



The art of the garden in early modern Italy (Art 333b)

Yvonne Elet
 Spring 2016
 Working Syllabus

(AR) on class reserve in the Art Library
 (M) on class moodle site

February 1 Introduction: the culture of gardens and landscape in early modern Italy

February 8 Landscape metaphors; Gardens and country life in ancient Rome

Selection of research topics and presentation dates

Conan, Michel . "Landscape Metaphors and Metamorphosis of Time," in *Landscape Design and the Experience of Motion*, ed. Michel Conan (Dumbarton Oaks, 2003). (M)

Conan, Michel. "Nature into Art: gardens and landscapes in the everyday life of Ancient Rome," in *Journal of Garden History* 6 (1986), 348-356. (M)

Ackerman, James, *The Villa. Form and Ideology of Country Houses* (Princeton, 1990), chapter 2, "The Ancient Roman Villa," 35-62. (AR)

Rogers, Elizabeth Barlow. *Landscape Design: a Cultural and Architectural History*, (New York: Abrams, 2001.) Chapter Two, 79-96, including section IV. "Garden and Villa: The Art of Landscape in Ancient Rome". (AR)
Du Prey, Pierre. *The Villas of Pliny from Antiquity to Posterity*. (Chicago and London, 1994,) 311-319 (Pliny's letters about his villas.) (AR)

**February 15 The rise of the 'humanist' villa in fifteenth-century Tuscany;
The Italian reception of Islamic gardens**

Lillie, Amanda. "The Humanist Villa Revisited," in *Language and Images of Renaissance Italy*, ed. Allison Brown (Oxford, 1995.) (M)
Kent, F. W. *Lorenzo de' Medici and the Art of Magnificence* (Baltimore and London, 2004,) pp. 112-151 (Chapter Five: "Lorenzo, "Fine Husbandman" and Villa Builder, 1483-1492.") (AR)
Balestracci, Duccio. *The Renaissance in the Fields. Family Memoirs of a Fifteenth-Century Tuscan Peasant* (University Park, PA, 1999,) Chapter Seven: "Cultivation and Animal Husbandry," pp. 71-81. (AR)
Kluckert, Ehrenfried. *European Garden Design: from Classical Antiquity to the present day*, 2000, pp. 32- 39 on "Islamic Gardens in Spain" (AR)
Brothers, Cammy, "The Renaissance Reception of the Alhambra: the Letters of Andrea Navagero and the Palace of Charles V, *Muquarnas* 11 (1994), 79-102. (M)

**February 22 Dominion or collaboration? The notion of a "Third Nature";
Villas and gardens in sixteenth-century papal Rome**

MacDougal, Elisabeth Blair. "An Introduction to Roman Gardens of the Sixteenth-Century," in *Fountains, Statues, and Flowers: Studies in Italian Gardens of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, Washington, DC, 1993, pp. 1-22. (M)
Claudia Lazzaro, *The Italian Renaissance Garden. From the Conventions of Planting, Design, and Ornament to the Grand Gardens of Sixteenth-Century Central Italy* (New Haven and London : Yale University Press, 1990). Chapter One, "Nature and Culture in the Garden," pp. 8-19; and Chapter Four, "Nature Ordered: The Design of Renaissance Gardens," pp. 69-108. (Don't worry about the specifics of individual gardens, but read for the general forms and concepts involved in the Renaissance ordering of landscape.) (AR)
David Coffin, *The Villa in the Life of Renaissance Rome* (Princeton: 1979), Chapter 8: "Classical Antiquity in Renaissance Dress," pp 241-257 (Belvedere, Genazzano, Villa Madama only). (AR)
"Raphael's description of the Villa Madama," in Guy Dewez, *Villa Madama. A memoir relating to Raphael's project* (London, 1993), 21-31. (M)

February 26 Photoessay due (email or hardcopy in my box by 5pm)

February 29 Iconography and ideology in the mid-16th century garden: the Medici villa at Castello

Philippe Morel, "Mannerist grottos in Sixteenth-Century Italy," excerpts from *Les Grottes maniéristes en Italie au XVIe siècles* (Paris: Macula, 1998), trans. Michael Cole and republished in *Sixteenth-Century Italian Art*, ed. Michael Cole (Blackwell, 2006), 115-134. (M)
Lazzaro, Claudia. *The Italian Renaissance Garden. From the Conventions of Planting, Design, and Ornament to the Grand Gardens of Sixteenth-Century Central Italy* (New Haven and London : Yale University Press, 1990); chapter on "Cosimo de' Medici's Little Tuscany at Castello," 167-189. (AR)
Lazzaro, Claudia, "Gendered Nature and its representation in sixteenth-century garden sculpture," in *Looking at Italian Renaissance Sculpture*, ed. Sarah Blake McHam (Cambridge University Press, 1998, 246-273. (M)
Lazzaro, Claudia, "Animals as Cultural Signs," in *Reframing the Renaissance: visual culture in Europe and Latin America, 1450-1650*, ed. Claire Farago (Yale University Press, 1995). (M)

March 7 Back to the farm: Palladio and the Veneto

Topic proposals and annotated bibliographies due

- Cosgrove, Denis. *The Palladian landscape: geographical change and its cultural representations in sixteenth-century Italy* (University Park, PA), 1993. Chapter 4, "Villa: the Palladian rural landscape," pp. 93-115. (M & AR)
- Ackerman, James. "The Geopolitics of Venetan architecture at the time of Titian," in *Distance Points* (Cambridge, MA, 1991), pp. 453-466 only. (M & AR)
- Burns, Howard. "Palladio's Designs for Villa Complexes and their Surroundings," in *Architecture, Jardin, Paysage. L'environnement du château et de la villa aux XVe et XVIe siècles. Actes du colloque à Tours*, ed. Jean Guillaume (Picard, 1999), pp. 45-48, 57-60, 64-66 only (general comments and analysis of Villa Barbaro, Maser). (M & AR)
- Sereni, Emilio. *History Of The Italian Agricultural Landscape*, trans. R. Burr (Litchfield, Princeton, 1997.) (M & AR)
- Chapter 43, "The 'Bel Paesaggio' of the Veneto;"
- Chapter 44, "The 'Bel Paesaggio' of the Italian-Style Villa;"
- Chapter 55, "The Era of the Great Geographical Discoveries: The Spread of Indian Corn, and the Landscape of Agricultural Systems and Continuous Rotation;"
- Chapter 56, "Marshlands and improvement between the Renaissance and Counter-Reformation: The Landscape of Marshes, Wetlands, and Rice Fields."
- Andrea Palladio, *The Four Books of Architecture*, trans. Robert Tavernor and Richard Schofield (MIT Press, 1997). Excerpts about villas. (M)

SPRING BREAK

March 28 Baroque gardens and collecting

- Michel Baridon, "The scientific imagination and the Baroque Garden," *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes* 18 (1998), 5-19. (M)
- Atlee, Helena. *Italian Gardens*, (London: Frances Lincoln, 2006.) (AR)
- Chapter VI, pp. 91-115: "Formal Splendour: Baroque, 1598-1786"
- Chapter VII, pp. 117-29: "Horticultural Extremes. Plants and Collections, 1600-1700."
- MacDougall, Elisabeth B., "A Cardinal's Bulb Garden," in *Fountains, Statues, and Flowers: Studies in Italian Gardens of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, Washington, DC, 1993. (AR)

April 4 The florilegium; and the reception of the Italian Garden in America

This class will be held in Special Collections

- Azzi-Visentini, Margherita, "The Italian Garden in America: 1890s-1920s," in *The Italian Presence in American Art, 1860-1920*, ed. Irma Jaffe (NY and Rome, 1992), 240-265. (M)
- Charles A. Platt, *Italian Gardens* (New York: Harper, 1894). "Introductory. Italian Gardens," 3-6. (M)
- Edith Wharton, *Italian Villas and their Gardens* (NY: The Century Co., 1904). "Introduction. Italian Garden Magic," 5-13; "Roman Villas," 81-89. (M)
- Guy Lowell, *American Gardens* (Boston, 1902). Introduction. (M)

April 11 Presentations I

- Birte : The cultivation of citrus fruits
- Mi Rae : The experience of motion in the garden : a neuroscientific analysis
- Arden : Caves and grottoes
- Ginny : Beatrix Farrand's designs for the Vassar campus

April 18 **Visit of Judith Tankard** (required events)
3-5pm Campus walk to study Beatrix Farrand's designs for Vassar (to include invited guests interested in the Vassar landscape and Farrand's work)
5:30 Lecture: "Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes"
6:30 Reception

Reading:

Judith B. Tankard, *Beatrix Farrand. Private Gardens, Public Landscapes* (New York: Monacelli Press, 2009).
Chapter 5, "Two Early Heirloom Gardens," 69-73 (on Bellefield); and Chapter 11, "Collegiate Landscapes," 158-171. (AR)

Diana Balmori, "Campus Work and Public Landscapes," in *Beatrix Farrand's American landscapes: her gardens and campuses*, ed. Balmori et al. New York, 1985, 127ff. (M)

Saturday April 30 **Field trip to Beatrix Farrand's Bellefield in Hyde Park**

Hosted by Karen Strain Smythe, VC '82, Trustee, and Director of the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association; and Anne Cleves Symmes, horticulturist responsible for the garden restoration at Bellefield; with a box lunch in the garden following our visit

Monique Mosser, "The Impossible Quest for the Past: Thoughts on the Restoration of Gardens," in *The History of Garden Design. The Western Tradition from the Renaissance to the Present Day*, ed. Monique Mosser and Georges Teyssot (London, 1991), 525-529. (AR)

April 25 **Presentations II**

Billy: Botanical illustration

Martin: Reception of the Italian garden park in the English landscape tradition

Samantha: Narrative in landscape, from the Villa d'Este to Disneyland

Gus: Water

May 2 **Presentations III**

Paulina: The Sacro Bosco of Bomarzo

Jiqiao: The monstrous in nature and in the garden

Flora: The reception of Italianate ideas in a Scottish garden

May 9 **Last class: assessing the Italian garden**

May 13 ***Research paper due (hardcopy please, in my mailbox or under my office door by 4pm)***