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AR704 Rome  
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## Study Abroad Rome



As a graduating student, B.S Construction Management, I have always been fascinated in the design process. The strategic components of SD(Schematic Design) and DD(Design Development) are essential to understanding the way Architecture influences the construction process. There are so many disciplines of science were involved in architecture: Urban Design, Sociology, Anthropology, Religion, Politics and Ecology. The CM's that interact with architects understand the methods and philosophies used to develop a design of a structure. The following chronological summary is an illustration of the first weeks journey through Rome with Professor Sanchez and my architecture colleges of NSA+D.

July 13, 2015.

**At 9:00am** The class met at Saint Peters Square, at the obelisk, where we were introduced to the Architects who designed it (Bernini, Fontana, Madero) the function and layout of the square. Then at **9:30am** class lined up and went into the Vatican's Basilica of Saint Peter, surprisingly a very speedy process. Once inside I was amazed by the dimensions of the structure. The ceiling seemed to be 100 feet high, almost to the heavens. Almost immediately my eye was drawn to Bernini's canopy (Baldacchino) above St. Peters tomb. The amount of intricate details for such a huge piece must have taken decades to finish. After looking at all the sculptures and Gold reliefs we went down into the catacombs where all of the popes are buried. Down in this area is the most sacred of places in the Vatican and no photography is allowed. Please be respectful !!

**11:00am** class then proceeded to walk down via de Penitenzieri to the fountain of Pualus Quintus overlooking Rome. We then continued to walk to the church where Adriana and Marcel got married to observe the model for which Saint Peters Basilica was modeled after. Then the class continued to walk to the church of Santa Maria in Trastevere. We observed the two architectural styles/periods integrated into one structure: The older Byzantine, exposed brick. The front Facade is the newer Baroque style. Inside the church the roof is covered with gold that leads to the main dome. Around the inside perimeter areas with "re-used" columns from earlier Roman Structures. Doric and Ionic of different shapes and sizes with modified bases used to integrate these columns to a uniform dimension.

**2:00pm** we went to one of the oldest churches in Rome near the site where Julius Caesar was murdered. The church has exposed brick exterior with wood rafters inside, also the columns from ancient Rome where refurbished to support the exposed wooden rafters. The floors were inlayed with amazing geometrical mosaics. Class continued to a walk to the American Academy where Adriana and Marcel went to School, then continued to Piazza Garibaldi for a panoramic view of the city and to look at the fountain that was a main source of water to ancient Rome via a distant aqueduct.

**3:00pm** we continued down the Passegiata de Gianicolo through ancient steps and green areas, As we walked down a very peculiar series of step. The steps have a "run" of about 2 meters and a rise of about 10 cm. Very odd, however, like most of Roman Architecture, structure is related to function. There we learned that the ratio of the stairs were designed to accommodate the passage of horse and carriages. That makes sense now that I know!!

**3:30pm** Class then walked to the Pantheon, my personal project for the course, and observed the geometry of the building and the obelisk outside, We then continued up an alley where Marcel pointed out where a famous architect once live, Zaha Hadid.

**4:00pm** Finally, class concluded when we walked to a gelato place that Marcel recommended. The best reward for such an adventure. During this day of walking I tracked the distance walked for the day at 6.8 miles, 93 degree temp in the shade with 80% humidity. From what the locals were saying "Rome has never been this hot before".





**July 14, 2015.**

**9:00am** Class met in Trastevere at the square (Santa Maria). 9:15am we walked to Quartiere Ostiense to the bus stop en route to view the Fascist movement architecture in (E.U.R.).

**10:00am** we were off the bus/train and we had a video conference with Adriana Cuellar, class professor(back in San Diego), who gave us an introduction to the Facist movement of Architecture in Rome.

**10:35** we arrived at the Palazzo dei Congressi where with viewed the new urban layout and design that Mussolini created for his vision of the new Rome. Mussolini wanted to create open spaces where his troops could travel and streets that created a stadium affect where the endpoints are higher than the middle. This effect made it possible for everyone to be in the line of Mussolini's sight and could experience the spectacle of grander that the new Rome was to be. The road from the Congessi leads to a six story structure with 9 archways on each face and lojas (vaulted archway-passages) on the outer perimeter of each level. At the base of the structure there were 6 statues of ancient Romans. These building have a modern touch on ancient Rome with a minimalist style and a white stone facade. Very pleasing to the eye compared to the majority of the Fascist architectural designs.

**11:00am** we proceeded to a Greek style church. We arrived at the Greek style church and went inside to see the symmetrical geometric design of the structure. All 4 sides are mirror images of each other with a magnificent dome in the center. The outside facades were clad with white travertine and the dome was cover with white clay tiles in a smooth parabolic decent to the base. Along the base of the dome were square cut-outs with circular windows receding within. At the entrance was a latin inscription which reads "DOM IN HONOREM BEATORUM APOSTOLORUM PERTI ET PAULI O FELIX ROMA QUAE TANTORUM PRINCIPUM ES PURPURATA PRETIOSO SANGUINE"

**1:30pm** Following this structure we went to eat close by and had some delicious pasta ad fresh squeezed juices for lunch.

**2:15pm** The class then ventured of the Termini to buy train tickets for the weekend field trip to Florence and Milan and back to Rome. I was more than exited, I've waited a lifetime to be in the presence of Brunelleschi's work, a master builder, artist and engineer!!



July 15, 2015.



**8:30am** The class meet up with professor Sanchez in Trastevere at he usual rally point. Then the class walked form Trastevere to Regola and proceeded to go the studio of famed Cartographer Alan Ceen. On the way there we passed by an amazing bridge that lead to the San Angelo Castle adorned with amazing sculptures of ancient R ome along the sidewalks, cobbles stone streets lined with vaulted aches and vine covered ancient brick walls. I felt like was going back in time following the steps of Roman royalty

**9:00am** After a brief, and introduction with Prof. Ceen he gave us a power point presentation on the different maps from Rome. Starting with the Nolli map of Rome, Prof. Ceen's favorite of all time, map of 1748, which he stated "is still to this day the most accurate map of Rome. Hard to believe given the advent of satellite topographical maps, but I would imagine that he was referring to the art of cartography. Through his presentation he showed us the Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance roads of Rome. He showed us the Via Felice, the longest straight road in Rome, the Via Trinitas, the Fur map of 1901, Hadrians tomb in castle San Angelo, 1551 Buffalini Map, the 1676 Falda map. Prof A. Ceen stated that in 1870 Rome becomes the unified capital of Italy and also experiences the flood of 100 years. After his presentation he walked us through Rome, at a break-neck speed, by the Via Trinitas pointing out amazing structures, Palazzo Borgese, Medieval structures and foreign lands (Knights of Malta) .If you ever have the pleasure of meeting this road warrior, please have your map in hand at all time. Our classmate Jake learned that the hard way!! After showing us the art of traffic manipulation with his samurai-sword-cane, then we finally took a break for coffee. Finally, arriving at the Spanish steps, exhausted and pleading for mercy where we concluded our class tour overlooking the Bernini Fountain. Professor Ceen pointed out the roads leading up to the obelisk, and the famous landmarks visible from our vantage point.

**At 2:00pm** we had lunch at which point I got separated from the group after using the bathroom. The class got on the bus and I couldn't find them. I decided to go home and start my Daily activity log for the class. The class was blessed to have such a amazing experience with such a wealth of Roman history, design and the art of cartography. We logged 6.2 miles that day in 94 degree weather, such is the life of an artist. Tomorrow we were of to Florence and Milan, the adventure of a lifetime, where I would finally see the works of a master builder, and decide to propose to my now fiancé

