



# Andrea Palladio

1508-1580

# Predecessors, contemporaries

- Dante Alighieri (1265 –1321), *The Divine Comedy*
- Christopher Columbus (1451 –1506)
- Brunelleschi (1337 – 1446)
  - First architect to employ mathematical perspective to redefine Gothic and Romanesque space;*
  - Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence (1417 - 1434)*
- Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519)
- Michelangelo (1475 – 1564)
- Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642)
- Andrea Palladio (1508 – 1580)

# Palladio's life, projects

- Born in Padova in 1508
- At age 15 went to Vicenza to become an assistant in a workshop of stonecutters and masons
- Later introduced to the writings of *Vitruvius*, classical Roman architect

# Palladio's life, projects

- In 1548 he began receiving commissions for country villas from prominent Venetians (Barbaro, Cornaro)
- Villa Malcontenta (1549 - 1563)





# Palladio's life, projects

- In 1560 he received first commission for work in Venice: completion of the Benedictine monastery *San Giorgio Maggiore*



# Palladio's life, projects

- Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, 1584
- *Four Books of Architecture*, published in Venice in 1570
- Overview of his architectural principles as well as practical advice for builders

# The Palladian grammar

- Eight steps for generating uni-axial villa plans
  1. Grid definition
  2. Exterior wall definition
  3. Room layout
  4. Interior wall realignment
  5. Principal entrances (porticos, wall inflections)
  6. Exterior ornamentation (columns)
  7. Windows and doors
  8. Termination
- Unit of measure: the ancient foot of Vicenca  
*standard ground floor wall thickness in his villas was two Vicenca feet*

# The Palladian grammar

Stage 1

Grid definition

Every grid consists of  $(2m + 1) \times n$  array of variously dimensioned rectangles

- **Bilateral symmetry of the grid** – north-south of the coordinate system
- Each rectangles to the left of the axis has a corresponding reflection to the right of the axis
- Parameterization of the rules (page 8)

# The Palladian grammar

## Stage 3

## Room Layout

- The interior spaces in Palladio's uniaxial villa plans may be
  - Rectangular
  - H shaped
  - T shaped and
  - + shaped
- A plan can have at most one nonrectangular space and this space must be bisected by the north-south axis of the coordinate system