

2020-08-28 - Lecture 06

9.1 Italian Mercantile Class and the Rise of Public Space, c.1200-1350

- 1) Rise of Italian Mercantile Class **leads to expansion of citizens' rights** within the City-State or Republic.
 - Architecture and urban design are the embodiment of this change
 - Public Space often anchored by the City Hall or the Public Palazzo, as well as the Cathedral
 - City life shifts toward a sense of responsibility of government, transparency, expression of people's rights (to a certain degree — nothing like the concept of Natural Right we know today)
 - City life - develops a sense of theater

- 2) **Pisa**
 - *Campo dei Miracoli* = Compound (or Campus) of Miracles
 - 1150 - The Church (**Duomo**) largely completed in the new sacred complex or campo (we ultimately get the word "campus" from campo)
 - Duomo actually means house (domus) - as in House of God
 - Middle Eastern and Byzantine details, flourishes, finials, used, such as ablaq, the horizontal striation of colors in the marble of the facades
 - Lots of delicate thin carving, references to eastern Med and maritime resources
 - Blind arcade w pilasters ground level - next four levels deeply carved white marble arcades with constantly changing shadows - finials, decoration, suggestive of the eastern Med
 - Pisa at the height of its powers about 1250
 - Defeated by Genoa in 1280 and never recovered
 - **Duomo** is *Pisan Romanesque*
 - **Baptistery** begun 1182
 - **Campanile** (Leaning Tower) begun 1173. Italian for Bell Tower - bell in Italian = campana
 - **Campo Santo** (Sacred Field, a.k.a. Cemetery or Columbarium)

- 3) Florence
 - San Miniato al Monte - much flatter and more colorful
 - Almost classical
 - Baptistery of San Giovanni 1059-1128 - Florentine Romanesque, gilded interior

- 4) New Terms
 - **Abiaq** multi-colored striated masonry facades
 - **Stilted Arch // Ogee Arch**
 - **Porch // Loggia**

- 5) Venice
 - **Grand Canal** is a central public space as are the paved piazzas
 - The most serene of the Italian republics - **La Serenissima**
 - Lifetime-elected Doge and nine Procurators
 - **Cathedral Basilica of San Marco** is a **quincunx** (five dome arrangement) which dominates the piazza San Marco and connects to the Doge's Palace. Finished about 1090.
 - **Doge's Palace** in *Piazza San Marco*
 - **Campanile** of the *Piazza San Marco*
 - **Piazza San Marco**
 - **Venetian Palaces** (homes of wealthy merchants) an expression of eastern Med details, Byzantine and Arabic, as well as a direct response to site conditions such as very high water

 - Buildings much lighter as they go up (fenestration-to-wall ratio) as a direct response to water table conditions and footings
 - Deep footings and piles below water table

- 6) The Public Palace (a.k.a. **Palazzo Pubblico**, City Hall, Municipal Building)
 - The Palazzo Pubblico an architectural expression of the social

and political order

- Often included a tripartite construction and a tall tower (torre)
- Almost always dominated a **Public Space**
- Public Spaces begin to be architecturally shaped to present the most important elements
- Good Examples: **Florence // Siena // Gubbio // San Gimignano**
- In 1255, San Gimignano's town council ordered all towers higher than the **Rognosa Tower** of the City Hall to be cut down. So the noble families, the Guelphs and Ghibellines, were forced to lower their towers. Very symbolic gesture demonstrating an emergence of a ruling class more democratic than before.