This symposium addresses how different types of information on past architecture were created, collected, translated, and disseminated via various media between the Sixteenth and Eighteenth Centuries. The aim is to understand how fragments of physical remains, images, and texts were assembled, interpolated and used in the construction of architectural knowledge and buildings, while also reflecting on the social construction of truth and credulity, the role of print technology, and the institutionalization of learning.

The period under investigation was characterized by increasingly wide horizons, both in terms of geographical expansion (mainly through travels and explorations) and chronological span (for example, through the study of fossils). There was not just one single idealized Greco-Roman past, but multiple historical pasts. As a result, Western artists, architects and antiquarians had to face a growing body of information, and, with their own specific expertise, had to test themselves on the creation of new graphic representations, historical narratives, and collecting practices.

In recent years, scholars such as Giovanna Ceserani, Peter Miller and Christopher Wood, among others, have expanded and challenged the previous interpretation of antiquarianism established by Arnaldo Momigliano. At the same time, a new history of knowledge (or, rather, of knowledges), as framed by Peter Burke, is now trying to redefine the boundaries of what should be accounted for 'knowledge,' while the history of scientific observation, the management of information, the history of technology, as much as the history of truth, credulity, and deception are receiving increasing attention within the scholarly community.

The way in which architects have studied the fragments, ruins and buildings of the past has been a consistent focus of architectural history from the earliest times. But what is the current state of the scholarship, and how should it respond to the challenges posed by the adjacent fields?

This symposium attempts to answer these questions by discussing different types of objects (such as drawings, books, maps, and buildings), figures with different expertise (like architects, antiquarians, cartographers, etc.) spanning a large geographical and chronological framework. By bringing into conversation a group of international scholars, its final goal is to find and test new, more inclusive frameworks and productive fields of discussion.

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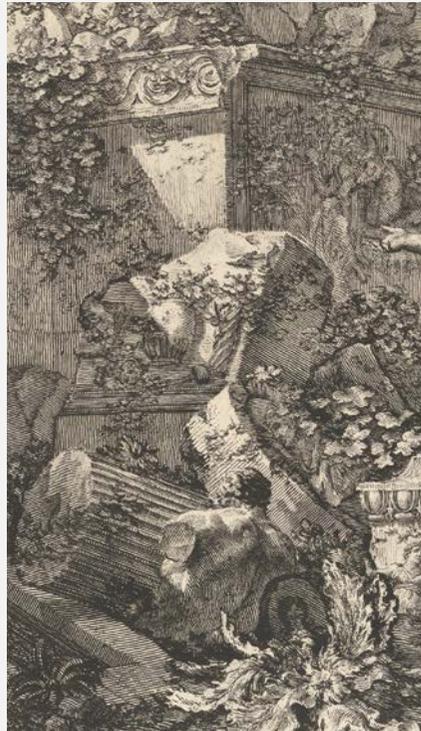
The conference is open to the public free of charge. Pre-registration is required to guarantee seating: niki@nikiflorence.org

Image above and middle page: G. B. Piranesi, Frontispiece from *Vedute di Roma*, ca. 1748. Credit Line: Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1937

Cover image: Dimostrazione di varj ornamenti del Tempio di Vesta, from *Raccolta de' tempj antichi* by Francesco Piranesi, Roma 1780

Conference

Fragments, Architecture, and Antiquarian Knowledge

Organized by
Eleonora Pistis &
Michael W. Kwakkelstein

8-9 June 2023

NIKI
NETHERLANDS
INTERUNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR
ART HISTORY

Thursday, June 8

Coffee/tea

10.45
Michael W. Kwakkelstein (NIKI)
Director's Welcome

11.00
Eleonora Pistis (Columbia University)
Introduction - *Fragments of Knowledge and Architecture*

11.30
Krista De Jonge (KU Leuven) - *Without Rome: Fragments as Signifiers of Antiquity in Netherlandish Sixteenth-Century Architecture, from the Treatise to the Building*

12.00
Konrad Ottenheym (Utrecht University) - *Castles and Temples in Ancient Batavia, according to Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Dutch Scholars*

12.40
Lunch break

14.00
Bianca De Divitiis (Università di Napoli Federico II)
Creating Traditions: Ancient and new spolia between Southern Italy and the Iberian Americas

14.30
Fulvio Lenzo (Università IUAV di Venezia)
Ferdinando Sanfelice: nobile di seggio e "amante delle antichità"

15.00
Alper Metin (Università degli Studi di Bologna)
Precursing the novel, recalling the bygone: Material and ideal presence of the past in Eighteenth-century Istanbul constructions

15.30
Coffee/tea

16.00
Cinzia Sicca (Università degli Studi di Pisa)
"Random Drawings from your Sheets shall take/ And of one Beauty many Blunders make": Drawings after the Antique in early Eighteenth-Century England

16.30
Susanna Pasquali (Sapienza Università di Roma)
Si possono collezionare le colonne antiche? L'Antico e l'architettura nella seconda metà del Settecento a Roma

17.00
Discussion

17.30
Reception

Friday, June 9

9.15
Coffee/tea

9.45
Victor Plahte Tschudi (Oslo School of Architecture and Design/I Tatti) - *The Papal Privilegio and Serlio's Book on the Antiquities of Rome*

10.15
Sarah McPhee (Emory University)
The Pyramid of Gaius Cestius: Prints, Maps and Antiquarian Research in Seventeenth-Century Rome

10.45
Coffee/tea

11.15
Mario Bevilacqua (Sapienza Università di Roma)
Trees of Knowledge, Encyclopedias, and Roman Cartography in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

11.45
Heather Hyde Minor (University of Notre Dame)
Paper Prisons: Evidence, Antiquarianism and Architecture in Early Modern Rome

12.15
Discussion and final remarks