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Abstract:

Restoration of Antique Architecture and Theory for the Instauration of a New One:
The Project of the Accademia della Virtù, Its Aims and Results

The publishing program of the *Accademia della Virtù* describes by far the largest such undertaking from the Renaissance. Its aim was to publish a series of 24 *libri* consisting of critical editions and translations of and commentaries on Vitruvius' *De Architectura* and a documentation of *all* material remains from Roman Antiquity: from the historical development of the *urbs* to *all* of its buildings, from *all* coins and reliefs to *all* inscriptions etc. But the aim of this 'Classical Archaeology of Roman Antiquity' *avant la lettre* was *not* an archaeological one. Instead, it was explicitly meant to establish *the* solid basis for a new architecture, and to be finished through 'interdisciplinary' work by an 'international' team within *three years*!

Though this program has been published by Claudio Tolomei already in 1547, it has largely been ignored or misinterpreted in academic research. In fact, it was believed, that only Guillaume Philandrier's *Annotationes* to Vitruvius from 1544 could be counted as a result of the *Accademia*'s work. In 1986 the systematically ordered drawings of antique reliefs from the Codices *Coburgensis* and *Pighianus* were added to this short list as preparations for the 15th and 17th volume.

My paper will explain, that there are many more – mostly manuscript – sources and drawings surviving from the Renaissance that – due to modern disciplinary boundaries – have never been seen together as preparations for this important – in a strictly modern sense: – scientific research and publishing program. Most of these sources still are waiting for their scientific rediscovery and examination.

Curriculum vitae

since 2013 ETH Zurich, gta Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture, research project *Study of antique architecure around 1550 in Rome*

since 2010 Bibliothek Werner Oechslin, Einsiedeln: architectural historian, IT administration

2006–2008 Karman Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Berne: administration / IT / Digital Pantheon project

2001–2004 Bibliotheca Hertziana, MPI for Art History, Rome: database development

1996–2002 TU Berlin: PhD (art history): Drawings for St Peter's in Rome

1990–1996 TU Berlin: MA (musicology): *Seconda prattica – the Italian madrigal around 1600*

1986–1988 TU Dresden: Physics (4 semesters)

1983–1986 Ship machinist at the East German Navy

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