



N J SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE @ NJIT: SIENA SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

## FIRENZE

The following FIRENZE (Florence) itinerary consists of both a formal guided tour AND a self-guided tour. The FIRENZE itinerary begins at 9,30 in the piazza Santa Maria Novella in front of the Church (CHIESA) of Santa Maria Novella (this is not S.M. Novella, the train station, important though that building is...).

The guided portion of the itinerary will end at Santa Croce in time for a late lunch at ~14.30. The self-guided portion may be completed later or on a subsequent trip to Florence. Full participation in ALL tours is a requirement of ALL participants in Siena Program.

**ITINERARIO FIRENZE :** [ guided + self-guided, noted as 'go farther' ]

*you say trecento; i say quattrocento / medieval? renaissance? let's call the whole thing off...*

### PIAZZA SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

- Chiesa di Sta. Maria Novella, 13/14c; lower facade attr Jacopo Talenti and upper facade by Leon Battista Alberti 1456/70. Sta Maria Novella, the most important medieval church in Toscana, joins Talenti's vaguely romanesque facade with the first so-called renaissance facade.

>>go farther: Stazione SM Novella, M Rudolphi, 1928-31. One of the largest and most important train stations of the Fascist period; the underground shopping mall + postmodern city bus stops are 1980/90s additions.

### PIAZZA SAN LORENZO

- Chiesa di San Lorenzo, rebuilt F Brunelleschi, 1425/46. Façade designed by Michelangelo but never built; thought to be the earliest church in Firenze, founded by S Ambrogio in 393AD.
  - >>go farther: Chiesa di San Lorenzo, *Sagrestia Vecchia* (Old Sacristy), F Brunelleschi, 1420, with sculpture by Donatello.
  - >>go farther: Biblioteca Laurenziana, Michelangelo B, 1624, with a little help from Vasari, contains one of the great vestibules + stairs; seldom open but you can often beg/plead/talk your way in.
  - >>go farther *OPTIONAL*: Cappelle Medicee, Piazza Madonna degli Aldobrandini: the tombs of the Medici, with some of Michelangelo's best known sculpture, including the tomb of Lorenzo *il magnifico*.
  - >>go farther: Piazza Santissima Annunziata, including 'Spedale degli Innocenti, F Brunelleschi, 1419/45. This was the first institution in Europe for the education and care of children; the building continues to fulfill this function.

### PIAZZA DEL DUOMO

- Batisttero di San Giovanni, 6/7c AD: EXTERIOR: bronze doors by A Pisano, 1336 (St John the Baptist *south*); L Ghilberti, 1403/25 (Life of Christ *north* and 'Gates of Paradise' *east*, so named by Michelangelo B). Called by Dante *bel san giovanni*, the free-standing baptistery is another ancient building much remodeled. Note the considerable differences with the batisttero in Siena.

Campanile, Giotto, 1334. Better known today as the painter who 'restored' classical 'weight' to the human figure, Giotto like many of the peers built as well.

il Duomo Santa Maria del Fiore, many many hands from Arnolfo di Cambio, 1294 (the nave), to the frightening E de Fabris, 1871/87, designer of the 'gothic' façade; cupola/dome by F Brunelleschi, 1420/36, with help from Michelozzo + Verrocchio, was the engineering and architectural marvel of its time and the inspiration for the expansion of the Duomo in Siena. The little balconies at the base of the dome by the now-forgotten Baccio d'Agnolo, are incomplete because Michelangelo B trashed them and the work was abandoned...

## FIRENZE cont'd

>>go farther *OPTIONAL*: climb the dome + see how Brunelleschi did it. you get thrilling views of Florence, too.

### PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

- Another monument (and monumentalizing) *City Beautiful* nod to the Risorgimento, 1861/75, when Firenze served as the capital of the consolidating Kingdom of Italy.

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### PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA

- Loggia della Signoria, 1376/82: Contains [copies of] iconic sculptures, among them: *David*, Michelangelo B 1501; *Perseus*, B Cellini 1545; *Rape of the Sabine Women* and *Hercules + the Centaur*, Giambologna 1583; *Judith + Holofernes*, Donatello c1350. The originals were moved inside years ago to prevent vandalism + environment corrosion; the tourist hordes are not copies.
- Palazzo Vecchio, attr Arnolfo di Cambio, c1294. Site of an amphitheatre in Roman times, it was the Medici seat until they decamped to the airier Palazzo Pitti in 1549. It is contemporaneous with parts of the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena but embodies different intent, as its architecture and its iconographic content demonstrate.
- Palazzo (Galleria) degli Uffizi, Vasari, 1560. Significant as an inventive iteration of the palazzo typology with its attenuated cortile (courtyard) as public space, the Uffizi contains the greatest collection of paintings in Italy. Colin Rowe famously compared the open social + civic 'void' of its cortile with the isolated 'solid' of Le Corbusier's Habitation Unité.

>>go farther: Visit the Galleria.

>>go farther: Ponte Vecchio, various, 1218/1345. The only bridge in Firenze to survive WW II.

>>go farther: Chiesa di Santa Felicta, (on the left at the south side of Ponte Vecchio) another ancient church and a worthy detour to high-emo *cinquecento*: Cappella Capponi (on the right just inside) contains striking tondos by Portorno, 1525/27.

>>go farther: Palazzo Pitti + Giardini Boboli, design attr F Brunelleschi, 1457 (~10yrs after his death). Served as seat of the Toscana's Medici + Savoy rulers until 1919 when Vittorio Emmanuelle III gave it to the state.

### PIAZZA SANTA CROCE

- Chiesa di Santa Croce, rebuilt A di Cambio, 1294; renovated Vasari, 1560. Burial place of Ghilberti, Michelangelo B, Machiavelli and Galileo, among others. If proto-modernity has a tomb, it's here.
- Cappella dei Pazzi, F Brunelleschi, 1442/46. Tectonically clear and serene with sculptures by Luca Della Robbia.
- Chiostre (segundo), F Brunelleschi, 1446.

>>go farther: Museo dell'Opera di Santa Croce (Old Refectory) contains Cimabue's great Crucifix, nearly completely destroyed in the Arno's great flood of 1966.

### OLTRARNO

- Chiesa di Santo Spirito, rebuilt F Brunelleschi, 1424. Don't miss Cappella 12 with the painting *Madonna + Child* etc by Fr Filippino Lippi, 1450.

>>go farther: Piazza Del Carmine, Chiesa di Santa Maria del Carmine, Cappella Brancacci (enter from piazza). Frescoes of San Pietro by Masolino and Masaccio, c1424. Looking at Adam + Eve, *Expulsion from Paradise*, you can almost hear the cries of guilt and remorse.

>>go farther: Piazzale Michelangelo. Top of the hill for a spectacular view of all you have seen in Firenze – good bars + cafes are on the way up...

>>go farther: San Minato al Monte, c1050. To come full circle (and a bit farther back) from Santa Maria Novella, this Romanesque basilica is the original green-and-white, serpentine-and-marble graphical façade of which Santa Maria Novella is but a later iteration. Inside, and largely unaltered since its construction, the basilica's section resonates with Siena's Duomo and Pienza's hallen-kirche in complexity and invention.

*Note: itineraries and schedule are subject to change!*