

MOD CON

Modern + Contemporary Architecture of Rome

ARCH4050 • 3 credits • Tuesdays 2-5:30 pm • Jeff Balmer, instructor

Without dictated limits—indeed, with broadening encouragement—the architects of Italy in the 1920s and 1930s presented a great range of artistic achievement that cannot be easily classified by style or theory. The term *Fascist architecture* has little meaning at all.

Terri Kirk, *The Architecture of Modern Italy*

It is necessary, now, that the history of tomorrow, the history we fervently wish to create, not be a contrast or a parody of the history of yesterday. The Romans were not only warriors, but formidable builders who could challenge, as they *did* challenge, their time.

Benito Mussolini

The years from 1949–65 testified to a search for an architectural language not tarnished by fascism, as Rationalism certainly was, in favour of a style that could offer dignified and decent housing for the people flooding into the cities.

Diane Ghirardo, *Italy: Modern Architectures in History*

I don't have a style. I don't want one. I've fought against it my whole life.

Massimiliano Fuksas

Objectives

This course provides an essential component of the Rome semester experience. It serves a companion course to the ARCH4204 history survey course taught by Professor Nolan, continuing its timeline to survey architecture in the city of Rome throughout the twentieth century and into the new millennium. This course will also provide a research framework for students to engage detailed case-studies of key Modernist and contemporary works of architecture and urban space in Rome.

Structure

The course comprises a series of lectures and (hopefully) on-site visits to Modernist and Contemporary buildings, urban spaces, and architectural practices, combined with a semester-long precedent research project: students will document, draw & model an assigned building in Rome's EUR district, projects that span the site's urban history from the 1930s to the present day.



FIGURE 1: Esposizione Universale di Roma (EUR), original masterplan, Marcello Piacentini et al., 1937.



figure 2: Palazzo dei Congressi, Rome. Libera, 1938-54.

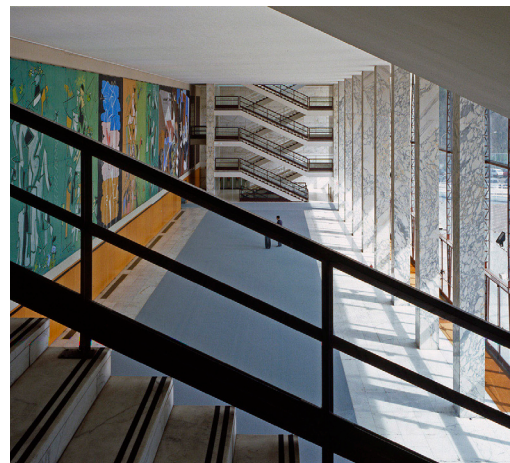


figure 3: Palazzo dei Congressi, Rome. Libera, 1938-54.



figure 4: Palazzo dei Congressi, Rome. Libera, 1938-54, scene from *The Conformist*, Bernardo Bertolucci, 1970.



figure 5: Palazzo dei Congressi, Rome. Libera, 1938-54, scene from *The Conformist*, Bernardo Bertolucci, 1970.

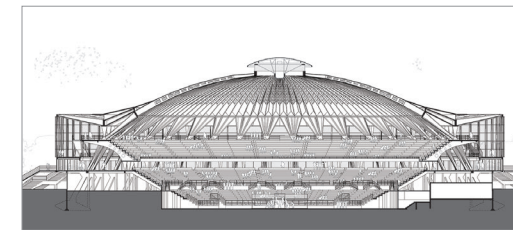


FIGURE 6: Palazzo dello Sport, EUR, Pierluigi Nervi, 1960



FIGURE 7: La Nuvola, EUR, Studio Fuksas, 2016



FIGURE 8: E42 Arch, Rome, Adalberto Libera, 1939