

AR-477

**Michelangelo and the experience of space**

Mussolin Mauro

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA1, MA3	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	Oral
Workload	90h
Weeks	12
<b>Hours</b>	<b>2 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	

**Summary**

The course is devoted to the analysis of Michelangelo's three-dimensional works and it aims at critically rethinking the relationship between his architecture and sculpture.

**Content**

Does Michelangelo's architecture still have something to say to the contemporary design process and sculptural modeling? With the eye of a sculptor, Michelangelo imparted an unprecedented lesson on how to connect architectural parts and elements amongst themselves, adding a deep understanding of typological composition, economy of materials, and control of execution. Michelangelo also dominated the conflicting elements of his plastic conceptions, relying upon his capacity to express and solve an extraordinary galaxy of relationships: the dialogue between materials, the coherence between interior and exterior, as well as the play between light and shadow, ornament and structure, solid masses and empty spaces.

Looking closely at Michelangelo's *oeuvre* from a historical perspective, this course will consider the artist's contributions to the development of the modern experience of space. Lectures will follow Michelangelo's biography, and will be divided by themes on related topics.

Based on augmented reality and virtual rendering, the study of Michelangelo's multi-layered drawings will lead the students to understand how they were executed, their various functions, and their graphic conventions. Emphasis will also be placed on Michelangelo's innovative use of three-dimensional models to communicate his designs to the workforce, which would have been incapable of executing the complex details relying solely on orthogonal drawings. At the end of the course we will also examine the impact of Michelangelo's works on some of the most influential architects of the twentieth century.

Two course field trips to Florence and Rome will be organized at the beginning and at the end of the term. We will study Michelangelo's buildings on site, his sculptural works in museums and galleries, and a selection of his original drawings.

**Keywords**

Michelangelo – Renaissance architectural drawings – Three-dimensional models – Economy of materials – Control of execution

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Interpret architectural design process and sculptural practice in the Renaissance.
- Explore the relationship between architecture and sculpture in a historical perspective.
- Contextualise Michelangelo's contributions to the development of the modern experience of space.

**Teaching methods**

Lectures *ex cathedra*.

### **Assessment methods**

The final exam is based on required readings and material discussed in class.  
Written/oral/virtual research projects on specific subjects are welcome and should be arranged well in advance to discuss sources.

### **Resources**

#### **Bibliography**

Required readings and selected bibliography will be provided at beginning of the course.

#### **Moodle Link**

- [http://Visual presentations, images and other supplementary materials will be available on Moodle during the course.](#)