

TECHNICAL FACT SHEET

In 2010, with Resolution 259, the United States Congress declared Andrea Palladio "Father of the American Architecture." The documentary draws a line in space between the two shores of the Atlantic and presents five centuries of works by Andrea Palladio and those he influenced. Palladio could probably be defined as the first "starchitect", having influenced the history of architecture like few architects before and after him. Palladio is probably the 1st film on architecture theory and history for the big screen. It is certainly the first made with means normally used for the greatest commercial productions (8KHD). The first to be launched at national level (more than 400 theatres in Italy). It was the most watched documentary on architecture, being 5th in the Italian box office chart during the projection days (May 20th, 21st, 22nd 2019), right behind Pokemon and surpassing The Adventurers. It evokes crossed-stories between researchers, architects, restorers, and in particular the one of a young teacher-historian-architect (Gregorio Carboni Maestri), who studies, teach, live and preserve his works, passing his legacy to future generations

- **DURATION: 90 minutes**
- **FORMAT: 8K HDR**
- **LANGUES: ITALIAN, ENGLISH, FRENCH**
- **SHOOTING PERIOD: 2017 and 2018**
- **LOCATIONS: ITALY (VENICE AND LATIUM) / BRUSSELS / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
- **PARTNERS: LANDBARK TRUST / LOMBARDY REGION / VENETO REGION / LATIUM REGION / UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES**

SYNOPSIS

Palladio is a film project dedicated to Andrea Palladio, the architect who, with his work, has become one of the reference points for the most important power buildings in the world. It is a journey to discover Palladio's ancient world and modern legacy. The New York's Wall Street Stock-Exchange, U.S. White House and Capitol in Washington D.C. and many other representative buildings were built directly or indirectly following the indications that the master. Indications codified in his written work 450 years ago. It is not a historical or biographical documentary, but a film of a new genre, a *documentario di tendenza*. Which sees the great architect and his legacy in the contemporary world through the eyes of those who study, live and preserve his work for future generations. In particular, a university teacher in Brussels, Gregorio Carboni Maestri, tries to explain Palladian architecture and theories to his young students of "Generation Z".

Born in Padua in 1508, the son of a modest family, Palladio began as a simple stonemason, becoming the most beloved and prized architect of the Venetian Republic. Through the study of the magnificent Roman ruins, he reinvented the classical style and forever changed the history of architecture, closing the Renaissance era and opening the Modernity era. A master of proportions as well as light and matter, he codified the modern agricultural villa, built palaces and churches in harmony with man and nature. His treaty *The Four Books of Architecture* closed the work of a lifetime and established a universal language that influenced generations of architects around the world. Thomas Jefferson used them as a model to establish the symbols of the newly independent United States of America.

Palladio is a choral story that separates different narrative. A cosmopolitan professor, Gregorio Carboni Maestri - also the film's scientific director and co-writer - arrives in New York in search of Andrea Palladio's legacy and in ways to pass on his humanist values to new generations in public and mass- university. At Yale, young architects

of tomorrow are also confronted with the contradictions of American Palladianism. Palladianism that was a symbol of democracy but also used by owners of slaves for their villas. The documentary touches those contradictions, explaining the ideological relativity of architecture. At Villa Saraceno in the Venetian countryside, three restoration students spend a weekend with international academics gathered for a lecture on Palladio. There, these narrative lines meet.

The feature documentary is a journey between New York, Virginia, Washington D.C.; Brussels, the Veneto's villas and Rome's classical temples. Strict and evocative images bring to the big screen iconic buildings such as Villa La Rotonda, Villa Foscari La Malcontenta, Venice's Retentor and San Giorgio Maggiore churches, the White House, the U.S. Capitol, Rome's Pantheon and Forums. Architects and scholars such as Peter Eisenman, Kenneth Frampton, Gregorio Carboni Masters, Antonio Foscari, George Saumarez Smith and Alexandra di Valmarana are protagonists of this journey. Although already sick, Lionello Puppi, one of most important Palladianists of his days, participated in the filming with generosity and passion, giving a final testimony of a life devoted to Palladian studies. Puppi died in Treviso shortly after the end of the film that is dedicated to him.

Contemporary Palladian's. The scene at a **table in Villa Saraceno** is one of the film's most important moments. An authentic encounter between "contemporary Palladian's", owners and inhabitants of villas (such as Count Antonio Foscari, Count Nicolò Valmarana and Cristian Malinverni), experts (Gregorio Carboni Maestri, returning from a journey in the US), restorers and Scholars who discuss at a friendly banquet to make the most of Palladio's ancient and at the same time modern universe. The guest's scene at Villa Saraceno was made possible thanks to the contribution of the Landmark Trust, British owner of the villa. The realization of Palladio was supported by Veneto Region's Film Commission in collaboration with the Tourist Consortium Vicenza È, Lombardy Region's Film Commission, Latium's Region, Latium Cinema International and The Landmark Trust.

MAIN LOCATIONS

Italy, Vicenza

It goes without saying that Vicenza is universally recognized as the “Palladian capital”. Its point of origin, the epicenter of what for three centuries has been one of West’s main architectural movements. Vicenza’s city and province are the places with the highest concentrated of Palladio’s monuments, villas and buildings in the world.

Chiericati Palace (Civic Museum)



Designed in 1550 by Andrea Palladio for Girolamo Chiericati, it is the artist’s first maturity masterpieces. Work construction was interrupted in 1557 due to the client’s death and it was not until the end of the 17th century that the building was completed in accordance with the project published in *The Four Books of Architecture*. The Palace Chiericati preserves, in addition to the period decorations, important documents of Vicenza’s artistic history.

Olympic Theater



Andrea Palladio was 72 when he was commissioned -by the Olympic Academy- to build a permanent theater. He drew it a few months before his death, never seeing it completed. Ran by his son Silla, the theater was delivered to the city in 1583. The project is openly inspired by Roman theaters.

Palladian Basilica



“As the Ancients made their Basilica’s so, as that in the Spring and Summer People might meet together there, to treat of and transact their Affairs, and to carry on their Law-Suits; so, in our limes, every City, as well in Italy as out of it, built certain spacious Publick Halls, which may be properly and justly term’d Basilicas, because the Residence of the Supreme Magistrates is near to them, whence they come to be Part thereof; and the proper etymological Sense of this Word Basilica is, a Royal House,- not only for the Reason now given, but because the Judges attend there to administer Justice to the People.”

The Third Book on Architecture by Andrea Palladio

The Palladian Basilica is inextricably linked to Andrea Palladio, who redesigned the pre-existing gothic building, the Palazzo della Ragione, by “surrounding” it with the famous white marble loggias. In 2014, the Palladian Basilica became an Italian national monument.

Villa Almerico Capra Valmarana, known as “The Rotonda”



“This Gentleman, after having travell’d a long time to improve himself, being come to settle at last in his own country, after the death of all his friends, chose his abode at a country-house he had on a hill, within less than half a mile of the town, where he since has built the following house, which I have not plac’d among the Country-houses, because of its proximity to the town, to which one may properly say it belongs. Its situation is as advantageous and delicious as can be desir’d, being seated on a hillock of a most easie ascent, at the foot of which runs the *Bacchilione*, a navigable river. On the other side, it is surrounded by several hills, that seem to form a great Theatre, and which besides are all of them cultivated, being very fertile, abounding with excellent Fruits and Vineyards : so that having the advantage of fine prospects on all sides, some confin’d, some more remote, and some farther than the sight can reach, I have made Portico’s to all the four fronts...”

The Second Book on Architecture by Andrea Palladio

Palladio’s most celebrated villa, the Rotonda is located at the top of a hill and the image is that of a temple-villa, with loggias on four façades, that allow to look at the surrounding landscape. Curiosity: In *The Four Books on Architecture*, Palladio inserted the Rotonda into the volume dedicated to buildings, testifying its nature as a suburban residence rather than an agricultural villa.

Agugliaro Vicentino, Villa Saraceno



Currently the villa belongs to The Landmark Trust, an English architecture association that, after working on the restoration of the building, dedicated it to cultural events and partly for a residence of “responsible tourism”. Here Palladio restructured an existing agricultural building and, as it appears in *The Four Books on Architecture*, his project envisages a villa surrounded by two large right-angle *barchesse*.

Caldogno, Villa Caldogno



“ But, since there is soon to come into the light of day a work of Palladio, in which will be printed two books of ancient edifices and one book of those that that he himself has caused to be built, I shall say nothing more of him, because this will be enough to make him known as the excellent architect that he is held to be by all who see his beautiful works; besides which, being still young and attending constantly to the studies of his art, every day greater things may be expected of him. Nor will I omit to say that he has wedded to such gifts a nature so amiable and gentle, that it renders him well-beloved with everyone; wherefore he has won the honour of being accepted into the number of the Academicians of Design in Florence, [...], as will be told in another place, speaking of the said Academicians.”

Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects by Giorgio Vasari

The Villa Caldogno project is not included in *The Four Books on Architecture*. But it seems to be a Palladio’s project given the many analogies with other constructions of the same time signed by the architect of Padua.

Lugo di Vicenza, Villa Godi Malinverni



“At Lonedo a place in the Vicentine, is the following house belonging to Signor Girolamo de Godi. It is situated on a little hill that has a very fine prospect, near a river that furnishes it with fish.”

The Second Book on Architecture by Andrea Palladio

Andrea Palladio is probably at the source of the project of Villa Godi Malinverni. Among the reasons for the notoriety of the villa, there’s the fact that Luchino Visconti used it as film set for *Senso*.

**United States of America
Washington D.C., White House**



World's largest executive powerhouse, it is inspired on Andrea Palladio's style. Its doors have been opened to MAGNITUDO Film specially for this documentary.

United States Capitol



Temple of the American democracy and one of the most iconic public buildings on the planet, the U.S. Capitol has been exceptionally revealed to **Palladio**'s troupe. Its imposing rotunda, pantheon of its homeland founders and fathers, because of its sacred character, was almost never opened to other film productions. MAGNITUDO had the honor to enter with cameras in its interiors thanks to the exceptional quality of **Palladio**'s project. It is in this context, codified by the aesthetics of the Venetian architect, that the body of John Fitzgerald Kennedy was exposed to receive the last homage from hundreds of thousands of Americans.

Virginia, Charlottesville, Villa Monticello



Designed by the 3rd US president, Thomas Jefferson himself, Monticello is the quintessence a neo-Palladian American villa. Monticello was a functional housing for the needs of representation and management of the plantation. This is one of the most visited places in the United States, and it is also reproduced on the 5-dollar cent coin.

OTHER LOCATIONS

Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut), Columbia University in The City of New York (New York), and the University of Virginia (Charlottesville, Virginia), served as respective sets for Gregorio Carboni Maestri's talks and interviews with Professors Eisenman, Frampton, and Nelson.

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR AND COORDINATOR & CO-WRITER
Gregorio Carboni Maestri, arch., Ph.D.



Documentary’s scientific director and coordinator; co-writer (with Elia Gonella and Giacomo Gatti), as well as principal interpreter. In the movie *Palladio*, he was not only responsible for the historical, scientific and architectural themes, but also to choose who to interview. Together with the director and the main writer, Carboni Maestri helped to frame the movie’s philosophical, political and theoretical themes and narratives. He was behind the scenes of most of the movie interviews. He is a Doctor of Architecture (University of Palermo, Brera Academy) with a Ph.D. on Architectural Theory and History on the US magazine *Oppositions* (1973-1984) and what he defines the “School of New York” (advisors S. Scarrocchia, K. Frampton). He teaches “Architecture and Building Design Studio” at the Faculty of Architecture La Cambre Horta (Université libre de Bruxelles). At the Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering, Urbanism LOCI (UCLouvain) he teaches “Architecture, City, Territory: modes of production” and “Contemporary Architecture Theory”. He was awarded as 2017 Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow at Montreal’s Canadian Center for Architecture Montreal. In 2015 he was grantee of the Graham Foundation for the project “The Creation of the Kenneth Frampton Archives: a New Narrative”. From 2012 to 2015 he was Visiting Research Scholar at Columbia University. Since 2010 he is actively involved in the preservation of the former Italian Memorial in Auschwitz, of which he is one of the leading specialists, having led a doctoral study in this field. His research on what he defines as “ideological relativity theory” he focuses on the relationship between architecture, art, culture, languages and other communicative phenomena with socio-political contexts. Belgian, Brazilian and Italian, he has a multidisciplinary training in painting, comics (Academy of Saint-Gilles) and architecture (La Cambre of Brussels, Polytechnic of Milan, FAUP - School of Porto). Besides being an independent architect since 2010, he worked in many architectural offices between Paris (Renzo Piano Building Workshop), Milan (Archea, Antonio Citterio & Patricia Viel) and Porto (CRUARB-Centro Historico).

INTERVIEWS

Kenneth Frampton



Kenneth Frampton is one of the greatest living historians and theorists of architecture. Of British descent, he taught at the Architectural Association of London, Princeton and now Columbia University (New York). He is considered as the main theorist of “critical regionalism”. In 2018, he received the Golden Lion for all of his achievements at the Venice Architecture Biennial.

Peter Eisenman



American architect, professor of history of architecture at Yale University, Eisenman has signed architectural projects of worldwide importance, such as the Memorial to Murdered Jews in Europe, also known as the Berlin Holocaust Memorial. He is one of the most influential figures of architecture of the second half of the twentieth century.

Antonio Widmann Rezzonico Foscari



Architect, former professor at the University IUAV of Venice, he is the owner of Villa Malcontenta and direct descendant of Doge Francesco Foscari. He is one of the greatest connoisseurs in the history of the Venice Republic.

Lionello Puppi



Lionello Puppi (1931-2018) was an art historian, academic and former Member of the Italian Parliament. Professor at the Universities of Padua and Ca' Foscari of Venice, he is the author of nearly a thousand publications on European art, including the Venetian Renaissance. Considered the greatest Palladianist of his day.

Louis P. Nelson



Vice-dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia, he has published dozens of books and essays on history of American architecture, with a particular reference to the period of colonialism and plantations.

TECHNICAL CAST

GIACOMO GATTI - director

Milanese, he is director and lecturer at the Polytechnic University of Milan. He directed the documentary-fiction *Michelangelo, il Cuore e la Pietra* (with Rutger Hauer and Giancarlo Giannini), movie that inaugurated the Sky Arte HD channel. He has published fictions, documentaries, promos and commercials, collaborating with the Venice Biennale, Expo 2015, Sky, Istituto Luce Cinecittà and Slow Food. Since 2006, he has collaborated on all documentaries directed by Ermanno Olmi. He began his career with short films and documentaries that then participated in the Venice Biennial, Locarno Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival, Miami Film Festival, Independent Film Festival of Rome and the Annecy Festival.

ELIA GONELLA - writer

Born in Vicenza, he graduated in communication and studied scriptwriting at Milan's Civica Scuola di Cinema and at Rome's National Academy of Dramatic Art Silvio d'Amico. He started as a screenwriter with the documentary-fiction *Michelangelo, il Cuore e Pietra*. Later, he collaborated, as author and screenwriter, with Sky Arte, Sky Cinema and Inception. His screenplays have been selected as finalists for awards such as BAFF, Solinas, BBC International Radio Playwright Competition. He won the Tonino Guerra Prize and the Luciano Vincenzoni Prize.

MASSIMILIANO GATTI - director of photography

One of the jewels of Italian cinema, "Max Gatti" trained on international tours of major advertising productions. During a 30 years career he directed the photography of advertisings for internationally known brands. With MAGNITUDO Film, he took care of the documentary *Caravaggio, Anima e Sangue*, directed by Jesus Garces Lambert. This last work was a public success, revealing itself the most watched art documentary in the history of cinema. He worked on *Bernini, Dinosaurs, Mathera, Leonardo Cinquecento, Canova and Wunderkammer le Stanze della Meraviglia*.

MARCO SCORBATI - director of photography

Since 1996, he has been an assistant operator and machine operator for film, television and advertising productions. He became director of photography in 2005 and since 2012 founding member of the production company TerraTrema Film. Among others, he collaborated with George Lucas, Luciano Ligabue, Davide Ferrario, Elio, Roberto Bolle, Cristiana Capotondi, Walter Veltroni, Silvio Soldini, Giorgio Diritti. During BiF & ST 2011, he won the Giuseppe Rotunno Prize for Best Photographer for *Sorelle Mai* by Marco Bellocchio.

GREGORIO CARBONI MAESTRI - Scientific director and co-writer

See bio above.

Editing: Giacomo Gatti and Tommaso Feraboli (A.M.C.)

Subtitles: Gregorio Carboni Maestri, Florence Carboni

Original Music: Diego Ronzio

DISTRIBUTOR MAGNITUDO WITH CHILE

Palladio is the seventh and ending appointment of *L'arte al Cinema* (Art at the Cinema) season, distributed in hundreds of the best Italian theatres by MAGNITUDO and CHILI. The first appointment was *Bernini*, which received unanimous public and critical acclaim, placing himself at the top of the Italian box office during the three days he spent in theaters. It has established as the best medium copy during the release days. A real record. *Leonardo Cinquecento*, fourth title of the season, was third at the box office of the Italian market for two consecutive days.

MAGNITUDO FILM

MAGNITUDO Film is a Milanese film production company, founded in 2011 by Francesco Invernizzi and Aline Bardella. MAGNITUDO has redefined the norms of cultural broadcasting in Italy and around the world through art films. Since its start, MAGNITUDO narrates in its movie's histories of artistic heritage to the general public with the maximum definition available on the market (3D, 4K and now in 8K). It combines traditional cinematographic troupe composition, high level of scientific research, the best shooting tools and the highest technology quality, adapting it on a case-to-case basis according to the contents. For each title proposed, MAGNITUDO involves and associates world-renowned scientists and academics as leading experts. Thanks to the know-how accumulated over years in the production-market with innovative, high-tech content, MAGNITUDO has inaugurated a new type of scientific film, notably with *Dinosaurs*. With *Mathera*, MAGNITUDO is in the purest tradition of documentaries, that of city symphonies.

CHILI

Founded in Italy in June 2012, CHILI is now a European entertainment company (chili.com) that has developed the first and only Entertainment Centred Marketplace. A unique experience able to offer cinema and television series to a public of fans; information and reviews; cinema previews, geo-localized ticketing; reservation service; digital premieres in the first distribution window (several months before any pay-TV), extensive catalog of movies and TV series (in digital, DVD and Blu-Ray=; original merchandising; gadgets and more. CHILI offers its services on smart TVs, Blu-Ray, personal computers, tablets and smartphones. It is a totally customizable platform with no monthly or activation fee. Thanks to the achieved success, CHILI has extended its offer to Austria, Germany, U.K. and Poland. CHILI is controlled by its founders, among the shareholders, in addition to the recent entry of Torino 1895 Investimenti S.p.A. (Lavazza family). The shareholding also includes Paramount Pictures Studios, Sony Pictures Entertainment, 20th Century Fox, Viacom and Warner Bros. CHILI is the owner of Hotcorn and CineTrailer. In November 2017, the company was honored by Frost & Sullivan with the Best European Entrepreneurial Company of the Year award for its innovative video-on-demand service.

For information on the Palladian routes, Vicenza's territory:

Consorzio Turistico Vicenza È

+39 0444 994770 - info@vicenzae.org

www.visitpalladio.com - www.vicenzae.org

For scientific information on the movie *Palladio*, projections in universities with the scientific director, etc.:

Gregorio Carboni Maestri, Ph.D.

+32488930015

GCarboni@ULB.ac.be