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# Rome Continuity and Change: The City Layered in Time

May 21 to 31 and/or November 8 to 16, 2021 (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 Edwin Lutyens, Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, and Robert Venturi 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 compared with a modern aerial photo,

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

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 week plus weekend-long 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.



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).

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 directed for fourteen 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.

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 Colonna Palace, 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. And best of all, it offers a roof-top terrace for *al fresco* breakfasts and evening aperitivi!

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.

Our schedule will be packed, and while only one morning is set aside for individual reflection, exploration or shopping, we strongly recommend an early arrival or later departure to pursue individual interests, and bookings for additional days can be arranged for you.

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, May 21 and/or November 6, 2021 Arrival

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

We will gather for an introductory lecture followed by dinner at Casa Bleve, an emporium of fine wines and agricultural products housed in a grand palazzo! 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, May 22 and/or November 7, 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 traverse 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, Chapel of Raphael, and Fontana, paintings by Caravaggio, and sculpture by Sansovino and Bernini.

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.



- Mausoleum Of Augustus, etc.
- Palazzo Borghese, Vignola
- Caffè Greco, rest stop, and to see paintings by artists of the Grand 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 Armando al Pantheon.

**Day 3, Sunday, May 23 and/or November 8 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

Dinner tonight will be at Rome's oldest restaurant, La Campana.

**Day 4, Monday, May 24 and/or November 9 Papal Chapels**

After a morning on your own, we will set off to visit two chapels, not normally open to the public. These are the Sforza Chapel that is part of the Basilica Church of Santa Maria Maggiore and the Chapel of the Kings of the Magi at the Collegio del Propaganda Fide. These two spaces, designed by Michelangelo and Borromini, respectively, demonstrate the use of unique geometrical solutions, the one a variant on a centric space, and the other derived from a double cube and both creating an armature that then defines a space but also permits a larger space to exist and be perceived beyond its bounds. Dinner tonight will be at Renata e Luisa, chosen for its inventive cuisine and cozy atmosphere.



**Day 5, Tuesday, May 25 and/or November 10 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

Dinner tonight will be on your own, with suggestions provided for the many nearby options.

Day 6, Wednesday, May 26 and/or November 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



*All images this page: Sant' Ivo della Sapienza*

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

Dinner tonight will be on your own, with suggestions provided for the many nearby options.

Day 7, Thursday, May 27 and/or November 12 Vatican

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 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.

Today we will meet Jeffrey Blanchard and spend with him 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, May 28 and/or November 13, Great Palaces

Morning free for relaxation and shopping, following which, we will join Jeffrey Blanchard for a look at some of the great palazzi, papal villas and collections (from among the following--time won't permit seeing all of them!):

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

Day 9, Saturday, May 29 and/or November 14, Palaces, cont'd

The palaces of Rome are the true symbols of papal power and wealth, and many of them remain in the hands of



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

the papal families who built them. One of these is the great Palazzo Colonna, at the base of the Quirinale Hill. It has a grand gallery housing a magnificent art collection, and preserves a canon ball fired by the French troops defending the papacy from Garibaldi in 1849, still embedded in the marble stairs. It also enjoyed a starring role in the 1953 film, Roman Holiday with Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck.

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

Day 10, Sunday, May 30 and/or November 15, Major National Museums

The final day will begin with a suitable crescendo at Borromini's masterful gem of Sant'Ivo della Sapienza. From there we will proceed by foot and car to some of Rome's most important national and city museums.

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

Our farewell dinner tonight will be at nearby Da Fortunato al Pantheon.

Day 11, Monday, May 31 and/or November 16 Arrivederci!

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

**Note:** This program is being planned just as Italy is entering into its third pandemic related lockdown. The feasibility of a May trip, in particular, is optimistic, and details of visits, accessibility of sites, etc. are all to be confirmed. The realization of these programs will depend on many factors, of course, and no final commitment will be expected or provided until very close to the actual time.



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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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