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## Palladio's Life and World: A Timeline

### Palladio and his Career



Jean-Jacques Boissard: Poggio Bracciolini



Leon Battista Alberti

Andrea di Pietro dalla Gondola [Andrea, son of Pietro of the gondola], later to be known as Andrea Palladio, is born in Padua on 30 November, St. Andrea's Day. His godfather is Vincenzo Grandi, a Vicenza sculptor who also worked in Padua.

### Year

### Related Publications and Events

**1414** Poggio Bracciolini discovers at the monastic library of St. Gallen in Switzerland a medieval manuscript copy of [De architectura](#), a treatise written by the Roman architect Vitruvius in the first century A.D.

**1452** Leon Battista Alberti, [De re aedificatoria](#) [Ten books on architecture] (Florence), published posthumously.

**1483** Vitruvius, [De architectura libri decem](#) [Ten books on architecture] (Rome: Fra Giovanni Sulpitius, 1st printed ed.).

**1508**



Andrea Palladio

Andrea is apprenticed to Bartolomeo Cavazza, a stonecutter in Padua.

Andrea breaks his apprenticeship contract and moves to Vicenza to join his family, which has moved there. Cavazza brings him back to Padua.

Andrea parts with Cavazza and enrolls in Vicenza guild of stonemasons. He trains under Giovanni da Porlezza, an architect-builder, and Girolamo Pittoni, a sculptor, who together own the Pedemuro workshop.



Vincenzo Catena: Giangiorgio Trissino

Andrea marries Allegradonna, the daughter of a carpenter. Her dowry is provided by Angela Poiana, a Venetian noblewoman in whose household she served. They will have five children: Leonida (an architect who worked with his father), Marc'antonio (who worked with the sculptor Alessandro Vittoria in Venice), Orazio (who studied law in Padua), Zenobia (wife of a goldsmith in Vicenza) and Silla (who, as secretary of the Accademia Olimpico, supervised completion of the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, after his father's death).

The Pedemuro workshop executes the **high altar of the cathedral of Vicenza**, with a combination of classical and Venetian elements, possibly to Palladio's design.

The Pedemuro workshop installs a classical **doorway**, probably to Palladio's design, for the **Domus Comestabilis in Vicenza**, leading from the Basilica to the residence of the Venetian *podestà* [governor].

Andrea probably meets Giangiorgio Trissino for the first time while the Pedemuro workshop is working on Trissino's villa at Cricoli.

**1511** Vitruvius, *De architectura*, (Venice: 1st illustrated ed.). Edited by Fra Giovanni Giocondo, who probably supplied the illustrations..

**1521** Vitruvius, *De architectura* (Como: 1st Italian ed.). Translation and commentary primarily by Cesare Cesariano.

**1523**

**1524** Alvise Cornaro constructs in the courtyard of his palace in Padua a loggia designed by Giovanni Maria Falconetto in the *all'antica* style.

**1527** Rome is sacked by forces of the Holy Roman Emperor. Several prominent figures relocate from Rome to the Veneto, including sculptor-architect Jacopo Sansovino to Venice; architect Micheli Sanmicheli to Verona and Venice, architect-writer Sebastiano Serlio to Venice, and literary figure Giangiorgio Trissino to Vicenza.

**1531** The Pedemuro workshop, commissioned by Francesco Godi, erects a **portal** with classical elements for the **church of Santa Maria dei Servi**, near the central piazza of Vicenza.

**1534**

**1534-1536**

**1536**

**1536-1537**

Giangiorgio Trissino rebuilds his villa in Cricoli, outside Vicenza, after Sebastiano Serlio's drawing of an alternative garden façade which Rafael had designed for Villa Madama in Rome.

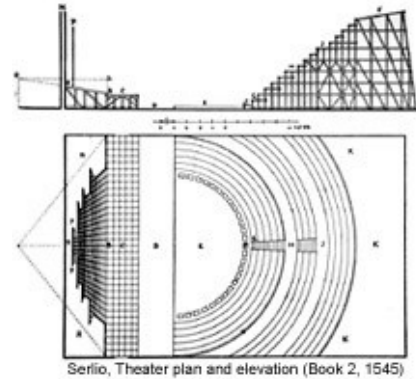
Andrea leaves the Pedemuro workshop but receives through them his first major commission, to design **Villa Godi** in Lonedo di Lugo.

**1537** Sebastiano Serlio, [General rules on architecture](#) [*Fourth Book on architecture*] (Venice). The first volume published in a projected series of seven.

**1538** Jacopo Sansovino works on the upper gallery of the cathedral in Vicenza.

**1538-1540**

Andrea moves temporarily to Padua with Giangiorgio Trissino. While there he meets Alvise Cornaro, likely sees in construction the Bastion Cornaro designed by Michele Sanmicheli, and may meet his future patrons Giorgio Cornaro and Daniele Barbaro, who are both present there at that time.



Andrea returns briefly from Padua to Vicenza in February 1539 to attend a theatrical performance staged in a wooden theater designed by Sebastiano Serlio for the courtyard of Palazzo Colleoni Porto, which influenced the subsequent founding of the Accademia Olimpica.

Andrea for the first time appears in some documents as 'Palladio' and begins to use the title architect.

**1540** Sebastiano Serlio, [Delle Antichità](#) [*Third book on architecture*] (Venice).

Palladio designs **Palazzo Civena** in Vicenza.

Torello Sarayna, [De origine et amplitudine civitatis Veronae](#) (Venice), a book on Verona antiquities.

Palladio visits Rome for the first time, from early in the year until autumn, accompanied by Giangiorgio Trissino.

**1541** Serlio moves to Fountainbleau as a consultant to the French king.

Palladio designs **Villa Valmarana at Vigardolo**

Palladio designs **Villa Gazzotti** in Marcello Curti in Bertisima with his first templ- style pediment.



Villa Gazzotti

**1541-1542** Michele Sanmicheli visits Vicenza for consultation on the Basilica, staying with Giovanni da Porlezza of the Pedemuro workshop.

**1542**

Palladio designs **Villa Pisani at Bagnolo**, his first commission for a patrician family of Venice.



Titian: Giulio Romano

Palladio begins designing **Palazzo Porto** in  
Vicenza.

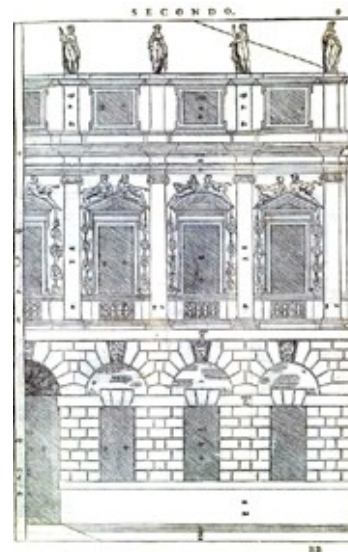
Palladio performs his first public commission  
as Vicenza's city architect. With support  
from Giangiorgio Trissino, Palladio constructs  
a temporary architectural stage set with  
triumphal arches and pediments in the  
*all'antica* style to celebrate the arrival into  
Vicenza of Cardinal Bishop Niccolò Ridolfi.

Palladio visits Rome for the second time,  
from September until February of following  
year, accompanied by Giangiorgio Trissino.

Palladio begins designing **Palazzo da Porto  
Festa**.

1543

c1545



Palazzo da Porto Festa (detail)

Palladio and Giovanni da Porlezza of the  
Pedemuro workshop submit a proposal for the  
Basilica loggia project.

Palladio visits Rome for the third time, from  
March until July of following year,  
accompanied by Giangiorgio Trissino. While  
there he may have designed the *ciborium* in  
the church of Santo Spirito in Sassia.

1546

Leon Battista Alberti, *Ten books on architecture*, 1st Italian ed.  
(Venice).

Upon Giulio Romano's death, Palladio assumes supervision of the construction of **Palazzo**

**Thiene**, which was begun in 1542, and modifies some of Romano's design for it; construction is suspended before completion.

Palladio travels to Albano, Tivoli and Palestrina. **1547**

Palladio designs **Villa Caldogno**. **c1548**

Palladio designs **Villa Saraceno** in Finale and **Villa Poiana** in Poiana Maggiore. **1548-1549**

Palladio is commissioned to construct the loggias of Vicenza's Palazzo della Ragione, known as the **Basilica**. **1549**

Palladio visits Rome for the fourth time, possibly to advise on St. Peter's Basilica. He probably views Sangallo the Younger's recent giant model of it.

Palladio designs a **bridge** spanning the Cison River at Bassano del Grappa. **1550**



Bridge over the Cison River, Bassano del Grappa (reproduction)

John Shute travels to Italy, upon commission by the Duke of Cumberland, to research architecture.

Giangiorgio Trissino dies.

Palladio begins designing **Villa Cornaro** in Piombino Dese (his second villa for a Venetian patrician), **Villa Pisani in Montagnana**, **Palazzo Chiericati** in Vicenza, and **Palazzo della Torre** in Verona. **1551**



Villa Cornaro, Piombino Dese

Palladio unsuccessfully seeks appointment as *proto*, chief architect, of the Salt Magistracy in Venice. **1554**

Palladio visits Rome for the fifth time, accompanied by [Pirro?] Ligorio and Daniele Barbaro. He probably writes his two guidebooks on this trip, [L'antichità di Roma](#) between February and July and [Descrizione delle chiese di Roma](#) thereafter.

Palladio participates in first Rialto Bridge project.



Pietro Cataneo of Siena, [I quattro primi libri d'architettura](#) (Venice)

Palladio designs **Villa Mocenigo** at Dolo and **Villa Chiericati** at Vancimuglio (his first villa with a 'Greek temple-front' motif).



Villa Chiericati, Vancimuglio

Anton Francesco Doni in his [Seconda Libreria](#) mentions that Palladio has drafted an architectural treatise: 'The book is untitled, but from what one can learn from it, [it] could be called 'the norms of true architecture.'

1555

Palladio submits a model for a stairway at the Doge's Palace in Venice.

Palladio and others submit plans for replacing the Rialto Bridge.

Palladio designs **Villa Badoer** in Fratta Polesina.



Villa Badoer, Fratta Polesina

Palladio designs **Palazzo Antonini** in Udine.

c1555

Palladio designs the **Arco Bollani**, an arched gateway in Udine. 1556



Arco Bollani, Udine

Palladio joins in founding the Accademia Olimpico in Vicenza.

Daniele Barbaro confirms Doni's description of Palladio's text and adds that Palladio has included drawings and comments on the structures he had planned and built.

Palladio supplies illustrations for [Daniele Barbaro's Italian language edition of Vitruvius](#) (and the Latin edition in the following year).



Giorgio Vasari probably views Palladio's original manuscript during his visit to Venice. He uses it freely in writing Palladio's profile in his *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors and Architect*.

Palladio designs **Villa Barbaro** in Maser, incorporating remnants of an earlier structure, and **Villa Repeta** in Campiglia.



Villa Barbaro, Maser

Palladio designs **Villa Foscari** (La Malcontenta) on the Brenta and **Villa Zen** in Cessalto.

1558



Villa Foscari (La Malcontenta)

Palladio designs a façade for the **Church of San Pietro** in Castello, the patriarchal cathedral of Venice.

Palladio receives his first commission for a work in Venice: completion of the **refectory for the Benedictine monastery** of San Giorgio Maggiore.

1560

Palladio designs **Villa Emo** in Fanzolo.



Villa Emo, Fanzolo

Palladio designs a façade for **Palazzo Schio** in the Ponte Pusterla section of Vicenza.

Palladio designs the **convent of Santa Maria della Carità** in Venice

1561

Palladio designs the first of his three temporary theaters, with others following in 1562 and 1565.



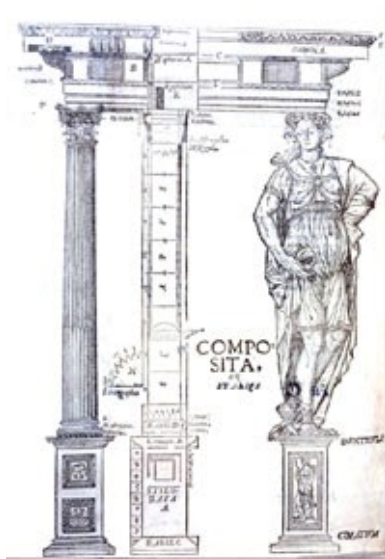
1562 Giacomo Barozzi Vignola, [La regola delli cinque ordini dell' architettura](#) (Rome).

Palladio designs a façade for church of **San Francesco della Vigna** in Venice.

Palladio designs **Villa Valmarana at Lisiera**.

1563

John Shute, *First & chief groundes of architecture* (London).



Palladio submits unsuccessful design for second Rialto Bridge competition in Venice.

Palladio designs the rebuilding of the church of **Santa Lucia** in Venice.

Palladio designs the church of **San Giorgio Maggiore** in Venice.

1565



Claude Monet, *San Giorgio Maggiore at Dusk* (1908)

Palladio designs **Villa Sarego** at Santa Sofia.

Palladio designs **Palazzo Valmarana** in  
Vicenza.

Palladio travels to Turin at the invitation  
of Emanuele Philiberto, Duke of Savoy, who  
had moved his capital there four years earlier  
and launched a series of building projects. **1566**

Palladio designs **Villa Almerigo [La  
Rotonda]** near Vicenza. **c1566**



Villa Almerigo (La Rotonda), Vicenza

Palladio critiques a model created by  
Lodovico Beretta for a proposed new  
cathedral in Brescia. **1567**

Pietro Cataneo, *L'architettura di Pietro Cataneo Senese*  
(Venice).

Palladio designs **Palazzo Barbaran da Porto**  
in Vicenza. **1570**

At the request of Martino Bassi, Palladio and  
others comment on a design controversy  
involving Milan Cathedral.

Palladio publishes [I quattro libri  
dell'architettura](#) [Four Books on Architecture]  
(Venice: Domenico de' Franceschi).



Later Italian editions of *I quattro libri*  
published in 1581, 1601, 1616, 1642, 1711  
(with *L'Antichità di Roma*), 1740-48 (G.  
Fossati ed. with Muttoni annotations), 1768  
(reprinted 1780), 1769 (Fossati-Muttoni),  
1791 (Books 1-3 only), 1800 (Fossati-  
Muttoni), 1945 (reprinted 1951, 1968, 1976,  
1980), 1979, 1980 and 1992.

Palladio moves to Venice.

Palladio designs **Loggia del Capitaniato** in  
Vicenza.

1571



Loggia del Capitaniato, Vicenza

Palladio designs **Palazzo Porto Breganze** in  
Vicenza.

Palladio's sons Leonida and Orazio die.

Palladio unsuccessfully proposes a design  
for the façade of the church of San Petronio  
in Bologna.

1572

El Greco paints (probably) Palladio's portrait, now in Royal  
Museum in Copenhagen. (Another apparent portrait of  
Palladio, attributed to Magagno, is now owned by the  
Valmarana family).

Silvio Belli, [Treatise on proportion](#) (Venice).

Palladio designs a temporary **triumphal arch  
and loggia** for the Lido to welcome Henry III,  
king of France, on his state visit to Venice.

1574

Palladio publishes *I commentari di C. Giulio  
Cesare* (Venice).

1574-1575

1575

The second great plague epidemic attacks Venice.

c1575

Alessandro Farnese transcribes a series of drawings from  
Palladio's *I quattro libri*.

1576

Palladio plans church of **Il Redentore** [the  
Redeemer] in Venice.



Il Redentore, Venice

Palladio (prob.) designs **Valmarana Chapel** in the Church of Santa Corona.

Palladio consults on restoring/rebuilding the Doge's Palace in Venice after the fire in 1577.

1577

Palladio proposes additional designs for the façade of San Petronio in Bologna.

1578

Palladio prepares 43 illustrations for a new edition of Polybius' *History*. Palladio addresses letter of dedicaton to Francesco de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany, but the book is never published.

Palladio designs the **Teatro Olimpico** in Vicenza.

1580



Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza

Palladio designs the **Tempietto** for Villa Barbaro at Maser.

Palladio dies at Maser August 19.



Giuseppe de Fabris: Funeral monument of Andrea Palladio (1845)

Palladio's surviving sons, Marc'Antonio and Silla, work to complete an expanded edition of *I quattro libri dell'architettura* with a fifth

1581

part which Palladio himself had begun, but  
the project is never finished.

**Bibliography**

Guido Beltrami and Howard Burns, editors, *Palladio* (London: Royal Academy of Arts, 2008); Bruce Boucher, *Andrea Palladio: The Architect in his Time* (New York: Abbeville Press, 1994); Tracy Cooper, *Palladio's Venice: Architecture and Society in a Renaissance Republic* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005); Branko Mitrovic, *Learning from Palladio* (New York: Norton, 2004); Andrea Palladio, *The Four Books on Architecture*, translated by Robert Tavernor and Richard Schofield (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1997); Lionello Puppi, translated by Joyce Vassallo Storey, "Palladio, Palladianism and Palladianists 1570-1730," in Mario di Valmarana, ed., *Building by the Book I* (Palladian Studies in America series), (Charlottesville: Center for Palladian Studies in America, 1984), pp. 5-24.

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