

Classical Architecture

The architecture of ancient Greek and Rome is one of humanity's greatest achievements; it stands at the very origins of western civilization. An essential question for us will be how and why these forms have endured as ideals of beauty for 2,500 years. The course is divided into three two-week segments devoted respectively to Greece (including Paestum and the Acropolis of Athens), ancient Rome (including the Roman Forum and Pompeii), and neo-classical architecture from the Renaissance to the present (including Palladio, Burlington, Jefferson, and modern classical revivals). Readings are drawn from a variety of ancient and modern sources.

1. Introduction to Classical Architecture

Greece :

Paestum : Temples of Hera and Athena

Readings: Vitruvius, excerpts from *De architectura*.

2. **Athens.** Acropolis: Parthenon, Propylaia, Athena Nike, Erechtheion.

Choragic monument of Lysicrates

Readings: excerpts from Herodotus, Thucydides, Pausanias, Plutarch, Augustine on Varro.

"The Parthenon Marbles," article by Bruce Clark, statements by Greek government and by British Museum.

3. **Rome** :

Specific characteristics of Roman architecture

Roman forum, Pantheon

Readings : Livy, Suetonius, Plautus,

4. **Pompeii**, Roman wall painting

Reading : Petronius

5. **Renaissance and Neo-Classicism** :

Renaissance works by Brunelleschi, Alberti, Bramante, Sansovino, Palladio, Michelangelo.

Baroque and neo-classical works by Borromini, Inigo Jones, Burlington, Robert Adam, Soufflot.

Reading: Alberti's preface; Laugier, Introduction and Chapter I, "General Principles of Architecture," from *Essay on Architecture*.

6. **Neo-Classicism and Classical Revival**:

Works by Jefferson, Vignon, Chalgrin, Ithiel Town, von Klenze ; McKim, Mead & White, Peter Behrens, Mies van der Rohe, Brown and Venturi.