**History of Modern Architecture**

## Prof. Jessica Gritti

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The idea of local Renaissance is one of the major reflections on 15th century architecture of the last thirty years and has mostly affected those cultural themes once considered peripheral compared to an outdated concept of Renaissance, based on the primacy of Florentine or central Italian architecture.

The duchy of Milan, ruled by the Sforza Family, is particularly suitable for highlighting the variety of models and heterogeneous sources that contribute to the formulation of a single language, no longer seen as depending on foreign cultures, but as the result of a stratification and integration of experiences that are defined and reduced into unity in a very peculiar and representative way.

The course therefore aims to investigate the architecture in Lombardy in the second half of the fifteenth century - which also includes the works of Donato Bramante - and the process of formation of the local architectural culture through a detailed examination of the construction sites, of the activity of professionals, of the architectural language, and of the clients. The course aims to provide useful tools for understanding design and spatial aspects, architectural language, construction techniques, cultural contexts and relationships with the figurative arts. Lectures will discuss various historical-critical positions, the different methods of constructing history, interpreting buildings directly and using correct architectural lexicon.

By the end of the course, students will have acquired architectural and historical knowledge of the buildings, architects and the specific cultural context covered on the single-subject course; moreover, they will have learned how to describe a building correctly and to analyse architectural language, as well as how to make links between architecture and the historical, political and cultural context, and with the figurative arts. It is hoped that the students will develop the aptitude to present and explain the main historical and critical positions on the issues addressed.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Donato Bramante and the architecture of the fifteenth century in Lombardy

***READING LIST***

Students must study the following parts:

A. Bruschi, *Bramante*, Edizioni Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2003 (ma qualsiasi edizione successiva al 1983), pp. 1-102

L. Giordano, *Milano e l’Italia nord-occidentale*, in *Storia dell’architettura italiana. Il Quattrocento*, a cura di F.P. Fiore, Electa, Milano 1998, pp. 166-199

R. Schofield, *Bramante dopo Malaguzzi Valeri*, in “Arte Lombarda”, 167, 2013/1, pp. 5-51

R. Schofield, *Bramante milanese: collisioni di culture architettoniche?*, in “Arte Lombarda”, 176-177, 2016/1-2, pp. 7-15

Students must also study two of the course themes in depth, for which the specific reading list will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures with the projection of images and possible educational visits.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

During semester 2 and before the exam, students must submit an essentially descriptive text (maximum two pages) on one of the buildings featured on the syllabus to be agreed with the lecturer. The assignment is a form of practical exercise designed for the purpose of acquiring the knowledge and appropriate use of specific architectural lexicon. As such, it is not subject to evaluation and does not contribute to the final mark; rather, it will be the subject of the first question in the oral exam. The exam paper for students who repeat the exam for the second time can be replaced with some readings to be agreed with the lecturer.

The oral exam will assess students’ preparation on the main reading list and on the specific reading list for the two areas of study chosen by the student from the three options presented in lectures. The exam usually consists of three sets of questions, the first of which is based on the written exercise, followed by the questions related to the single-subject course. In the oral exam, students will be assessed on: their ability to present the most important information on the architects examined and their works and to describe the buildings, with the help of images; their understanding of the most important critical interpretations relating to the topics covered on the course and their discussion (for the images, reference will be made to those featured in the texts on the reading list and those projected in lectures, which will be made available to students via Blackboard).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course has no prerequisites in relation to specific contents; however, basic textbook knowledge of the history of modern art that includes the main architectural works and figures of the 15th and 16th centuries will undoubtedly enhance students’ understanding of the topics covered in lectures.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.