its very wide menu, of appeal to every palate.

Lesson 4. THE PIAZZAS AND WATERS OF ROME

Piazas and Waters are crucial to the experience of the public realm in Rome. Both of them occupies a very special place. Piazas, whether in the historical

center or in suburbia, flat or sloped, raised or lowered, this distinctively Italian spatial organization collect the social and cultural energy of the Roman society. Concurrently, water is a central visual and urban element in Roman city living. Fountains especially, large and small, are focal points, as well as backgrounds, to day-to-day strolling and epochal events. This talk will address the unique roles, even when compared to the Italian cities, that both piazzas and waters occupy in the urban culture of Rome.

Lesson 5. THE WINES OF ROME: GUEST SPEAKER: ALEX M. SARAGOZA
Wine, just like food, is a node in a set of social relationships where hedonism and the culture of good life sovereigns. The Enoteca- a point of sale of sophisticated wines- is revered as much as a religious temple by Romans. Expert guest speaker Alex M. Saragoza will walk us through the vast offerings of available regional wines to learn more closely about what makes a wine distinctly Roman and much more.

Lesson 6. OPERA IN THE CITY: GUEST SPEAKER: KIP CRANNA
Music in general, and Opera especially, has played a monumental role both in the artistic realm and in the social rituals of Roman society. The architectural production of theaters and the training of musicians and singers were deeply entrenched in the mythology of Rome. Guest speaker Kip Cranna, Dramaturg Emeritus of San Francisco Opera, will present an overview of how Opera as a distinct musical form had its roots in Italy and came to be embraced in Rome, attracting audiences from all segments of society. Special emphasis will be given to important operas that premiered in Rome.

Lesson 7. CONTEMPORARY ROME THROUGH THE LENS OF PHOTOGRAPHY: GUEST SPEAKER: TONI GARBASSO
Suburbia is often the artistic target of the landscape and urban photographer. The visual chronology of the recent transformation of Rome brings to the fore a web of questions concerning the quality of the contemporary environment as well as the at times romantic at times critical rendition of the natural topography. For over 40 years, noted photographer Toni Garbasso has recorded a pictorial diary of the range of architectural modernity outside of the Roman walls. His perspectives would shed light on the contradiction of the modern development in Rome.

Lesson 8. THE URBAN, ARCHITECTURAL, AND DESIGN CULTURE OF ROME TODAY.
Rome continues to evolve on the bedrock of its dense cultural heritage. The city fabric is an urban book of material history judiciously recording, in its highs and lows. The dialog between the contemporary Roman citizen and the historical environment informs recent and upcoming designs. This conclusive talk will survey the architectural and artistic accomplishments of both Roman and Italian architects as well as outsized personalities from Europe and the

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United States, each leaving a deep mark through their work to the unending tale of Rome.