

# **Civita di Bagnoregio: The Death and Life of an Italian Hill Town**

Instructors: Norma Barbacci (Preservation Architect), Glenn Boornazian (Architectural Conservator).

Participants: 12 YSOA students

Information: Arch 2248, Summer 2023 - Dates: May 19 - June 19

Location: Civita di Bagnoregio, VT, Italy



## **Summary Description**

This four-week summer program will be based in Civita di Bagnoregio, an Italian hill town settled during Etruscan times and continuously inhabited for over 2,500 years. The program will focus on Civita's urban history and the preservation, architectural conservation and stabilisation challenges faced by the town and other hill towns in the region, ranging from geotechnical instability and natural erosion to changes in their social and economic infrastructure which have exacerbated the loss of their historic fabric and the abandonment of their traditional way of life. The program will include visits to hill towns in Lazio, Tuscany, and Umbria, as well as to a materials testing laboratory in Rome. The students will have individual assignments and a group final project.

## Central Ideas / Learning Objectives

The students will learn about Civita's history, starting from its natural formation 2 million years ago, through its Etruscan and Roman foundations, Medieval and Renaissance development, and decline following the 1695 earthquake, through its current rebirth as a tourism destination. They will learn about Civita's geotechnical instability challenges and attempted engineering solutions, and how local natural and manmade materials were used architecturally from Etruscan and Roman construction to the present time. We will discuss the role architectural conservation plays in developing potential treatment options, and through lectures and meetings with residents and authorities, they will learn about the social and economic transformation of the town, from "Il paese che muore" (the dying city) to one of the most visited tourist destinations in Italy.

## Activities

The program will include site visits within Civita di Bagnoregio and neighboring historic hill towns, walks in the valley of the *calanchi* (badlands), lectures and discussions, and recording of existing conditions. Hand drawing and digital documentation techniques will be used to create elevations, plans, and sections to carry out detailed material and conditions surveys. These surveys will be analyzed and used as a basis for defining changes over time, prioritizing conditions, and developing architectural conservation and adaptive reuse strategies.

The final project will consist of a conservation and adaptive reuse proposal for a selected historic site that responds to existing physical challenges and opportunities, and incorporates input from local authorities, professionals, and residents.

## Instructors

**Norma Barbacci** is a preservation architect with over 30 years of experience in developing and managing international preservation projects, and principal at Norma Barbacci Preservation Consultants LLC. She served as the Robert A.M. Stern Visiting Professor of Architecture at Yale University School of Architecture in 2020. From 2001-2017, she was Program Director for Latin America, Spain, and Portugal at World Monuments Fund. In 2008, she coordinated the international symposium "Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Tuff Towns" in Pitigliano, Civita di Bagnoregio, and Orvieto. She received a B.Arch. from Carnegie Mellon U. in 1983, and a M.S. in Historic Preservation in 1987 from Columbia University where she was awarded the Historic Preservation Thesis award for her master's design thesis on the adaptive re-use of Astra Zarina's medieval residential complex in Civita di Bagnoregio, now property of the Civita Institute.

**Glenn Boornazian** is an architectural conservator who founded Integrated Conservation Resources and Integrated Conservation Contracting in 1988. His areas of expertise include specialized conditions investigation, materials testing, analysis, and implementation of architectural conservation treatment programs. He has worked as a Staff Conservator for the Center for Preservation Research at Columbia University and as Director of Restoration for the Nantucket Historical Association. He has also taught as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation and is a frequent speaker on historic preservation issues.

## Guest Lecturers

**Antonino Saggio** is an architect and full professor of architecture and urban design at "Sapienza" Università di Roma. He believes in teaching architectural design by making its methods evident and transmissible, and he emphasises the interrelation between the critical historical moment and the design phase. He also believes that Information Technology plays a catalysing role in the definition of a proper "IT Revolution in Architecture," and has contributed to this topic through his teaching and writing. His work includes critical urban projects for Rome that incorporate IT possibilities. Saggio has written several books and edited the international book series "The IT Revolution In Architecture."

**Cinzia Abbate and Carlo Vigevano** are architects based in Rome who specialise in the preservation of historic buildings and are pioneers in green building construction in Italy. They work nationally and internationally and are preservation consultants for various international cultural institutions in Rome. They have also worked on projects involving renewable energy integration, sustainable architecture, and bioclimatic, and have received awards such as the Energy Globe Award and Eurodollar Award for their work on the Children's Museum in Rome and the Environmental Information Center of the Rabbit Beach in Lampedusa, respectively.

**Clark Pickett** is an experienced architect and award-winning designer, currently working as a principal and Design Director at IA/Interior Architects. He has worked on projects all over the world, including in London, Beijing, Shanghai, Vietnam, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle. Pickett's project experience includes new construction, renovation, adaptive reuse, and historic restoration, and he has a passion for Italy and its cultural relevance to design issues today. He studied in Civita di Bagnoregio and Rome as part of the University of Washington Italian Studies Program, which inspired his interest in Italy. He was a member of the board of the Civita Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring creative excellence, education, and cultural exchange through the exploration of the unique qualities of Italian hill towns.

**Claudio Margottini** is an adjunct Professor of Engineering Geology at various universities, including the UNESCO Chair at the University of Florence, Galala University in Egypt, and the National Research Institute for Astronomy and Geophysics in Egypt. He is a trained Engineering Geologist and Engineering Seismologist with extensive experience in the development of engineering geological techniques for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. He has worked in 27 countries, mainly in less developed regions, and has received numerous honors and awards for his services. He is the author of around 330 publications and books.

**Edmund P. Meade** is a Principal and Director of Preservation at Silman, where he has managed many structural engineering projects including the preservation of the Illinois State Capitol Dome, the Museo de Arte in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and the Farnsworth Museum's Olson House in Cushing, Maine. He is an Adjunct Faculty member in the Department of Civil and Systems Engineering at Johns Hopkins and has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Johns Hopkins and a Master of Architectural History/ Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Virginia. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer, an APTI Fellow, and an Affiliate Fellow of the American Academy in Rome.

**Giovanni Attili** is an Urban Planning Associate Professor at the University La Sapienza in Rome, where he teaches courses on urban and regional systems and sustainable development. His work focuses on urban analysis and planning processes that aim to promote social bonding through learning and knowledge exchange. Attili has received numerous national and international awards and has published several books, including "Rappresentare la città dei Migranti," "Il Pianeta degli Urbanisti," "Multimedia Explorations in Urban Policy and Planning," and "Civita. Senza aggettivi e senza altre specificazioni."

**Giovanni Boccardi** is an Italian conservation architect and heritage expert with over 30 years of professional experience in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. He spent over 25 years working for UNESCO, where he coordinated the Organization's cultural programmes, and was directly involved in the identification, conservation, and management of hundreds of cultural and natural heritage properties in more than sixty countries. He has contributed significantly to opening new perspectives within the

sector and dissolving some of the artificial boundaries that had kept heritage separated from other societal concerns. He now works as a heritage consultant in Rome.

**Ilaria Rossi-Doria** is an architect and landscape architect based in Civita di Bagnoregio. She specializes in landscape architecture and restoration projects and has received awards for her restoration work on the city walls of Ninfa. She has edited a book on restoration issues and has taught park and garden design at Italian and foreign universities. Rossi-Doria is also a member of landscape associations such as AIAPP and Associazione Porcinai.

**Luca Costantini** is a professional geologist with over 20 years of experience providing technical advice on land management issues. He founded the cultural association "Geoteverina" in 2012, which manages the Geological and Landslides Museum in Bagnoregio. The museum promotes and protects the area and recounts the history of the village and its struggle against landslides and earthquakes.

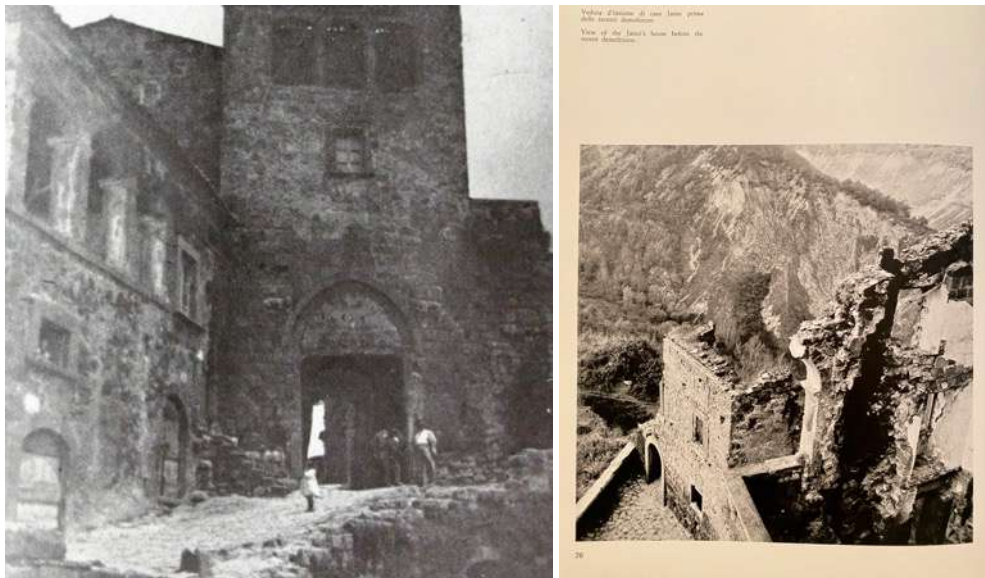
## Project Sites

The **Janni ruins** are the remains of several historic houses located at the entrance of Civita di Bagnoregio. Threatened by landslides and currently used as garbage storage and private gardens. They are visible from the access bridge and the Bagnoregio belvedere.

Site of the 8<sup>th</sup> century palace of Saint Bernardo Janni. He was the last bishop of Vulci. The houses that occupied the site were destroyed by earthquakes and landslides. Near the site, there was the church of Santa Vittoria and the monastery and hospital of the Confraternity of S. Pietro, all lost.



**Janni Ruins: Current Conditions / 3D scan**

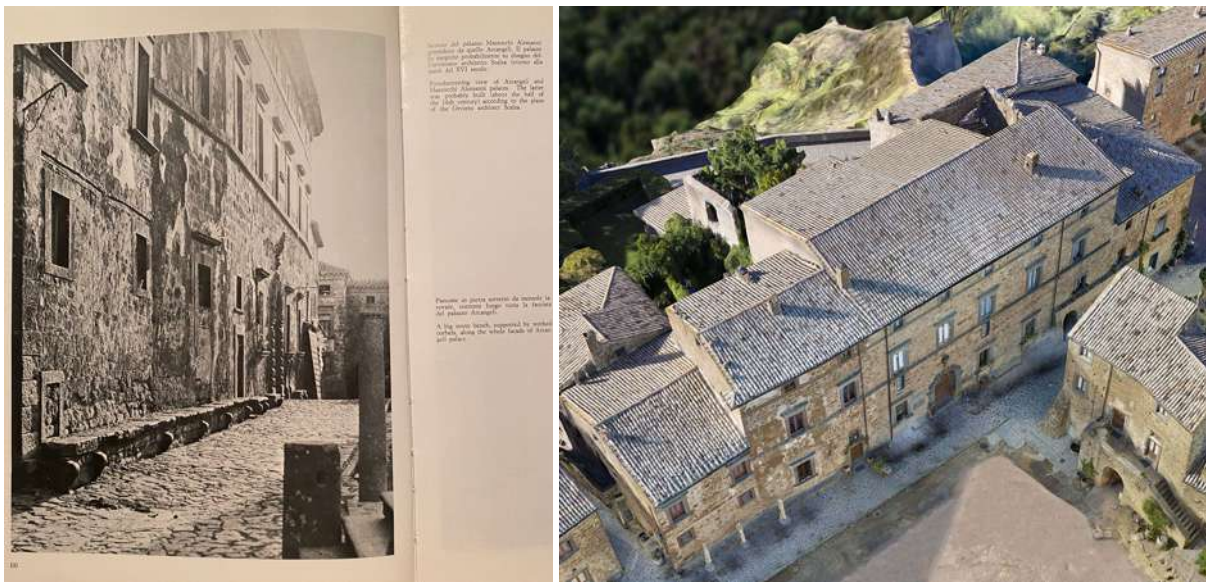


**Janni Ruins: Historic Photos**

The **Palazzo Alemanni-Mazocchi** is a Renaissance Palace occupied by the Geology Museum and a café. It occupies the south side of the main square and was built by the Alemanni family, established in Bagnoregio since the times of the Goth conquest. The palace was built in 1585, possibly by the Orvietan architect Ippolito Scalza, and was transferred to the Mazzochi family in 1658. It is currently owned by the Comune who wants to turn it into a cultural center with an accessible entrance, elevator access, and bookstore.



**Palazzo Alemanni-Mazocchi: Current Conditions**



**Palazzo Alemanni-Mazocchi: Historic photo / 3D scan**

The **Casa Greco** is a group of historic houses partially restored by the Comune di Bagnoregio as a residence for visiting artists and scholars. The project site also includes the adjacent belvedere.



**Casa Greco: Current Conditions**



**Casa Greco: Condition in 1986 / 3D scan**

The **Belvedere di S. Francesco Vecchio** includes the old convent s founded by S. Francis, where S. Bonaventura studied as a young man. The monastery and the adjacent church were destroyed by an earthquake in 1764. The reconstructed spaces were used as the site of the Centro di Studi Bonaventuriani, founded by a group of intellectuals from Bagnoregio in 1952. It was recently acquired by the Comune with the idea of turning it into a visitor's center. Its belvedere offers panoramic views of Civita.



**Belvedere di S. Francesco Vecchio: Current Conditions**



**Location of Project sites**



## Class Schedule and Themes

- Week 1      **Geological History of Civita di Bagnoregio and the Valley of the Calanchi**  
**Visits - Geological Landscapes:** Geology Museum (Palazzo Alemanni-Civita di Bagnoregio); structural reinforcement wells; chestnut forest; valley of the *calanchi* (badlands), *ponticelli* (ancient roads); Guadaiona mines.  
**Lectures:** Claudio Margottini, Luca Costantini, Ilaria Rossi-Doria.  
**Assignment:** Group assignment and selection of sites for final project. Geological site section through assigned site (group project). Sketching during site visits (individual assignment). Civita t-shirt design competition.  
**Program launch celebration with local community.**
- Week 2      **Etruscan and Roman History**  
Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – ICCROM Presentation (Overnight in Rome)  
**Visits - Ancient Ruins and Historic Towns:** Civita di Bagnoregio: Domus Bonanea - Cave used by Romans, Longobard cemetery, historic oil press; Palazzo Pallotti - Roman Cistern and underground tunnels; San Antonio Church and Manor House; Pitigliano (Tuscany): Etruscan vie cave; Orvieto (Umbria): Roman and Etruscan tunnels; Cerveteri, Tarquinia, Viterbo (Lazio-Ancient Tuscia); Rome: Etruscan Museum, Atrium, American Academy, ICCROM Lab.  
**Lectures:** Glenn Boornazian, Alessia Grancini.  
**Assignment:** Documentation of selected site construction details and materials (group project). Sketching during site visits (individual assignment).  
**Picnic lunch at Domus Bonanea gardens and caves**
- Week 3      **Medieval, Renaissance and Modern History**  
Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – Tonna (Traditional donkey race in Civita)  
**Visits - Contemporary Production Sites:** Basalt quarry (Lubriano); Tufa quarry (Lubriano); Clay factory: Fornace Andolfi – Roman furnace (Vetriolo); Stone carver shop (Bagnoregio); Cheese factory and sheep farm (Lubriano); Olive oil presses (Civita); Wineries (D'Amico and/or Corvagialla).  
**Lectures:** Giovanni Attili, Clark Pickett, Ed Meade.  
**Assignment:** Existing conditions survey of selected site (group project). Sketching during site visits and *Tonna* race (individual assignment).  
**Picnic lunch at cheese factory**
- Week 4      **The Future**  
**Visits:** No scheduled visits.  
**Lectures:** Cinzia Abbate, Carlo Vigevano, Nino Saggio, Giovanni Boccardi.  
**Assignment:** Conservation and adaptive reuse proposal for selected site (group project).  
**Program closing celebration with Mayor of Bagnoregio and local community.**

## Lodging

We have reserved several apartments within historic palazzi in Civita di Bagnoregio. Most students will have individual rooms although a couple may have to share a room within another student (will ask for volunteers). All apartments have kitchens, Wi-Fi, and shared bathrooms. We will hire help to clean the apartments and turn the beds and towels once a week. There are washing machines available, but nobody has a drier (so clothes have to be hung to dry in the sun).

## Meeting Spaces

The Casa Greco will be available to the students for group gatherings, communal meals, and as informal workspace. The Palazzo Alemanni will be available for lectures and formal presentations. Some of the apartments have access to gardens (Palazzo Contino and faculty housing).

## Food

All apartments have kitchens, there are several grocery stores in nearby Bagnoregio, and there are several restaurants in Civita. A local chef, Maurizio Rocchi from Alma Civita will give a cooking lesson at the start of the program and students will be encouraged to cook as a group activity.

## What to Bring

Sketch book (any preferred size for personal sketches), drawing/watercolor pads (9x12 for display purposes), cross section paper pad (11x17/ 8x8 grid for documentation purposes), pencils, pens, watercolors (and any other preferred media), clipboard, and digital camera (or phone camera), tape measure (25' and 50' – one per group).

For the final project, the students will be encouraged to choose the graphic presentation techniques of their preference. However, the following equipment is recommended: Laptop with graphic design programs such as Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, In-Design), basic 3-D modeling programs (Sketch up, Rhino, etc.), and thumb drive or any other digital storage equipment.

Hiking shoes, comfortable clothes (nothing formal, but maybe a fun outfit for the public celebrations), hat, sun protection, bathing gear (Optional – nearby lake Bolsena has a beach). Temperatures in May-June may vary between 60-80 degrees.

Electrical adaptors (Type C – round pins), voltage converters (Italy operates on a 230V supply voltage. Not needed for phones or laptops, only for other appliances such as hair driers, etc.).

Yale student card (for discounts at museums). ATM card (There are cash machines in Bagnoregio and at the airport– no need to purchase euros in advance). Most local businesses accept credit cards from the USA.

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#### **Miscellaneous Links**

Photos: <https://www.nationalreview.com/photos/civita-di-bagnoregio-italy/#slide-1>

Art: <https://pixels.com/featured/joseph-mallard-william-turner-italian-landscape-probably-civita-di-bagnoregio-joseph-mallard-william-turner.html>

Film: <https://www.raiplay.it/video/2023/02/Il-Provinciale---Tuscia-elogio-della-fragilita---05022023-356d6a21-a18c-4ed2-97ae-4916e08ca4a1.html>

#### **Civita 3D Model by Cyark:**

Tapestry: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/civita-di-bagnoregio-tapestry-model-593d471c3cf44e7aaa3166240a3929fd>

Scans: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pGb3QgzmTfxVfcDuu7t-LWE8LmaBk9H\\_?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pGb3QgzmTfxVfcDuu7t-LWE8LmaBk9H_?usp=share_link)

#### **Summer Program Files**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EW4F1MK7Rw\\_BfRQfid51dn7\\_VAk-U1rZ](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EW4F1MK7Rw_BfRQfid51dn7_VAk-U1rZ)