

# Rome Continuity and Change: The City Layered in Time

March 8 to March 20, 2013 (dates in Rome)

A familiarity with the major monuments and places in Rome has always been an essential part of a well founded education. Writers, from Keats to Shelley, painters, from Corot to Turner, and in our own era, architects as diverse as Lutyens, Le Corbusier, and Kahn have found inspiration there. The Eternal City is unique in the world, not only for the continuity of form and physical remains spanning over three millennia, but unlike many “dead” cities where great civilizations were once present, there has never been a complete



break in its habitation and use or periods in which the prior achievements have been lost and forgotten. In this way Rome provides a vivid palimpsest at every turn ripe for examination.

It is even possible today to traverse its seven hills, navigate its streets, and linger in its piazze guided by the plan created by Gianbattista Nolli back in 1748. When

*Above: Roman Forum; Below: Pantheon (all watercolor images are by Stephen Harby)*



compared with a modern aerial photo, it is astonishing how few changes have been imposed on the urban fabric in the intervening two and a half centuries. But we will trace these changes as well: the refinements of the Piazza del Popolo, the construction of the Tiber embankments, the enlargement of major arteries to accommodate vehicular traffic, the insertion of the massive monument to

Victor Emmanuel, the expansion of the city beyond the Roman walls, and the massive urban “improvements” at the hand of Mussolini.

This in depth twelve-day travel seminar is designed to provide a broad overview of Rome’s major architectural sites, topography and systems of urban organization. Buildings and sites from antiquity to the twentieth century will be studied as part of the context of an ever-changing city with its sequence of layered accretions. We will pay close attention to historical continuity and change, to the ways in which and the reasons why some elements and approaches were maintained over time and others abandoned.

This seminar/study tour is based on a Yale School of Architecture course which Stephen Harby developed (in collaboration with Professor Emeritus Alec Purves) and has directed for the past eleven years. The course, for thirty students, is an intensive month and also incorporates sketching and drawing, as the best means to “see” and retain the critical information of scale, proportion and form. The presently proposed offering is a distillation of that experience to fit within reasonable time constraints of our group’s full schedules.



*Above: Plan of Rome by Gianbattista Nolli, 1748. When compared to an aerial photo of the city today, (below) it is clear how constant the fabric has remained within the Centro Storico (historic core).*

Visits both within the city and outside Rome will encompass buildings, landscapes and gardens. Selected local experts will give lectures in situ. The program of visits has been strategically structured a) in response to Rome’s physical constraints and b) in relation to the thematic underpinnings of our seminar. The theme of continuity and change will be explored through the persistence and transformation of architectural types (i.e. villa, palazzo and basilica) as well as the role of the classical language from antiquity through the present day.

Our base will be the Hotel Nazionale, located right in the heart of the centro storico, just steps from (equally importantly): The Pantheon (world’s most perfect building?), Tazza d’Oro (best coffee?), Giolitti (best gelato?) and via Frattina (best shoe shopping?). It is a reliable and comfortable hotel, favored by some of the politicians in session at the Palazzo Montecitorio on whose square it fronts.

Days will be spent exploring nearby locations on foot, or using small vehicles (size restricted within Rome) for lifts when energy flags or distances are too great, and for the day to Tivoli a larger more comfortable coach will be used.

While our schedule is packed, several mornings and afternoons are set aside for individual reflection, exploration or shopping.

As with most Stephen Harby Invitational adventures, included are costs from initial airport pick-up to departure transfer for lodging, meals, arranged visits and transport, so you can retire your wallet upon arrival, unless individual temptation says otherwise!





*The Pantheon, constructed by Emperor Hadrian in 118-128 AD, is a subject of continual fascination for Stephen Harby and was the subject of a year's study when he was a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome in 1999-2000. These studies in watercolor explore the dramatic effects of sunlight in the space.*

## Itinerary

### Day 1, Friday, March 8, 2013 Arrival

Today is unstructured to allow guests to arrive as flights dictate and to settle and explore the environs of the Hotel Nazionale and to unpack, as this will be our home for the entire stay!

We will gather for an introductory lecture followed by dinner at Da Fortunato al Pantheon, the place your leader always heads to on his first night! After dinner, we might stroll over to Fontana di Trevi in order to throw a coin in to give thanks that fortune has brought us to Rome once again, or perhaps for the first time!

### Day 2, Saturday, March 9 Overview

The structure of this day is to provide an orientation to the often dizzying confusion of Rome. This will become clearer to us as we walk over several of the hills and across the area enclosed



by the original Roman walls and as we examine its various layered systems, rooted in the topography, infrastructure of Sixtus V's Baroque planning, and its successive implementation.

Places in approximate order:

- Santa Maria del Popolo to see Choir of Bramante, Chapels of Raphael, and Fontana, paintings by Caravaggio, and sculpture by Sansovino and Bernini.
- Mausoleum Of Augustus, etc.
- Palazzo Borghese, Vignola

The following day-by-day schedule is intended to give an idea of the scope and grain of the experience, however as time draws closer, there may be adjustments required as availability of sites and lecturers dictate. A comprehensive reading list will be provided as well as notes providing plans, diagrams and information about the sites we will be seeing. Individual headsets allowing us to hear the on-site commentaries will be provided.



- Caffè Greco, rest stop, and to see paintings by artists of the Gran Tour.
- Scalinata di Spagna
- Pal. Barberini, Maderno, Bernini and Borromini
- San Carlino (brief), Borromini
- Lunch Rist. Borromini, opposite San Carlo
- S. Maria Maggiore
- S. Giov-in Laterano
- Cloister
- Return by bus to Vittoriano, in order to have a sunset overview of what we have covered.



Above: Porta Maggiore; Below: Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli

Tonight we will have a simple dinner of delicacies at Casa Bleve

### Day 3, Sunday, March 10 Antiquity

This entire day, spent with Belgian archaeologist, Jan Gadeyne, is focused on clarifying the often considered confusing jumble of the ancient fora by examining each historical layer in turn. This will establish for us a good understanding of Rome in Antiquity, which will become for us the first conceptual layer of our understanding.

- Foro Romano
- Break for Lunch
- Imperial Fora
- San Clemente
- Santo Stefano Rotondo

### Day 4, Monday, March 11 Tivoli

Roman Emperor Hadrian, was great traveler, master builder and architectural patron of all time. We will spend the day exploring the great villa/place complex he built in nearby Tivoli where he experimented with water systems,

revolutionary architectural forms and evoked the exotic lands of his travels. At the end of the day we will see how the principal of water's gravitational flow played out on a steeper slope and much smaller site a millenium and a half later. At the beginning of the day we will stop to see the Church Richard Meier designed to herald in this new millenium.

- Church of 2000, Richard Meier, Tor Tre Teste
- Villa Adriana
- Villa d'Este



### Day 5, Tuesday, March 12 Centric Spaces

Another way to bring clarity to the profusion of varied architectural forms is to focus on distinct building typologies. One of the most elemental is that of round or centric buildings, of which we will examine a number across multiple periods.

- Pantheon
- San Eligio, Raphael
- San Andrea al Quirinale, Bernini
- San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Borromini
- Afternoon free for relaxation and shopping

Day 6, Wednesday, March 13  
Papal Collections

After antiquity, the next major epoch in the shaping of Rome was the role it played as the center of Christendom and locus of the Papal throne. The next two days will be spent with distinguished art historian Jeffrey Blanchard, who will show us the Basilica of St. Peters, the vast collections and numerous masterpieces in the Vatican palace, and the numerous palaces built by the families associated with the papacy. Much of the grandeur that greets the visitor to Rome stems from the additions to the city made by the various powerful papal families. These are the families (Barberini, Borghese, Farnese, Pamphili, and others) who produced the reigning popes during



All images this page: Sant' Ivo della Sapienza

the Renaissance and Baroque periods. They built sumptuous palaces, filled them with works of art they acquired or commissioned, and often transformed the urban fabric of the surrounding neighborhoods. Over the next few days we will visit some of these places and admire their collections.

- Palazzo Farnese
- Farnesina
- Villa Giulia
- Lunch
- Villa Borghese

Day 7, Thursday, March 14 Vatican

Today we will continue with Jeffrey Blanchard and a day-long visit to the Vatican, starting with the Basilica, where we will sort out its many layers and periods of construction, and then move on to the Vatican Papal palace, including the Sistine Chapel, Stanze of Raphael, and the collections of the museum.

- Piazza
- Basilica
- Break for Lunch
- Vatican Palace

- Cortile del Belvedere
- Bramante Stair
- Pio Clementino
- Pinacoteca
- Stanze
- Cap. Sistina
- Scala Regia (as we exit)

Day 8, Friday, March 15, Centric Spaces, cont'd

- Morning free for relaxation and shopping



- Lunch
- Pal. Prop. Fide (Re Magi), Borromini
- Sforza Chapel at Santa Maria Maggiore, Michelangelo

Day 9, Saturday, March 16, Palaces, cont'd

Today we have the great fortune to be in Rome for the one day of the year the private quarters and chapel are open in Peruzzi's magnificent and quirky Palazzo Massimo alle Colonne. The opening is to commemorate a miracle which took place at the death of Paolo a young Massimo princeling in 1583, and a special mass has been said every year since in the chapel created on the site of deathbed location.

- Palazzo Massimo, Festa del Miracolo
- Palazzo Colonna
- Piazza Navona (S. Agnese)
- Santa Maria della Pace

Day 10, Sunday, March 17 Major National Museums

- Sant'Ivo della Sapienza
- Campidoglio-Piazza and Its Museums
- Museo Nazionale Pal. Massimo alle Terme
- Lunch
- Centro Montemartini, Museum

Day 11, Monday, March 18 Off the Beaten Path



Above: Bernini's colonnade of St. Peter's; Below: Parco delle Aquadotte

- Cavaliere di Malta, San Priorato, Piranesi's only built work
- Villa Madama
- MXXI, New Museum, Designed by Zaha Hadid
- Porta Pia, Michelangelo
- Santa Costanza
- Cornaro Chapel, Santa Maria della Vittoria, Bernini

Day 12, Tuesday, March 19 EUR: La Terza Roma

For our last day, we will journey beyond the walls of Rome to visit the EUR (Esposizione Universale Roma), the new city Mussolini planned to host an exposition in 1942 to commemorate

the twentieth year of his rule. Of course World War II interrupted those plans and the city was only completed in the 1950s and 60s. We will visit the museum devoted to Roman antiquity and see the vast plaster model that was commissioned at the time. It represents the city at the time of Constantine, and on it, with special permission to inspect it at close range, we will be able to trace our steps through the city over the last ten days.

- Mus. Del Civ. Italiana
- Pal. Dei Congressi, Adalberto Libera
- Garbatella

Day 13, Wednesday, March 20 Arrivederci!

Today, guests will fly independently home or onward with individual transfers provided to either of the Rome airports, at Fiumicino or Ciampino.



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## Information as to Costs and Registration For

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Can be made by contacting Stephen Harby Invitational

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