

Thursday, 14 June
9.00-11.45

Track: Discovery and Persistence
Room: *National Library, Cupola Hall (Kuppelsaal)*

MEASURE EVERY WANDERING PLANET'S COURSE: RESIDENTIAL SYSTEMS IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE, 1450-1700

Session Chairs: Krista De Jonge, KU Leuven
Konrad Ottenheim, Utrecht University
Birgitte Bøggild Johannsen, National Museum of Denmark

At the crossroads of architectural history, court studies, and urban studies, this session will address the interaction between the different residences of the early modern elite in Europe from the waning of the Middle Ages until the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, exploring them as parts of an integrated system or network on different geographic scales. The noble way of life was essentially nomadic, mirroring the constant migration of the reigning princely court in early modern Europe, dictated not only by political necessity (including especially war) but also by pleasure (e.g. war's mirror image, the hunt). Complex itineraries thus linked the often extremely scattered noble possessions with the centres of gravity of court life in a single 'planetary' system.

While the 'nomadic', and seasonal, character of the noble way of life has been generally recognized, there has been no attempt as yet to do the same for the elites at a lower level than that of the reigning prince, let alone for the urban patriciate and merchant class. The latter nevertheless also migrated between townhouse (with or without commercial infrastructure), suburban property, and rural domain, serving as economic and socio-cultural investment (especially if tied to a noble title). Interaction between different social levels has not been looked at from a spatial perspective, leaving open pressing questions on the architectural plane.

The papers in this session explore particular conjunctions of residences beyond the classic opposition of town/country (to which in the early modern era is added the 'villa', suburban or pseudo-rural but not fortified and with urban formal characteristics), thus revisiting and revising standard typologies within a broader framework. Case studies address questions such as the interplay between the patron's itinerary and the development of particular residence types, explore architectural exchanges between particular patrons or social groups in this perspective, or review the whole spatial footprint of a patron in its entirety. They will pay particular attention to the role(s) each residence might fulfil within the strategy of self-representation of the patron in relation to his/her rank and position, and to the evolution of that role in response to changing aspirations.

PAPERS:

'Going Back and Forth': Residential Systems in Renaissance Venice

Johanna Heinrichs, University of Kentucky

A Venetian commonplace asserted that 'to live outside Venice is not to be alive'. Yet Venetian patricians' spatial footprint had always expanded well beyond the lagoon. The history of Venice's landward turn, from maritime trade to investment in the *terraferma*, is well known. So too is its architectural dimension: Palladio's villas, especially those for Venetians such as the Badoer and Emo, are interpreted as paradigms of the Renaissance agricultural villa. Little attention, however, has been paid to the status of these villas in relation to the families' other residences and the mobile lifestyle required by owning multiple, geographically dispersed homes. In this regard, Palladio's Venetian patrons can illuminate the theme of early modern residential systems and their architectural strategies outside the courtly context.

This paper will focus on two families from the noble Pisani clan. Vettor Pisani and his brothers, patrons of Palladio's villa at Bagnolo, possessed or built several residences in Venice and on the *terraferma*. These houses served different members of the *fraterna* and various practical and representational functions. I have designated one type the 'stop-over villa', a smaller house intended for brief stays en route between houses. While enabling its noble owners to avoid the indignities of a public inn, it also facilitated transport of agricultural products. The subject of my second case study, Francesco Pisani, possessed just two houses: his Palladian villa at Montagnana and a stop-over villa in Monselice. He rented living quarters in Venice, and his country estate served as his principal residence. Both case studies demonstrate the inadequacy of centre-periphery models to explain the complex residential configurations of sixteenth-century Venetians. The urban palace was not the sun around which a satellite villa orbited, rather each was a node in a constellation of dwellings bound by their owner's movement among them.

The Materialization of Power and Authority: The Architectural Commissions of Charles of Croÿ, 1596–1612

Sanne Maekelberg, KU Leuven

While the monarchs in Spain turned to a more sedentary lifestyle in the second half of the sixteenth century, the noble way of life in the Spanish Low Countries remained essentially nomadic. This itinerant lifestyle originated from the feudal system, where the monarch granted possession of a certain territory to a nobleman in exchange for military services or financial aid. Since the lord needed to be present to govern, the nomadic lifestyle became a method of political governance.

By the end of the sixteenth century, however, the loans became hereditary and a select group of high nobleman held most of the fiefs within the Low Countries through inheritance and acquisition. Charles II of Croÿ, fourth duke of Aarschot, first duke of Croÿ, prince of Chimay, count of Beaumont, etc., was one of the highest ranking noblemen in the Low Countries of that time. As these territories were too scattered and widespread to ensure an even semi-continuous presence, the power and high status of the lord was not expressed by the actual attendance of the duke, but rather through the built commissions within a certain territory. The network thus becomes tangible, through the palaces and residences that mark the territory and materialise the ducal presence, even if the buildings were unoccupied and the duke remained *in absentia*.

This paper offers an analysis of the residential network and architectural commissions of Charles of Croÿ, and shows how they contributed to the high status of the duke in his territories. As a corollary to his architectural strategy of representation, he established an extensive hierarchic structure of officers who ruled the territories in his name, while he gradually turned to a more drawn-back life at his residence in Beaumont.

Residential Systems and Spatial Appropriation: The Rise and Fall of a Senatorial Family in Early Modern Bologna

Giovanna Guidicini, Glasgow School of Art

This paper explores the involvement of Senator Giovanni Angelelli (1566–1623) with a network of residences in and around Bologna, and discusses spatial appropriation as an expression of political ambitions. Angelelli's unanticipated acquisition of the senatorial seat, marriage to wealthy socialite Isabella Ruini, and developing political career were counterpointed by an increasing interest in real estate, with the young Senator transferring his attention—and his residence—from one property to another to mark the different phases of his life. Through the analysis of archival documentation, contemporary documents, and on-site investigations, this paper will discuss Angelelli's ever-changing spatial footprint throughout his life, and his choices as investor and patron in the wider context of his increasing prestige. The discussion will include the modest townhouse of Angelelli's infancy; the residence of his father-in-law, Antonio Ruini, that he frequented as

a youngster; the city palace that Angelelli purchased and had decorated to publicly signal his new public role; and the simple estate and farm buildings in the Bolognese countryside which he transformed into a stately residence.

This paper positions these properties within the urban and territorial context, and connects them through a network of daily, seasonal, and once-in-a-lifetime movements and relocations. I argue that this increased physical and symbolic occupation of the Bolognese spaces, culminating in the Senator's funeral procession through the city to his final 'residence', matched Angelelli's growing influence on the political scene. I also argue that the violent deaths of the Senator's successors—ambushed outside their palaces and on the very streets where he had confidently promenaded—and the resulting scattering of Angelelli's properties, represented the response of a local nobility threatened by his abrupt surge to power and overambitious politic of spatial appropriation.

Images of Wealth, Pride, and Power: Country House Culture on the Island of Walcheren, 1600–1750

Martin van den Broeke, Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs

Between 1600 and 1750, a lively country living culture existed in Zeeland, the coastal southwest region of the Netherlands. The main cities of the province were then found on the island of Walcheren, strategically placed for the overseas trade of the Dutch Republic to the East and West Indies. The old and new rich (most of them ship owners, merchants, directors of trade companies, and rentiers) owned houses in town as well as in the country. A rich body of historical sources (archives, drawings) testifies to the variety of this country house culture and also sheds light upon the relationship between city culture and life in the countryside. Some of the wealthiest country house owners had their estates depicted in prints—published c. 1700 in the *Nieuwe Cronyk van Zeeland*—that served as a major means to boost the region's prestige. The bird's-eye views came to define Zeeland country living.

However, country estates only represented the top of a much broader phenomenon that manifested itself in a variety of ways, ranging from farmsteads and pleasure pavilions in orchards to more sizeable houses. An important question regarding this cultural phenomenon is how the building or ownership, the scale and form, and the depicting of country houses played a role in the establishment of the town-based wealthy elite as the ruling elite at the local, regional, and national levels, and how the developments in the architecture of houses and parks reflect that process. My analysis of the combined changes in function, architecture, and geographical spread of the country dwellings around the city can shed light on the changing purposes and fashions in the country living culture of the town elites. Can this model also be used for research on country house culture in other European countries or regions?