

Inter Cultural Studies of Architecture (ICSA) in Rome 2016

Based on the general exchange agreement between Mukogawa Women's University (MWU) and Bahcesehir University (BAU) signed on December 8, 2008, ten Japanese second-year master's degree students of architecture major visited the BAU International Academy of Rome from February 18, 2017 until March 2, 2017.

The purpose of "the ICSA in Rome" is to gain a deeper understanding of Western architecture and art. As a country with extensive cultural heritage and architecture, on which the construction techniques of the western world are based, Italy serves as the perfect location for this program. Building upon the historic background, the students were able to investigate the structure, construction method, spatial composition, architectural style, artistic desire owing by social conditions, and design intention of architects and artists for various buildings. This year's program focused on Ancient Roman architecture and sculpture, early Christian architecture, Renaissance architecture and sculpture, and Baroque architecture and sculpture.

Before the ICSA in Rome trip, the students attended seminars in order to study about visit places, and gave a presentation about the things that they studied. Through this trip, they were able to deepen their understanding about the architecture and art, measuring the height and span of architecture, drawing sketches and giving a presentation on some visit sites. Here is the report.

Participants

Professors: Shigeyuki Okazaki, Yuuka Nakamura

Students: Chinatsu Ito, Yasue Imagawa, Komika Imaji, Aya Ozaki, Nanae Ushio, Eriko Okita,
Momo Kinugawa, Hiromi Suzuki, Yuki Takata, Natsuki Tani

Schedule

February 18	Departure from Kansai International Airport for Rome Arrival at Rome, Fiumicino Airport via Helsinki-Vantaa Airport
February 19	Ancient Roman architecture tour
February 20	Visit to Bahcesehir University International Academy of Rome Early Christian architecture tour in Rome
February 21	Renaissance architecture and Baroque architecture tour in Rome
February 22	Ancient Roman architecture and Renaissance architecture tour in Rome
February 23	Tivoli tour and visit to Borghese Gallery in Rome
February 24	Vatican tour
February 25	Pompeii and Naples tour
February 26	Assisi and Arezzo tour
February 27	Florence tour
February 28	Continuation of Florence tour
March 1	Departure from Fiumicino Airport for Japan
March 2	Arrival at Kansai International Airport via Helsinki-Vantaa Airport

February 18

After departure from Kansai International Airport, we arrived at Fiumicino Airport in Rome via Helsinki-Vantaa Airport. We met Dr. Murat Dünder, the Vice Dean of BAU's faculty of architecture and design and Dr. Belinda Torus, the Lecturer of BAU, at the airport.



Fiumicino Airport Dr. Morat & Dr. Belinda with the exchange students at Fiumicino Airport

February 19

Today, we visited the historical area of Rome, a world heritage. Students had the opportunity to see an extensive amount of the Ancient Roman architecture, including the Colosseum, Palatine Hill, Roman Forum, Forum of Trajan, Trajan's Markets, Marcello Theatre, Casa dei Crescenzi, Templum Portunus, and the Temple of Hercules Victor, which the students sketched. While at the Colosseum, Forum of Trajan and Marcello Theatre, some students gave a presentation on Roman architecture. Between the impressive works, on presentations, and sketching, the students deeply felt the greatness of Roman architecture.



Colosseum



Trajan's Markets

February 20

We visited Mrs. Francesca De Palo, Director of the BAU International Academy of Rome. She gave the students an informative lecture on Italian culture and art.

Afterward, we continued touring Rome, focusing on early Christian architecture. We had the opportunity to visit two of the four papal basilicas in Rome, the San Paolo fuori le Mura and San Giovanni in Laterano. Continuing to tour the Ancient Roman architecture, we visited Appia Antica. Built in the 4th century BC, Appia Antica is one of the most famous ancient roads in the world. Additionally, we visited Aqua Claudia, and Porta Maggiore which were Roman water bridges.



Japanese students met Mrs. Francesca De Palo, Director of BAU International Academy of Rome, and took the lecture from her.

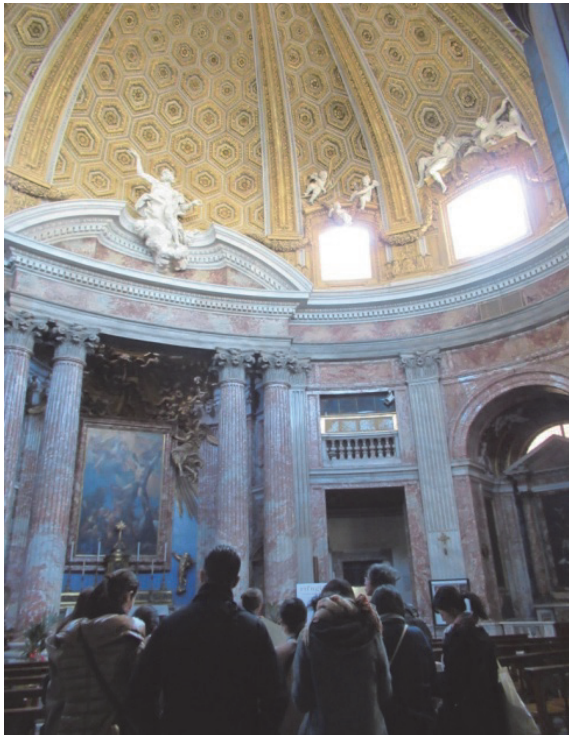


San Paolo fuori le Mura

February 21

Today, we attended a guided tour to learn about Renaissance and Baroque architecture. We first, visited the Santa Maria Maggiore, another one of the four papal basilicas in Rome. Then we visited St. Andrew's at the Quirinal, designed by Bernini; San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, designed by Borromini; and Palazzo Barberini, designed by Bernini and Borromini. Japanese students were listening attentively to the guide. They measured the heights and spans of the buildings and sketched them under the instruction of Prof. Okazaki.

Afterward, we stopped by one of the most popular spots in Rome, the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. We continued our tour toward the area of Piazza di Spagna. There, we visited Santa Maria dei Miracoli, the right side of the twin churches, located on Piazza dei Popolo. Here we also walked around the Santa Maria dei Popolo, facing Piazza dei Popolo. As the last stop the day, we saw the outside of Palazzo Massimo, which was designed by Michelangelo in the 16th century.



St. Andrew's at the Quirinal



Santa Maria Maggiore



Santa Maria dei Popolo

February 22

We spent today visiting Roman architecture, Renaissance architecture, and Baroque architecture. In the morning, we visited Chiesa del Gesù, or the Mother Church of the Society of Jesus, which had the first truly Baroque façade. Then we visited the Pantheon, where one student gave a presentation on the Pantheon. The students measured the heights and spans, and felt the large scale of Pantheon. Next, we stopped at the Chiesa di Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza, designed by Borromini in the 17th century. Unfortunately, we were only able to see the outside of the building because it was undergoing restoration. Then we visited Navona Square, Sant'Agnese in Agone, and Santa Maria della Pace. Borromini designed the façade, the cupola, and both sides of the bell towers of Sant'Agnese.

After lunch, we visited the Baths of Caracalla and San Pietro in Montorio Tempietto, designed by Donato Bramante in the 16th century. Tempietto is considered one of the greatest works of High Renaissance architecture and became a template for later cupolas. In the evening, we visited Campidoglio, which was designed by Michelangelo. It is located in one of the Seven Hills of Rome. Next, we visited the much anticipated Santa Maria della Vittoria. This Roman Catholic church is known for its famous sculpture, Ecstasy of Saint Teresa, designed and completed by Bernini.



Piazza San Pietro, Vatican



Santa Maria della Vittoria

February 23

Today, we visited Tivoli, located in the eastern part of Rome, to see the Villa Adriana and Villa d'Este. Tivoli was known as a health resort in Ancient Rome. The first stop the students made was to Villa Adriana, which was built and completed by the Roman Emperor Hadrianus in the year 133 AD. He combined the best elements of the architectural aspects of Egypt, Greece, and Rome in the form of an ideal city. The villa has over thirty buildings in a 1.2 km² site. Next, we visited a beautiful palace and garden, Villa d'Este. There, we toured the various magnificent fountains in the garden. After returning to Rome, we visited the Borghese Gallery. In this museum, there are important Baroque sculptures created by Bernini; David, Pluto and Persephone, and Apollo and Daphne.



Villa Adriana



Borghese Gallery



Villa d'Este

February 24

We spent today touring Vatican City. The first, stop was the Vatican Museum. There, the students appreciated the many valuable collections, such as the Last Judgment in the Sistine Chapel and Gruppo del Laocoonte in the Museo Pio-Clementino. Next, we climbed to the top of the Basilica di San Pietro to take a closer look at the cupola completed by Michelangelo. We toured the inside of the basilica and saw the Pietà, one of the most famous sculptures in the world and the altar with Bernini's canopy. After leaving the Basilica, we visited the Piazza San Pietro, located directly in front of Basilica di San Pietro. This elliptic plaza, 240m in width, was designed by Bernini.

After lunch, we visited Castel Sant'Angelo. This castle, which was originally commissioned by the Roman Emperor Hadrianus as a mausoleum for himself and his family, is now a museum. The construction of castle began in 135 and was completed in 139 AD. On the terrace of Castel Sant'Angelo, we were able to look out over the city of Rome.



Vatican Museum



Piazza San Pietro

February 25

Today, we traveled down south to take a tour of Pompeii. Pompeii, located in the suburbs of modern Naples, was an ancient city from the 7th century BC. The town prospered as a place for leisure during the Roman period. Pompeii's population during the Golden Age was said to be around 20,000 people, and thus, there are many ancient structures, villas, temples, forums, and theaters in the ancient town. However, Pompeii was destroyed during the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, which left the town buried under 4 to 6m of volcanic ash and pumice. After the Pompeii tour, we visited the Naples Museo Archeologic Nazionale, where there are many collections from Pompeii on display. Touring the museum, we were able to see many beautiful frescos and mosaics from ancient Pompeii. We also appreciated the Greek and Roman collections. The students were especially pleased to see one of famous mosaics in the world, The Alexander Mosaic, shown below.



House of Menander, Pompeii



The Alexander Mosaic, Naples Museo Archeologic Nazionale

February 26

Today, we visited Assisi, to tour the Basilica of Santa Chiara and Basilica of San Francesco. These Basilicas have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000. The Basilica of San Francesco is the mother church of the Roman Catholic Order of Friars Minor Conventual and is one of the most important places of the Christian pilgrimage in Italy. The upper church of the Basilica of San Francesco was built in Gothic architecture; while the lower church is in Romanesque architecture. After having lunch at Assisi, we visited Arezzo to see the Basilica of San Francesco, Chiesa di Santa Maria della Pieve, Piazza Grande and Duomo of Arezzon. Chiesa di Santa Maria della Pieve, which faces the Piazza Grande, has a characteristic façade with a five-arch lower floor, surmounted by three loggias, with the number of columns increasing with elevation. Similar to the Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi, it is a synthesis of the Romanesque and Gothic styles. The church's façade and apse was renovated in the 12th century. The interior was redesigned in Gothic style in the 13th century. After the visit in Arezzo, we departed for Florence.



Basilica of San Francesco, Assisi



Piazza Grande, Arezzo

February 27

Renaissance art and architecture bloomed in Florence. We began our two-day stay here by visiting Santa Maria Novella, which is well-known for its oldest drugstore, with a façade designed by Alberti. Then we visited Santa Croce to view the magnificent Gothic architecture designed in 1294. This church contains Michelangelo's tomb and Cappella de Pazzi, designed by Brunelleschi in 1430.

After having a traditional Florence lunch at a restaurant, the students attended a restoration workshop at Santa Maria del Fiore. Here, in the atelier, the greatest stonemasons worked and Michelangelo carved the famous statue of David. The students learned about the techniques and art of masonry from a modern mason who works on protecting traditional works. Then we went inside the Baptistery of Saint John. Here the students were particularly moved by the amazing golden ceiling mosaics. We also toured the inside of the Basilica of Santa Maria del Fiore. This is the fourth largest Basilica in the world and is known for its giant cupola, completed by Brunelleschi, the first known architect of the Renaissance style. After leaving the Basilica, we went to the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo and appreciated displayed works related to Santa Maria del Fiore. Here there are famous works of the Renaissance, such as the Pieta by Michelangelo; the series of sculptures by Donatello; and East doors, or Gates of Paradise, by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Then we climbed through the narrow paths to arrive at the top of the cupola, and look out over the wonderful scenery of Florence. Before the day was over, we also climbed the bell tower of the Santa Maria del Fiore and enjoyed the beautiful view. From the top, we could even see the cupola.



Cappella de' Pazzi in Santa Croce, Florence



Santa Croce



The students enjoyed the view of Florence from the top of the bell tower of Santa Maria del Fiore

February 28

This was the second day at Florence and the last day of the exchange program. We began the day by visiting one of the most famous statues in the world, David by Michelangelo at Galleria dell' Accademia. This was one of the most prominent works during the Renaissance period. Michelangelo created this statue when he was only 26 years old. We also visited the four slave sculptures there. The next stop was the Laurenziana library in San Lorenzo. The students visited and sketched the Laurenziana library, which was designed by Michelangelo during 1524-1571. Here the students learned that the stairs between the reading room and the anteroom expressed a flow of waters and that Michelangelo created the central stairs in the image of a repeating an oval form, symbolizing stones melting and flowing.

After lunch, we visited the Basilica of San Lorenzo, designed by Brunelleschi. San Lorenzo is a great example of many of the keynote Renaissance architectural features, such as a proportional relationship between nave and aisle, an integrated system of column, arches, entablatures, and a relationship between column and pilaster. The Basilica of San Lorenzo is a large monastic complex that also contains other important architecture and works. This includes the Old Sacristy by Brunelleschi, with interior decoration and sculpture by Donatello, the Laurentian Library by Michelangelo, and the New Sacristy, based on Michelangelo's designs.

Then we visit the Sagrestia Nuova, or the New Sacristy, designed by Michelangelo. It is a small mausoleum, or a mortuary chapel for the Medici family. New Sacristy is the first example which dealt with all of architectural design and decoration by one artist. All aspects, from the niches and pilasters to the windows and a cupola, were placed with care and balance. They are unified with two gravestones facing each other. The statues display a gravestone, expressed four times each.



Restoration Workshop of Santa Maria del Fiore



The students sketched Santa Maria del Fiore at the rooftop of Museo dell' Opera del Duomo



Laurenziana library



New Sacristy in Basilica of San Lorenzo

March 1-2

On March 1st, the students thanked Dr. Murat for his program organization and bade him goodbye at Fiumicino Airport. After 14h of flight time with a layover in Helsinki, all members arrived at the Kansai International Airport in good spirits on the afternoon of March 2nd. The ICSA in Rome, program was a wonderful learning and cultural experience for the students.