



Palladio Virtuel

By Peter Eisenman

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A long-awaited reassessment of Andrea Palladio's canonical villas that challenges widely accepted interpretations of the Renaissance architect's work

Many historians of architecture have viewed the villas of Andrea Palladio (1508–1580) as physical manifestations of the classical architectural principles described in his treatise *The Four Books of Architecture (I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura)*. Written toward the end of his life, *The Four Books* illustrate Palladio's built work, redrawn the way he wanted it to be. In this groundbreaking new study, American architect and educator Peter Eisenman analyzes twenty of Palladio's villas, offering a radical interpretation of the Renaissance master's work.

Working from an architect's perspective, Eisenman, with Matt Roman, shows the evolution of Palladio's villas from those that exhibit classical symmetrical volumetric bodies to others that exhibit no bodies at all, just fragments in a landscape. This conclusion stands in stark contrast to studies that emphasize principles of ideal symmetry and proportion in Palladio's work. Featuring more than 300 new analytic drawings and models, this handsome book is an important addition to the corpus of Palladian studies and a testament to Palladio's lasting place in contemporary architectural thought.

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Palladio Virtuel By Peter Eisenman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #623621 in Books
- Published on: 2015-12-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.20" h x 1.10" w x 8.20" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

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Review

“This close reading of Palladio’s plans is significant not just for its provocation but because it comes from one of the best architectural minds today. It is a template for how to think through the question of architecture, and will become—without doubt—one of the great all-time books in the field.”—Mark Jarzombek, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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"In proposing a new approach to the study of Palladio, Eisenman's book, an elegant object in itself, offers delight."—Nancy Goldring, *The Architect's Newspaper*
(Nancy Goldring *The Architect's Newspaper*)

About the Author

Peter Eisenman is the Charles Gwathmey Professor in Practice, Yale School of Architecture, and principal of Eisenman Architects in New York. **Matt Roman** is an architect and teacher in New York.

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