

Inter Cultural Studies of Architecture (ICSA) in Rome 2019

A general exchange agreement between Mukogawa Women's University (MWU) and Bahçeşehir University (BAU) was signed on December 8, 2008. According to this agreement, 11 Japanese second-year master's degree students majoring in architecture visited Italy from February 19, 2019, to March 2, 2019.

The purpose of "Intercultural Studies of Architecture (ICSA) in Rome" program is to gain a deeper understanding of western architecture and art. Italy is a country well known for its extensive cultural heritage and architecture. Many of the western world's construction techniques are based, on Italy's heritage and architecture. Therefore, Italy was selected as the most appropriate destination for this program. Based on Italy's historic background, the students were able to investigate the structure, construction methods, spatial composition, architectural style, artistic desires based on social conditions, and design intentions of architects and artists for various buildings. This year's program focused on "ancient Roman architecture and sculpture," "early Christian architecture," "Renaissance architecture, sculpture, and garden," and "Baroque architecture and sculpture."

Before the ICSA trip to Rome, the students attended seminars on studying historic places during their visit abroad and were asked to make a presentation about the stuff that they learned during these seminars. During their trip to Rome, the students had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of architecture and art, measure the height and span of architecture, and draw sketches and make presentations related to some sites that they have visited. A report describing the details of this program is given below.

Participants

Professors: Shigeyuki Okazaki, Yuuka Nakamura

Students: Moeko Ikezawa, Yo Uehara, Chisato Eguchi, Kokoro Ohara, Yufuko Okuno, Kimi Kamimoto, Ayano Shirohara, Mizuki Nagata, Miru Hirata, Hitomi Yutani

Schedule

February 19	Departure from Kansai International Airport for Rome Arrival at Rome, Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport via Amsterdam Airport Schiphol
February 20	Ancient Roman architecture tour
February 21	Renaissance architecture and Baroque architecture tour in Rome
February 22	Vatican tour
February 23	Renaissance architecture and garden tour in Rome
February 24	Ancient Roman architecture tour and Baroque architecture tour and visit to Borghese Gallery in Rome
February 25	Assisi and Siena tour
February 26	Renaissance architecture and garden tour in Florence
February 27	Continuation of Florence tour
February 28	Renaissance garden tour in Bagnaia
March 1	Departure from Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport for Japan
March 2	Arrival at Kansai International Airport via Amsterdam Airport Schiphol

February 19

We departed from Kansai International Airport early in the morning and arrived at Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport in Rome via Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. We met Dr. Murat Dündar (Vice Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design, BAU) and Ms. Betül Ünal (Assistant, BAU) at the arrival gate of Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport.



At Kansai International Airport, The exchange program students are distributing their report on visiting historic places.



At Fiumicino Airport, Dr. Dündar and Ms. Ünal with the exchange program students.

February 20

We visited ancient Roman architecture sites located at the center of Rome, as well as some Baroque architecture sites. The students had the opportunity to experience the great ancient Roman architecture, including the Colosseum and Pantheon. We also visited Chiesa del Gesù, which is considered the first Baroque façade, Piazza Navona designed by Bernini, Sant'Agnese in Agone designed by Borromini, and Santa Maria della Pace. Piazza Navona is a famous site known for the works of Bernini and Borromini, who were the great masters of the Baroque period. The students made presentations about each place they visited. Overall, on day 1, we appreciated the greatness of the Roman architecture and the amazing architectural technique of Baroque.



Piazza Navona



Colosseum

February 21

We attended a guided tour to learn about Renaissance and Baroque architecture. First, we visited Piazza del Popolo and the sites around it. At Santa Maria del Popolo, a student gave a presentation about the plaza, Santa Maria dei Miracoli, and Santa Maria in Montesanto. These three chapels face

Santa Maria dei Popolo. Santa Maria dei Miracoli and Santa Maria in Montesanto are called “a twin church.” During the visit, the students had the opportunity to sketch Santa Maria dei Miracoli.

After lunch, we visited San Pietro in Montorio Tempietto designed by Donato Bramante in the 16th century. Tempietto is known to be one of the greatest works of the High Renaissance architecture. Tempietto became a template for later cupolas. In the evening, we visited Santa Maria della Vittoria. This Roman Catholic church is known for its famous sculpture, namely, the Ecstasy of Saint Teresa, completed by Bernini. We had an opportunity to see the wonderful combination of the architecture and its sculptures. At our last stop of the day, we visited Santa Maria degli Angeli. This chapel was a Roman bath built in the Renaissance period originally. Michelangelo redesigned the chapel and informed it into a church.



Piazza del Popolo



Santa Maria degli Angeli



San Pietro in Montorio Tempietto

February 22

We spent our day touring around Vatican City. The first stop was at the Vatican Museum, one of the most famous and important museums in the world. At the museum, the students appreciated the display of sculptures (e.g., Gruppo del Laocoonte in Museo Pio-Clementino), which originate from the ancient Egyptian, Greece and Roman period. We also had the opportunity to visit the Last Judgment in Sistine Chapel and Scuola di Atene in Stanze (the School of Athens) by Raphael, along with other sites. After having a light lunch at the museum’s cafeteria, we climbed about 300 steps of stairs to enter the dome at the top of the Basilica di San Pietro. We had the opportunity to have a closer look at the cupola completed by Michelangelo. We toured inside the basilica and felt the greatness of the space. We also saw the Pietà sculptured by Michelangelo (one of the most famous sculptures) and the altar with Bernini’s canopy. After leaving the basilica, we visited Piazza San Pietro, which is located directly in front of the basilica. This elliptic plaza (with a width of 240m) was designed by Bernini.



Vatican Museum



Piazza San Pietro

February 23

We visited two Baroque architectures, namely, Saint Andrew's at the Quirinal and San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane. Saint Andrew's at the Quirinal was designed by Bernini, and San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane was designed by Borromini. These two churches were built along the same street. Both exhibit an impressive façade. Afterwards, the students spent some time sketching the interiors of both churches and then tried to understand the features of the Baroque architecture. Later in the day, we moved to Castel Gandolfo, where we had the opportunity to visit the amazing huge garden, namely, Villa Pontificia. Castel Gandolfo is located at the bank of Lake Albano, approximately 23km to the southeast of Rome. Villa Pontificia was built to serve as the summer imperial villa of the Pope. We also enjoyed a great view of the Rome plain.

At our last stop, we visited Viale Appio Claudio, an ancient Roman aqueduct. There, we learned about the water supply in the ancient Roman age and the structure of the aqueduct.



San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane



Saint Andrew's at the Quirinal



Viale Appio Claudio



Castel Gandolfo



Villa Pontificia

February 24

We toured around several sites to learn about the Renaissance and Baroque architecture. First, we visited the Campidoglio designed by Michelangelo. Later, we stopped at Chiesa di Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza designed by Borromini to admire his great masterpiece. Afterwards, the students sketched both the interior and the exterior of Chiesa di Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza. Then, we moved to the cafeteria nearby, where we had a light meal. After lunch, we visited Borghese Gallery to learn about the Baroque sculpture completed by Bernini. There, we had the opportunity to admire some famous sculptures, such as Apollo and Daphne, the Rape of Proserpina, and David. Next, we stopped at Porta Pia, whose façade was designed by Michelangelo. Afterwards, we went to San Paolo fuori le Mura, one of the four papal basilicas of Rome. At the basilica, we learned about the spatial composition of the early Christian architecture. Finally, we moved to Trajan's Markets, an ancient Roman building complex consisting of offices, stores, and houses, among others. This building complex was constructed using Roman concrete in the 2nd century AD. There, we were able to see the construction of ancient arches in the Roman era. February 24 was the last day of our tour in Rome.



Chiesa di Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza



San Paolo fuori le Mura

February 25

We traveled to the north of Rome on a tour to Assisi and Siena. The Basilica of San Francesco of Assisi has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000. This basilica is the mother church of the Roman Catholic Order of Friars Minor Conventual. It is also one of the most important places of Christian pilgrimages in Italy. The upper church of the basilica exhibits a Gothic architecture, whereas the lower church follows the Romanesque architecture. After having lunch at Assisi, we moved to Siena. Siena was listed as a World Heritage Site in the year 1995. We enjoyed the middle-ages cityscape of Siena and we visited Duomo di Siena and Piazza del Campo. It is said that Duomo di Siena has the most beautiful Gothic façade in Italy. After visiting Siena, we departed to Florence.



Basilica of San Francesco, Assisi



Middle-ages cityscape of Assisi



Piazza del Campo, Siena



Middle-ages cityscape lit up by the setting sun, Siena

February 26

We continued our trip to Italy with a three-day visit to Florence, the city where Renaissance art and architecture bloomed. On day 1, we visited some Renaissance gardens located in a suburb of Florence, namely, Villa Medici a Fiesole and Villa Gamberaia. We experienced the wonderful combination of architecture, gardens and cityscape. We also had the opportunity to view the great landscape from the garden built on a high elevation. After visiting the two beautiful villas, we went back to the Florence city center and had lunch.

In the afternoon, we visited Galleria dell'Accademia and saw David by Michelangelo, one of the most famous statues and most outstanding works during the Renaissance period. We also saw other works of Michelangelo, such as the four slave sculptures. After leaving Galleria dell'Accademia, we visited Palazzo Medici Riccardi, which exhibits a characteristic façade of Florentine architecture in the Renaissance period. Finally, we visited Santa Maria Novella, which is well-known for its oldest

drugstore in the world, with a façade designed by Alberti. The students observed the façade carefully and sketched it.



Villa Medici a Fiesole



Villa Gamberaia



Basilica di Santa Maria Novella

February 27

On the second day of our tour in Florence, we started with a visit to Santa Maria del Fiore. This is the landmark of the city of Florence because of its giant cupola, which was designed by Brunelleschi. Brunelleschi is the first known architect of the Renaissance style.

Afterwards, we went to San Lorenzo, and visited the basilica, a mortuary chapel for the Medici family, Sagrestia Vecchia (Old Sacristy) designed by Brunelleschi, and Sagrestia Nuova (New Sacristy), which was based on Michelangelo's design. New Sacristy is known as the first example of structure that was designed and decorated by one artist only. The students sketched the place of New Sacristy. After sketching, we moved to San Lorenzo's courtyard.

Next, we made a short visit to the Baptistry of Saint John, whose ceiling is decorated with golden mosaics and floor is also decorated with mosaics of various colors. From openings of the floor, we were able to see and confirm the remains of the original Roman Empire floor.

In the afternoon, we visited the Basilica of Santa Croce, which is one of the most important buildings of Gothic architecture in Italy. We also moved inside Cappella dei Pazzi and Michelangelo's tomb, which are two other sites in Santa Croce. Cappella dei Pazzi was designed by Brunelleschi in 1430. We were also able to see his masterpiece again, and admired his contribution to the Renaissance architecture in Florence.



New Sacristy in the Basilica of San Lorenzo



Santa Maria del Fiore



Santa Croce

February 28

This was the last day of our trip program. We spent our day on a Bagnaia tour and visited the amazing garden built in the 16th century in Villa Lante. Villa Lante has one of the most famous and well-preserved Renaissance gardens in Italy. The design of the garden is geometrical and the garden includes some beautiful fountain and springs. We admired the harmony of nature and artifacts. The students sketched them.

After visiting Villa Lante, we left Bagnaia and returned to Rome, where we had dinner. We thanked Dr. Dündar and Ms. Ünal for organizing of the ICSA trip program and said goodbye to them at the hotel.



Villa Lante



Villa Lante: Fontana dei Giganti

March 1-2

On March 1, our guide of Rome, we went to Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport accompanied by Ms. Francesca (a tour guide in Rome). The students thanked her for her splendid commentary on the historic architecture of Italy.

After flying for 13 hours (with an intermediate stop at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol), all members arrived at Kansai International Airport in the morning of March 2, 2019. The ICSA program in Rome became a precious cultural experience for the students. This experience will certainly be useful in their future careers.

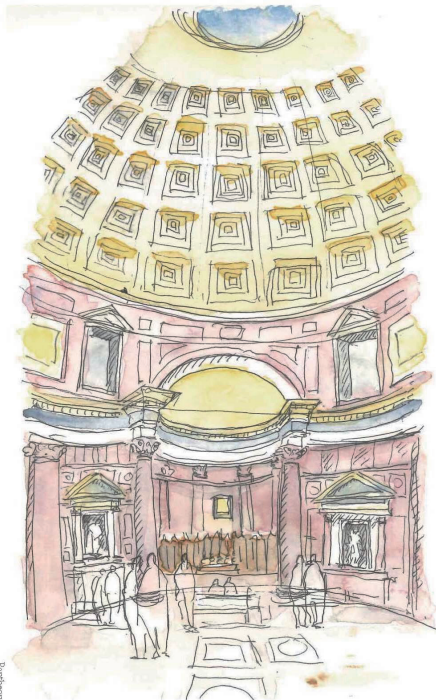


Photo with a tour guide in Rome, Fiumicino Airport

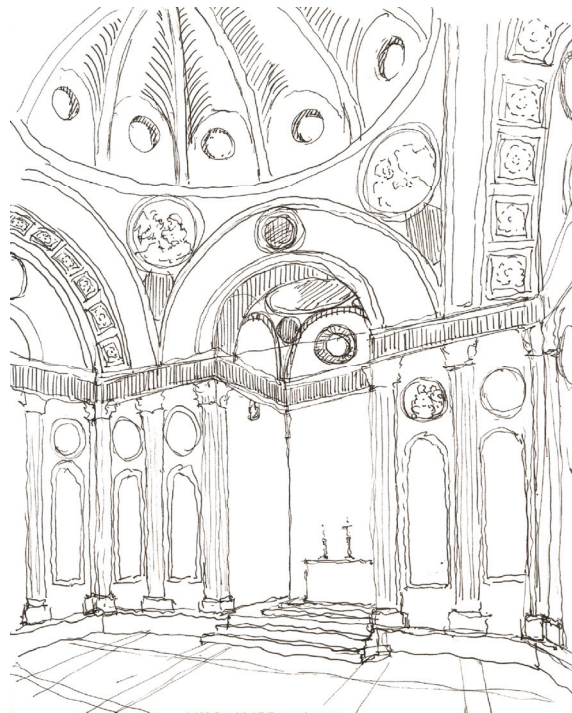


Kansai International Airport

Students' Sketches



Pantheon, drawn by Ayano Shirohara



Cappella de Pazzi, drawn by Kokoro Ohara