Looking for Leisure

Court Residences and their Satellites, 1400–1700

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Organized by
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Co-Organized by
Institute of Art History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, v.v.i.
Masaryk University, Brno

The aim of this colloquium is to draw attention to small buildings in residential complexes – small in size but not in importance – which were meant only for temporary, seasonal use, unlike the permanent use of the main palace. The role of the *palazotto* (literally, "small palace", a term coined by Joseph Furttenbach in 1640) was to be a place of rest, leisure and repose, but sometimes it also took on a representative role similar to the main palace. These "satellites" were usually new buildings, and not rebuilt older structures; therefore they offer a much clearer view of the incentives, intentions and concepts of the clients and can be regarded as ideal models, or miniatures, of the main palace. No study of the early modern palace can be complete without taking them into account.

The colloquium will study the relationship of the satellite to the palace and examine its function as pendant but also as counterpart or even opposite to large palatial buildings. The small palace usually made it possible to develop certain ideological and spiritual programmes that would have been difficult to achieve within the large palace. Only residential complexes that contained not just the main palace but also the *palazotto*, aspired to create symbolic images of the universe, the earthly paradise. There was a "dialectic unity" between the main palace as the permanent residence and the smaller, temporary and occasional house; the existence of a *palazotto* constituted an "added value" to the actual residence, the *palatium*.

Papers will be organized around the following four topics:

I. From Solitude and Buen Retiro to Mon–plaisir and Sans–souci. Exploring the Theory of the Architecture of Leisure within the Palace

A large number of terms for these satellites to the main residence building appear in Early Modern Europe before 1700. Papers in this section should look at period names and designations, terms denoting smaller buildings in historical sources, as well as in architectural treatises (such as Joseph Furttenbach's *Architectura recreationis*, Augsburg 1640), in period

fiction, memoirs, correspondence of builders and clients, etc. Particular attention should be given to the sometimes very fine distinction between the names given to the *palazotto* (from *casino* and *speelhuys* to *zámeček* and *banqueting house*) and to the main palace, so as to clarify the complex relationship between them. But these names only take their full meaning within the theoretical context underlying this architecture of leisure: from "Solitude" and "Buen retiro" to "Mon-plaisir" and "Sans-souci", they refer to the ideal of *riposo* or leisure. The early modern *palazotto* was meant for relaxation in the sense of recreation, not idleness; "resting" must be understood in biblical sense, like God's rest on the seventh day, as described in *Genesis*. The first section will thus address the terminology, both in its richness and ambiguity, as distinct from standard terms such as *palazzo*, *villa*, *château* or *Schloss*, as well as the underlying theory of leisure. The convenors want to encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to this issue.

II. Tradition and Modernity. Defining the Palazotto *as a Spatial and Functional Type from the Late Middle Ages to the Early Modern Period*

This section focuses on the functions and functionalities of the buildings under consideration, and on concrete ways in which they were inhabited. Because of their smaller scale, or because they were mostly new constructions, they give us a more straightforward glimpse of the way of living than the larger palace, which was often subject to complex and gradual modernization campaigns. The evidence offered by the surviving buildings themselves, and the iconographical and historical views in which they appear, play equal roles in establishing the typology of the *palazotto*, its genesis and its evolution. While the abundance of names denoting these small buildings seems to suggest they were invented in the early modern period, similarities with such mediaeval categories as the hunting lodge, *castello di caccia*, or *Jagdschloss* point to the contrary, as does the survival, well into the eighteenth century, of representative features such as the moat and the turret. This second section will thus focus, firstly, on delimitating and specifying the building type of the *palazotto* – on defining its structure, ground plan, and patterns of spatial communication, i.e. everything that is summarized in French theory under the term *distribution*; secondly, on its representative architectural features and their meaning; and thirdly, on issues of continuity, invention and change regarding these aspects, from 1400 until 1700.

III. Decorating the Architecture of Leisure. Interpreting the Satellite's Decor *between Politics and Nature*

The third section will concentrate on the artistic decoration of the *palazotto*, both interior and exterior (e.g. Casino of Pius IV in the Vatican; the Belvedere in Prague), and its programmatic, representative role in the residence, seen as a whole. Particular attention will be given to cases where the decorative programme was conceived as an ensemble (e.g. Falconetto's Sala dello Zodiaco in Mantua; Bocksberger's decoration of the Lusthaus in Munich; and many others). Their political, social and cultural ties will be investigated; one example that comes to mind are the many residences expressing a dynastic link with the Nassau princes of Orange, such as Oranienbaum in Wörlitz and Oranienburg near Berlin. But while palace decoration typically represents the status and power of the ruler, the decoration of the *palazotto* often reflects a new relationship with Nature. This third section examines in which way the satellite's decorative programme was distinct from that of the main residence, and to what extent it related to the particular function of the building.

IV. The Palazotto *in Context. Exploring the Role of the Satellite in the Grand Design of the Residence and its Gardens*

In recent years, art historical research has focused also on the gardens of palatial complexes – not in a botanical sense but as ideological constructs where the small buildings were more than accessories. For instance, there is a *palazotto* in the grand palace complex in Schleissheim near Munich, located at the end of the linear axis of the palace area. The small building is not a mere *point de vue* but the culmination of the entire landscape concept. The fourth section will thus deal with questions of the context of the *palazotto*, specifically with its role within the grand design of palatial complexes. Papers in this section may investigate how the surroundings of the satellite affected its location, layout, function and architecture, and, conversely, how the *palazotto*'s own gardens operated within the larger complex.

Excursions

Participants will have the opportunity to visit three summer *palazotto*s in Prague, dating from the late Gothic, High Renaissance and Early Baroque periods respectively: the hunting lodge of Wladislas Jagiello in the Stromovka Park, the summer castle Hvĕzda (Star) built for the Archduke Ferdinand II of Tirol, and the summer residence of Venceslas Adalbert of Sternberg, Troja. Participants will be able to access areas normally not opened to the public.

PALATIUM

This colloquium is part of the ESF Research Networking Programme *PALATIUM: Court Residences as Places of Exchange in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe (1400–1700)*. This programme aims at creating a common forum for research on the late medieval and early modern European court residence or "palace" (*palatium*) with an interdisciplinary perspective. The world of the courts 1400–1700 constituted a network of truly European scale and international character, but its architecture is only rarely studied in its "connectivity". Here the "palace" is seen as a place for cultural exchange. Human interaction in this space is regulated and codified by a set of rules, known as "ceremonial". The interaction between palace architecture (tangible) and ceremonial (intangible, but known through a set of tangible testimonials of different types, written and visual) is one of the key questions the PALATIUM network aims to address. The palace's space and form carry multiple connotations. To the informed observer they represent power, lineage, and tradition versus innovation. The decoding of this system of signs necessitates input not only by architectural and art historians, but also by various other disciplines, such as archaeology, politics, literature, theatre and music. The PALATIUM programme wants to encourage theoretical and methodological debates in the field, and aims in particular at stimulating exchanges of knowledge and experience between historians, architectural historians, art historians, and researchers in related disciplines – thus building up a network of scholars, institutions and research groups across Europe which mirrors the international network of courts that is being examined. For further information see: www.courtresidences.eu

How to Apply?

Abstracts of papers are invited by **31 January 2014**. We welcome proposals that are comparative and synthetic, as well as detailed studies of particular cases. Abstracts should be

limited to 300 words, and should be headed with the applicant's name, his or her professional affiliation, and the title of the paper. All abstracts must be in English, which will be the working language of the conference, and the language in which papers will be delivered. All papers will be 20 to a maximum of 30 minutes in length. This should be borne in mind when writing your abstract. Abstracts should define the subject and summarize the questions to be raised in the proposed paper. With the abstract please submit a one-page curriculum vitae, with your full contact details, including an e-mail address. Send your proposal by e-mail to the conference chair, Dr. Ivan Prokop Muchka (muchka@udu.cas.cz), with copies to the conference coordinator Dr. Sylva Dobalová (dobalova@udu.cas.cz) and the PALATIUM coordinator Dr. Pieter Martens (pieter.martens@asro.kuleuven.be). Only one submission per author will be accepted. All applications will be held in confidence during the selection process. All applicants will be notified of the acceptance or refusal of their proposal by 1 March 2014. Accepted abstracts will be published for open access on the PALATIUM website.

Grants for Young Scholars
It is one of PALATIUM's goals to provide young scholars (PhD students and post-doctoral researchers) with specialized outlets to present their work and build their scientific networks. Thus, PALATIUM strongly encourages early-career researchers who wish to participate in this colloquium to apply for a grant, which will cover travel and accommodation costs. The number of available grants is limited. The selected grantees will be asked to briefly present their work in progress during the conference. The deadline for grant applications is **15 March 2014**. All grant applications must be made online. For more information and the application procedure, see the Grants pages of the PALATIUM website: http://www.courtresidences.eu/index.php/grants

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