



Palladio

Manfred Wundram

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The classical starchitect

Understanding the influence of Andrea Palladio

Andrea Palladio (1508–1580) is largely considered the father of Western architecture. Strongly influenced by formal temple designs in Ancient Greece and Rome, he pioneered a revival of Classical symmetry and perspective, and with it created a **universal architectural language**.

From his humble beginning as a stonemason's apprentice, Palladio rose to become **Chief Architect of the Republic of Venice**, at the time the epicenter of European innovation. There, he designed the church of the **Redentore** and **San Giorgio Maggiore** on the landmark promontory between the Giudecca canal and the greater Venetian lagoon. In nearby Vicenza, Palladio built the world-famous **Basilica**, the **Villa Rotonda**, the **Teatro Olimpico**, and in the surrounding Veneto countryside numerous **rural villas** noted for their inclusion of local, vernacular architecture within a Classical scheme and the use of porticos to provide liminal spaces between the interior and exterior. Both the Palladian villas and the City of Vicenza are today both designated **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.

Overtime, Palladio's architecture evolved into the Palladian style, a universal language of cool, calm elegance that informed buildings from **Capitol Hill** in Washington, D.C.; to Thomas Jefferson's home in **Monticello**, Virginia; to **St Paul's Cathedral**, London. This foundational book from TASCHEN Basic Art 2.0 collates Palladio's most significant structures into one dependable introduction, documenting his development into **one of the most influential architects of all time**.

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