

Warburg Director's Seminar

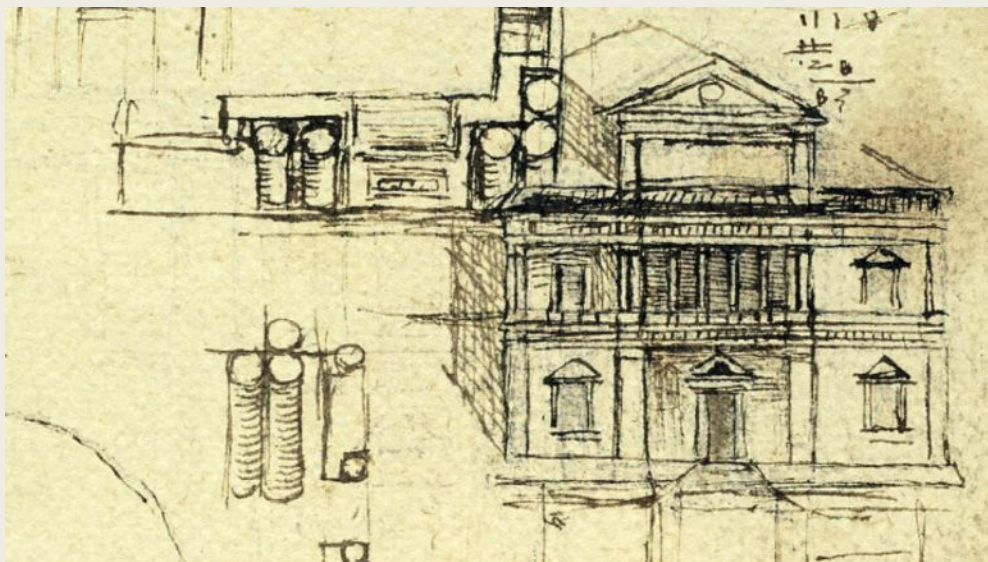
'Leonardo da Vinci and Architecture'

Lecture by Sabine Frommel (EPHE-PSL)

Address: Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB

Date: 28 May 2025, 5:30PM - 7:00PM

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Leonardo da Vinci, *Projects of a villa, details of Palazzo Caprini in Rome*, Turin, Biblioteca Reale. Codex on the flight of the birds, inside cover, facsimile.

Sabine Frommel, Université PSL (Paris Sciences & Lettres): 'Leonardo da Vinci and Architecture'

Found scattered among his numerous manuscripts, Leonardo's studies on architecture were conceived during an artistic journey of close to fifty years while their author was in the service of the most prestigious patrons. Dealing with churches, ephemeral monuments, urban reconstruction, fortifications, palaces and villas, and painted architecture—mostly ideal in nature—they are part of the architectural evolution of the late quattrocento and early cinquecento. Leonardo's drawings assimilate the ideas of the pioneers of Renaissance architecture, mainly Bramante, Francesco di Giorgio, Giuliano da Sangallo, and focus on particular aspects, such as interventions on existing structures, classical orders, staircases, and decoration. A study of this corpus sheds light also on dialogues with Michelangelo, Baldassare Peruzzi and Antonio da Sangallo the Younger and allows us to better understand whether Leonard's contributions were innovative, or singular interpretations of the achievements of his time. The lecture will emphasize, based on chronological and typological topics, some of the main themes of Leonardo's architectural production, identifying their sources, methods of assimilation, and questions concerning the enduring legacy of his contributions.

This event is part of the Warburg Director's Seminar series, which brings leading scholars and writers to the Institute to share new work and fresh perspectives on key issues in their fields.

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