April 22–30, 2020

The Villas & Villages of Palladio’s Veneto

with Rice Professor & Architect Will Cannady
The harmonious balance and perfect proportions of Andrea Palladio's ingenuity have influenced the practice of architecture for centuries.

This exclusive, custom-designed tour is set amid the rolling hills of the Veneto in Northern Italy where the magnificent Renaissance villas of Palladio still stand. The program offers private access to many of Palladio's patrician villas, palazzi, and important landmarks, which chronicle his life and career as a humanist architect. Spend seven nights in Verona, a central location for excursions to Vicenza, Mantova, and the countryside. Savor the local cuisine of the Veneto and experience some of Italy's greatest architectural achievements.

STUDY LEADER
Will Cannady, Professor & Architect

William T. Cannady has been a teacher at Rice University since 1964. Will holds joint teaching assignments in the Jones Graduate School of Business and the George R. Brown School of Engineering in addition to serving as a visiting lecturer and critic at the many distinguished institutions. Will was awarded the Educator of the Year Award from the Houston Chapter of the AIA in 2010. He is a past president and member of the Houston Philosophical Society, former member of the Advisory Board of Med Center Bank and Frost Bank in the Texas Medical Center. He recently served on the Real Estate and Master Site Plan committee of the Menil Collection. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years and is an Eagle Scout. In his architectural practice, Cannady has designed and built over two hundred projects. His firm's work has been honored with sixty design awards and has been published in local, state, national, and international periodicals and journals.

Be special guests during a private reception with the owners of a 17th-century villa, which has been in their family since the early 1800s.
Wednesday, April 22, 2020  
**Depart from the U.S.**  
Depart on independent overnight flights arriving the next day in Verona.

Thursday, April 23, 2020  
**Welcome to the Veneto**  
Transfer independently to Verona’s Due Torri Hotel, one of only two 5-star luxury properties in the city. Late this afternoon, gather for cocktails and introductory remarks before a welcome dinner celebrating the group’s arrival in Italy.  
*Due Torri Hotel, Verona (R, D)*

Friday, April 24, 2020  
**Exploring Verona**  
Begin the day with an architecturally focused lecture by Professor William Cannady, followed by an introductory walking tour of the primary squares and monuments of old Verona—Porta Borsari, the Roman Arena, and Piazza Erbe just outside our hotel. Traverse the city’s most interesting sites, including the Arche Scaligere tombs, the Gothic church dedicated to Sant’Anastasia, and the stately Romanesque Cathedral of Verona. Lunch is enjoyed riverside at a gourmet restaurant with views over the Adige. Tour the Castelvecchio Museum, famous for its outstanding display of Northern Italian decorative arts from the 14th to 19th centuries, housed in a medieval castle restored in the mid-20th century by the renowned Italian architect Carlo Scarpa. The day concludes with an escape into the rolling hills north of Verona for a special evening tour and reception at a private villa, where the owners will share their magnificent home and gardens with us. The estate is perhaps the most majestic villa in the entire region, built in the 17th century as Villa Allegri and purchased in 1824 by the Arvedi family, which still resides there today.  
*Due Torri Hotel, Verona (B, L, R)*

Saturday, April 25, 2020  
**Palladio’s Vicenza**  
The morning begins with a visit to Palladio’s patrician Villa Poiana, the design of which was inspired by the ancient Roman baths. Venture into Vicenza for a Palladio-centric walking tour, stopping at the master’s Palazzo Barbaran da Porto (now the official museum dedicated to the architect), Basilica Palladiana, and Teatro Olimpico (Palladio’s final project, completed in 1585 after his death). Take time to explore this UNESCO World Heritage site, which is still used today for musical and theatrical performances. Pause for lunch at one of Vicenza’s most beloved trattorias, then explore Villa Caldogno, considered an autograph work of Palladio despite its absence from his seminal publication *The Four Books of Architecture*. The villa remained in the Caldogno family for three centuries before becoming a children’s home and ultimately a seat of the German army. Fortunately the colorful frescoes by Giovanni Fasolo, Giovanni Battista Zeolotti, and Giulio Carpioni were unharmed, and the structural integrity remains intact. Return to Verona for a free evening.  
*Due Torri Hotel, Verona (B, L)*

Sunday, April 26, 2020  
**Sketching Palladio**  
Depart early this morning for an exclusive visit to Palladio’s masterwork, Villa La Rotonda. By special arrangement, Count Valmarana will greet our group (the count’s schedule permitting) and lead us on a special private tour of the interior and exterior while the villa is closed to the public. There will be time after the visit either to stay on the grounds to sketch the villa exteriors or join our local guide on a tour of the nearby Sanctuary of Monte Berico with sweeping views over the Veneto. On a clear day, it’s possible to see as far as the Venetian Lagoon and the foothills of the Alps. Back at La Rotonda, follow a “secret” path to arrive at Villa Valmarana ai Nani where Countess Valmarana will show us precious Tiepolo frescoes, talk about her family’s rich heritage, and join us for a luncheon of regional specialties. Before returning to Verona, visit the impeccably restored Villa Saraceno, built in the mid-16th century for Biagio Saraceno. This typical villa-farm was one of Palladio’s earliest works, although it was altered over the centuries, disrupting the harmony of Palladio’s fenestration on the north and south facades. The Landmark...
Trust purchased the villa in the 1980s to prevent further damage to the villa (due to modernization and the villa's use as tenements during World War II) and opens the space to visitors by special request only. *Due Torri Hotel, Verona (B, L)*

**Monday, April 27, 2020**

**Quaint Villages & Breathtaking Villas**

This morning drive to the village of Maser where Palladio designed a beautiful *tempioetto* at the gorgeous Villa Barbaro, built to fulfill the dual function of villa chapel and parish church for the village. This is one of the architect’s last masterpieces, completed in 1580. Next visit Villa Emo, built in 1559 for the Emo family of Venice. The villa is one of the most accomplished of the Palladian villas, praised for the simple mathematical relationships expressed in its proportions, both of the elevation and the dimensions of the rooms. After a busy morning, enjoy a relaxed lunch in the tiny walled town of Castelfranco. Stroll through town and briefly stop inside the Cathedral to view a stunning Giorgione altarpiece depicting the Madonna and Child. The final stop is Villa Cornaro, which is illustrated in the Second Book of The Four Books of Architecture. Though the villa is privately owned, Traveling Owls are invited to explore this truly lived-in and beloved space. *Due Torri Hotel, Verona (B, L)*

**Tuesday, April 28, 2020**

**The Ducal Court City of Mantova**

Today is dedicated to the Gonzaga family’s ducal court city of Mantova (Mantua in English). Our expert guide will reveal many secrets of the remarkable Ducal Palace, most famous for the Camera degli Sposi, a room frescoed with illusionistic paintings by Andrea Mantegna. The highlight of the visit will be a tour of Isabella d’Este’s private apartments, which are rarely open to the public. Next, see the town’s beautiful Teatro Bibiena, designed in the 18th century in an early Rococo style by Antonio Bibiena. It officially opened on December 3, 1769, and a few weeks later 13-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart played a concert here with resounding success. The final visit in this magical riverside city is to Palazzo Te, the frescoed country escape and love nest of Isabella d’Este’s husband Federico Gonzaga. A fine example of the Mannerist style of architecture, the palazzo is the acknowledged masterpiece of Giulio Romano, a pupil of Raphael. Romano’s wall paintings of nymphs, gods, goddesses, and
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Villa Almerico Capra “La Rotonda” dome detail / Hans A. Rosbach

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Villa Sagramoso

The week in Veneto concludes with one last villa visit—the sprawling Villa Perez Pompei Sagramoso. The estate and its vineyard, named for the many families that have owned it, extend over the hills east of Verona in the Valpolicella wine region. We are greeted by Marquis Sagramoso and join him in touring the palace home’s 18th-century paintings and decorative arts. The Italian garden, added in 1740, uniquely incorporates the ruins of a 10th-century castle estate that belonged to the original tenants of the land, the Pompei family. Back in Verona, enjoy an independent afternoon before gathering this evening for a lovely farewell dinner at one of the city’s best restaurants.

Due Torri Hotel, Verona (B, D)

Thursday, April 30, 2020

Return to the U.S.

Transfer independently to the Verona airport to meet returning flights home.

Due Torri Hotel, Verona (B)

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villas remain as lush and vibrant today as they were 500 years ago.

Due Torri Hotel, Verona (B)
April 22–30, 2020

The Villas & Villages of Palladio’s Veneto

- Study Andrea Palladio’s architectural masterpieces, from La Rotonda to Villas Barbaro, Cornaro, and Emo, with the option to sketch at many of these locations.

- Dive into the history of the Northern Italian Renaissance and the ruling families whose patronage generated pivotal works of art and architecture.

- Explore the tiny, walled town of Castelfranco, with its hidden Giorgione altarpiece.

- Discover a picturesque villa in the Monte Berico hills with its beautifully preserved Tiepolo frescoes and stately gardens.