

He was born in Padua to Pietro della Gondola and Marta called "la zotta" (limping Martha). At the age of 16 he went to live in Vicenza, where he took his education and became one of the greatest architects of his time, and not only his time, thanks to the style called "Palladianism", which spread all over the world: from the White House in Washington to the Queen's House in Britain, from the University of Virginia to numerous palaces of St. Peterborough and Puskín. Almost all portraits ascribed to Palladio show the text "architetto vicentino", architect from Vicenza, and only in mid-twentieth century his birth town was discovered. Many other aspects of his life are uncertain: his birthplace, the family home in Vicenza, his features, the cause of his death and the place he died, and even the place he was buried. Gian Giorgio Trissino, his big mentor, was certainly right to give him the name Palladio, as though he was an angel or a mythological, or supernatural character.

One thing is certain: Vicenza, as UNESCO declared, has been universally recognised as the town of Palladio and has inscribed 23 monuments of its historic town centre and 16 villas of its province onto the World Heritage List, which are all ascribed to the architecture genius.

With this little guide book we would like to accompany you on the discovery of the Palladian route into imagined harmony in the historic town centre of Vicenza and invite you to discover the "route of the villas" with the help of our guide books and the websites www.palladio2008.info and www.vicenzae.org.

1508-1580

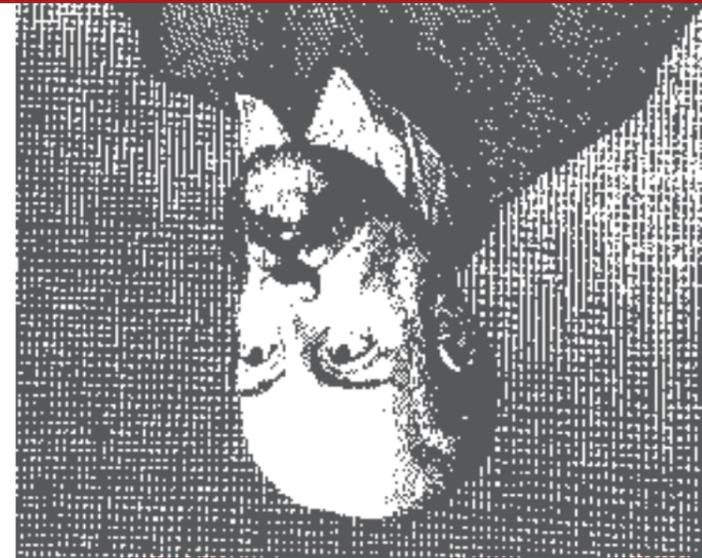
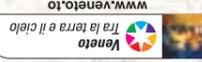
Andrea Palladio, architect



1508
2008

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VICENZA



Andrea Palladio's works in the historic town centre of Vicenza

Pedestrian area

- Teatro Olimpico / *Olympic Theatre*
- Palazzo Chiericati / *Palazzo Chiericati*
- Casa Cogollo / *Casa Cogollo*
- Palazzo da Monte Migliorini / *Palazzo da Monte Migliorini*
- Cappella Valmarana / *Valmarana Chapel*
- Palazzo Iseppo da Porto / *Palazzo Iseppo da Porto*
- Palazzo Barbaran da Porto / *Palazzo Barbaran da Porto*
- Palazzo Thiene / *Palazzo Thiene*
- Basilica Palladiana / *Palladian Basilica*
- Loggia del Capitaniato / *Loggia del Capitaniato*
- Palazzo Pojana / *Palazzo Pojana*
- Palazzo Valmarana Braga Rosa / *Palazzo Valmarana Braga Rosa*
- Cupola e Porta della Cattedrale / *Dome and Portal of the Cathedral*
- Palazzo Porto Breganze / *Palazzo Porto Breganze*
- Palazzo Capra / *Palazzo Capra*
- Palazzo Thiene Bonin Longare / *Palazzo Thiene Bonin Longare*
- Loggia Valmarana / *Loggia Valmarana*

Outside the pedestrian area

- Casa Garzadori Bortolan / *Casa Garzadori Bortolan*
- Palazzo Civena Trissino / *Palazzo Civena Trissino*
- Arco delle Scalette / *Arco delle Scalette*
- Chiesa di S. Maria Nova / *Church Santa Maria Nova*
- Palazzo da Schio / *Palazzo da Schio*

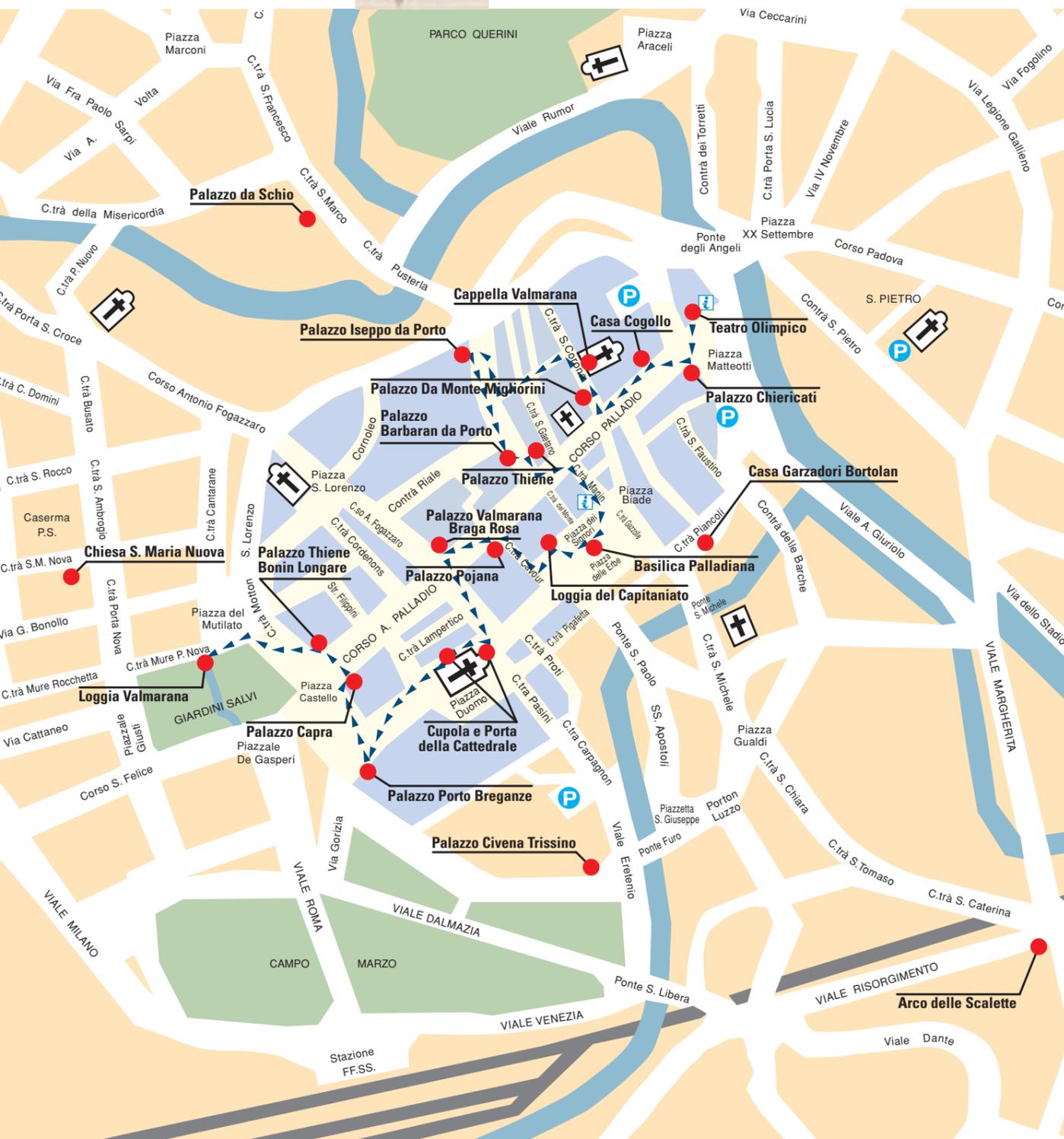
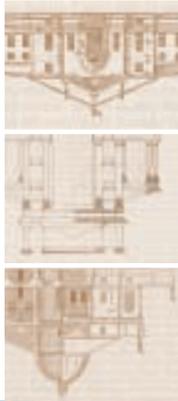
Information offices in the historic town centre of Vicenza

- Piazza Matteotti, 12
(next to the Olympic Theatre)
Tel. +39 0444 320854
09.00-13.00/14.00-18.00
- Piazza dei Signori, 8
Tel. +39 0444 544122
10.00-14.00/14.30-18.30

Palladian Routes

Into imagined harmony

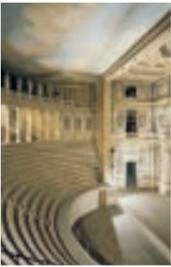
Andrea Palladio's works at Vicenza
World heritage



Teatro Olimpico (1580)

(interior - exterior)

The Olympic Academy can start the works for the theatre designed by Palladio only in 1580, the year in which he dies. Thus, he will not be able to see the end of the works, which will be supervised by his son Silla with the participation of Vincenzo Scamozzi, for the scenery and the famous seven streets of Thebes.



Palazzo Chiericati (1550)

(interior - exterior)

This design is new for Palladio's vision: a town palace and a suburban villa at the same time. It has been completed in mid-seventeenth century upon the former river harbour of the town. Since 1855 it has been seat of the Vicenza Town Museum.



Casa Cogollo (detta "del Palladio", 1559)

(exterior)

This house has been believed to be Palladio's residence for its modest dimensions as opposed to the monumental town palaces. Actually, the famous architect was entrusted with the huge renovation of the façade of the house belonging to a notary named Cogollo.



Palazzo da Monte Migliorini (1550-1554)

(exterior)

This residence of the Da Monte family in front of the Dominican monastery Santa Corona has been ascribed to Palladio and UNESCO decided to put it on the World Heritage List, as well as the architect's other works.



Valmarana Chapel (1576 c.)

It may have been designed by Palladio in 1576, following the death of Antonio Valmarana, inside the crypt of Santa Corona, one of the most interesting churches from the artistic point of view, where he himself was buried before his mortal remains (or what was regarded as his mortal remains) were transported to the temple of fame at the main cemetery.



Palazzo Iseppo da Porto (1544 c.)

(exterior)

Palladio designed both the town palace and the villa in Molina at Malo for his friend Iseppo, but neither was finished. The palace had better luck: Palladio had designed two different entrances and residences, of which remains the imposing façade, divided into three parts.



Palazzo Barbaran da Porto (1569-70)

(interior - exterior)

This palace was commissioned by the count Montano Barbarano. Since 1997 and has been the seat of the International Centre for Architecture studies (C.I.S.A.), dedicated to Andrea Palladio, who, of course, designed it. The solemn façade was built in both the Ionic and the Corinthian order. The inner rooms and the salon are embellished with important stuccoes.



Palazzo Thiene (1542)

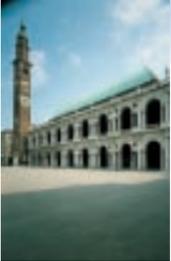
(interior - exterior)

What we can admire today is probably only a part of the imposing renovation strongly advocated by the counts Marcantonio and Adriano Tieni of their 15th-century palace. It seems also Giulio Romano worked on the design entrusted to Palladio.



Palladian Basilica (1546 - 1549)

Palladio's design of the imposing superstructure made of a superstructure with a double order of loggias on an already existing palace won the competition among great architects such as Serlio, Sanmicheli and Giulio Romano, and placed him among the great artists. Goethe wrote about this non-religious building: "It is not possible to describe the impression Palladio's Basilica leaves."



Loggia del Capitaniato (1565)

(exterior)

This building once was the official building of the "Capitano", a military office for the Venetian Republic, and is today seat of the town council. Palladio was entrusted with the renovation of the already existing medieval building 20 years after the design for the loggias of the Basilica.



Palazzo Pojana (1561-1566)

(exterior)

This palace at n. 90/94 was built to join, with an arch that is still visible, two houses of the client Vincenzo Pojana. The signed design is preserved at the London R.I.B.A. (Royal Institut of British Architects).



Palazzo Valmarana Braga Rosa (1565)

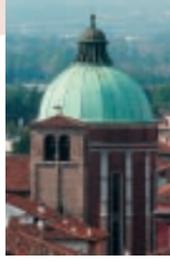
(interior - exterior)

Giovanni Alvise Valmarana was, together with Trissino and Chiericati, one of Palladio's biggest supporters. For him, the architect designed this extraordinary façade where the Giant order encloses the whole height of the palace.



Dome and Portal of The Cathedral

The dome had been designed by Palladio around 1565, almost twenty years after the works on the apsis, whereas the portal at the northern side, which replaced a Gothic one, was opened in 1575, upon request by Paolo Amerigo, who commissioned the Villa La Rotonda.



Palazzo Porto Breganze (1571)

(exterior)

The works under Palladio's supervision evidently came to an end before the completion of the project. The façade is made of three giant half columns of the Corinthian order and of two intercolumns of seven that had been planned.



Palazzo Capra

(exterior)

Of this palace, which is today incorporated in a commercial building, an arch can be seen which is overlooked by a pediment on four pilaster strips. It was commissioned to Palladio by G.A. Capra between 1510 and 1545 and was heavily altered during the 17th century with the erection of the Palazzo Pioveni, which destroyed the original plant.



Palazzo Thiene Bonin Longare (1572 c.)

(exterior)

This palace was completed by Vincenzo Scamozzi around 1593, following the design of Andrea Palladio, whose authorship has been acknowledged unanimously by the experts. Today it hosts, among other things, the industrial association of Vicenza.



Loggia Valmarana (Giardino Salvi)

This loggia with 6 columns of the Doric order, topped by a triangular pediment, inside the Giardini Salvi (Salvi gardens), was built following a design which is very close to Palladio's style, if not made by the architect himself. UNESCO decided to ascribe it to Palladio anyway in 1994.



Casa Garzadori Bortolan

(exterior)

The palace was commissioned to Palladio by Giambattista Garzadori, whose death in 1567 cancelled the contract. Its ascription to Palladio, acknowledged also by UNESCO, is upheld by testimonies from 1564, when at least one part had been erected.



Palazzo Civina Trissino (1540)

(exterior)

The palace erected by Palladio has become part of the Eretenia hospital after huge extension works in 1801. The palace was rebuilt after the Second World War, after having been heavily bombed.



Arco delle Scalette (1595)

This arch has been built 15 years after Palladio's death by the Venetian captain Giacomo Bragadino. Palladio probably had conceived it as access point to the Monte Berico sanctuary, before the porticoes were built in mid-eighteenth century by Muttoni.



Church Santa Maria Nova (1578)

(exterior)

There is no expertise as Palladio's authorship of this church is concerned, but it is still universally ascribed to him. The church has a single room, where presently bequests from the library Biblioteca Bertoliana are preserved, and which was built upon request by Lodovico Trento for the monastery of the Augustinian nuns.



Palazzo da Schio (1560)

(exterior)

Palladio designed the façade of this palace for Bernardo da Schio, but was often absent from the supervision of the works, since he was busy with other building sites in Venice. The stone-cutter, who had no instructions, even interrupted the works which were finished in 1574-75.



Palladio's Villas in town

Villa la Rotonda (1566)

(interior - exterior)

Palladio put this building into the section dedicated to town palaces in his work "Four Books of Architecture", but everyone considers it a temple-villa, with its perfectly identical 4 façades. It is the universal icon of Palladian villas and can boast many imitations around the world, also in this century.



Villa Gazzotti Grimani Curti (1542)

(exterior)

The design was entrusted to Palladio by Taddeo Gazzotti who, however, had to sell it during its construction to the Venetian patrician Girolamo Grimani for financial reasons. The façade is made of eight Ionic pilasters with three central intercolumns which are topped by a triangular pediment.



Villa Trissino Trettenero (1534)

(exterior)

This villa was not designed by Palladio, but everyone considers it the place where his legend was born, and this is sufficient for UNESCO to add it to the World Heritage List. Tradition has it that Palladio worked here as a simple stone-cutter, but he was still appreciated by its owner, the noble man of letters Gian Giorgio Trissino.



Palladio