

ANDREA PALLADIO

1508 - 1580

ARCHITECT FOR THE AGES



Andrea Palladio (November 30, 1508 – August 19, 1580), was an Italian architect, widely considered the most influential person in the history of Western architecture.

He was born Andrea di Pietro della Gondola in Padova, part of the Republic of Venice. Apprenticed as a stonecutter in Padova at 13, he broke his contract after 18 months and fled to Vicenza. There he became an assistant in the leading workshop of stonecutters and masons. He frequented the workshop of Bartolomeo Cavazza, where he learned some of his skills.

His talents were first recognized by Count Gian Giorgio Trissino, who employed the young mason. Trissino also gave him the name by which he is now known, Palladio, an allusion to the Greek goddess of wisdom Pallas Athene. Palladio later benefited from the patronage of the Barbaro family. The Palladian style, named after him, adhered to classical Roman principles. His architectural works have been valued for centuries as the quintessence of High Renaissance calm and harmony. Palladio designed many churches, villas, and palaces, especially in Venice, Vicenza and the surrounding area.

Chronology

- 1508: Born in Padua on November 30
- 1521: Begins work as a stone mason
- 1540: Begins first work, Villa Godi in Lonedo
- 1544: Begins Villa Pisani in Bagnolo
- 1545: Involved in the refurbishment of the Basilica of Vicenza
- 1550: Produces drawings for Palazzo Chiericati and Villa Foscari
- 1552: Begins work on Villa Cornaro and the palace of Iseppo De' Porti

- 1554: Begins Villa Barbaro in Maser
- 1556: In Udine he works on Casa Antonini and in Vicenza begins with Palazzo Thiene. He collaborates with Daniele Barbaro, patriarch of Aquileia, on his commentary on Vitruvius, providing the drawings.
- 1557: Begins Villa Badoer
- 1558: Realizes a project for the church of San Pietro di Castello in Venice and probably in the same year begins the construction of Villa Malcontenta
- 1559: Begins Villa Emo in the village of Fanzolo di Vedelago
- 1561: Begins the construction of Villa Pojana Maggiore , the refectory of the Benedictine San Giorgio Monastery, the facade of Monastero per la Carità and Villa Serego
- 1562: Begins the facade of San Francesco della Vigna and San Giorgio Maggiore
- 1565: Begins the construction of Villa Cagollo in Vicenza and Villa Pisani in Montagnana
- 1566: Palazzo Valmarana and Villa Zeno
- 1567: Begins Villa Capra "La Rotonda"
- 1570: He is nominated Proto della Serenissima (chief architect of the Republic of Venice), and publishes in Venice *I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura (The Four Books of Architecture)*
- 1571: Realizes: Villa Piovene, Palazzo Porto Barbaran, the Loggia del Capitano and Palazzo Porto Breganze.
- 1574: Publishes the 'Commentari' (commentaries) of Caesar and works on studies for the front of the Basilica di San Petronio in Bologna
- 1577: Begins the construction of the church of Il Redentore
- 1580: Prepares drawings for the interior of the church of S. Lucia in Venice also oversees the start of construction on the Teatro Olimpico dies on August 19, 1580

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