

Historic Preservation and Sustainable Design in the Etruscan Hill Towns of Central Italy

April 27-May 7, 2027

36 AIA and ASLA-Approved HSW Learning Units



Travel to the Etruscan Hill Town region of Italy to discover these intensely beautiful towns, landscapes and culture.

This 10-day educational program focuses on modern and historic design, sustainability, preservation, art and architecture, food and wine in ancient hill towns and world-renowned UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Please scroll down through this booklet for more information, and email us at programs@civita institute.org with questions and to reserve.



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The Etruscan hill town civilization of central Italy was crucial to the development of Western culture, art, agriculture, and architecture. Enduring yet fragile, geological instability, conflicts and time have taken their toll - requiring continual creativity, rebuilding, and stabilization.

These hill towns present a living laboratory of sustainable design efforts across history.

Join us in Italy for this small group tour and explore historical and modern design culture in an unforgettable series of experiences created to promote design excellence.

This is a collaboration between CrossCulture and The Civita Institute, an approved American Institute of Architects education provider. Carbon offsets for travel are included and are contributed to internationally recognized nonprofit organizations focusing on important offset projects. Please note that Covid vaccination is required by The Civita Institute.

Your experiences include:

- An insider's connections with The Civita Institute and the **famed hilltown of Civita di Bagnoregio**, an ancient Etruscan site that predates the founding of Rome.
- Travel to the **Etruscan hill town of Perugia** and a first hand look at a modern city with a highly preserved historic center.
- **Experience beautiful and evocative Siena**, with its high level of preservation plus modern insertions.
- **Explore modern architectural insertions** skillfully woven into ancient buildings and spaces.
- Journey to the **mystical hill town of Assisi**, a World Heritage Site, with an array of preservation interventions that have made this a center for European art and architectural culture in the modern era.
- **View the sustainability efforts** spanning centuries in the fascinating Renaissance era "Ideal Town" of **Pienza**.
- Tour the phenomenal sites of **Tarquinia, Todi, Orvieto, Tuscania** and the architectural masterpiece of the **Villa Farnese at Caprarola**.



Siena, Piazza del Campo

This small group educational experience features 36 AIA and ASLA HSW Learning Units and an opportunity to connect with amazing people and places, on an extraordinary level.

Intended not only for architects and designers - but for anyone with an interest in the art, architecture, landscapes, and environments of this phenomenal part of the world, a region that has played a crucial role in the history of world culture.

The physical activity level of this program is Level 3 (Moderate), including 1-3 miles of unassisted walking per day at a moderate pace, with some long days, uneven surfaces and stairs, typically without elevators, including walking up the pedestrian bridge to Civita most days. Walking and observing are a key part of these hill town experiences.

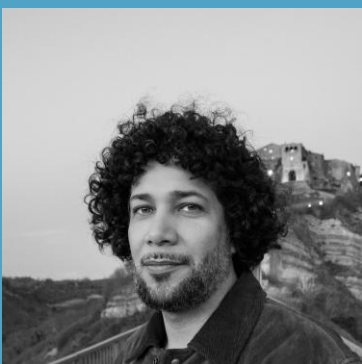


Civita di Bagnoregio, home base for this program

Your education program leaders and compatriots for this remarkable journey:



Samantha Josaphat, RA, NCARB, NOMA, LEED GA, is an architect, educator, and founder of Studio 397 Architecture, a New York City firm built on the belief that design can be both beautiful and deeply inclusive. The 397th African American woman licensed architect in the U.S., Samantha has made it her mission to shape spaces that tell authentic stories and challenge convention. Her work and teaching at The Cooper Union and City College bridge creativity and advocacy, inspiring designers to see architecture as a tool for cultural empowerment. A Civita Institute and Pantheon Institute Fellow, Samantha explores how design connects people, place, and purpose, inviting others to rethink how we experience the built world.



Luis Medina, CPHD, is a Principal at Studio 397 Architecture, where he brings together sustainability, craftsmanship, and big picture thinking to create meaningful design solutions. A Certified Passive House Designer and former Civita Institute Design Climate Action Fellow, Luis is passionate about reimagining how buildings can be both high performing and human centered. With roots in Finance and Construction Management, Luis approaches architecture with creativity and practicality, balancing bold ideas with the knowledge to build them. His experiences as a two-time Pantheon Institute Fellow in Rome help shape his perspective on how history, culture, and sustainability inform today's design challenges. Through his work, Luis champions architecture that's not just built well, but built with intention.

From Past Program Participants:

*"How the Civita experience would impact my practice went straight to the core of my motivation in joining - and has **provided more venues of thought - professional and personal - than anticipated or expected.**"* Eduardo L.

*"This trip profoundly deepened my appreciation for the **delicate balance between preservation and modernity**, and I left inspired to integrate these principles into my own work. I am immensely grateful for this unforgettable opportunity."* David S.

*"Thanks for all your efforts in providing our group with such a **well-organized, informational and fantastic experience.** I am still thinking about our journeys and how wonderful a time spent..."* Audrey G.



Villa Farnese, Caprarola

*"The travel included amazing food, sights, and experiences of the less-traveled parts of Umbria and Tuscany while giving **priceless insight into the hearts of the people who live there and the soul of the Place.** I cannot recommend this travel too highly!"* Tim R.

Itinerary and Program Summary

First: Travel to Orvieto, Italy by your preferred means and route.

Day 1:

Tuesday

April 27, 2027

Arrive Orvieto and
travel to
Civita di Bagnoregio



Travel on your own to the beautiful Etruscan hill town of Orvieto, located on the main train line running between Rome and Florence, with many trains serving Orvieto daily. Arrive for your pick-up at the Orvieto train station by mid-afternoon. Transport from Orvieto to Civita di Bagnoregio is included in the program costs. Check-in to your accommodations in Civita. Group Dinner and Welcome.

Arrive and stay in the phenomenal hill town of Civita di Bagnoregio at the historic Civita Institute houses and other historic lodging in Civita. All accommodations in Civita are private and include private bathrooms, some with private kitchens.

Dining: Welcome Dinner included.

Historic Preservation and Sustainable Design in the Etruscan Hill Towns of Central Italy

Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Civita, breakfast in the Sala Grande, and travel to Tarquinia and Tuscania for the day.

Day 2:

Wednesday

April 28, 2027

Tarquinia and Tuscania

5 HSW Credits

Travel to Tarquinia, ancient center of Etruscan culture, situated above the Mediterranean Sea. Tour the UNESCO World Heritage site of Tarquinia's Etruscan acropolis, an example of an integrated cultural landscape and a naturalistic ancient landscape. Tour the beautiful medieval town with its evocative displays of Etruscan art, and view modern seismic interventions.

Travel to the ancient hill town of Tuscania, an Etruscan walled city of great beauty; observe historic restoration and seismic improvements since an earthquake caused extensive damage and loss of life in 1971.

Stay in Civita di Bagnoregio.

Dining: Breakfast included, Lunch and Dinner on your own.



Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Civita, breakfast in the Sala Grande, travel to Orvieto, return to stay in Civita.

Day 3:

Thursday
April 29, 2027
Orvieto

3 HSW Credits

Travel to nearby Orvieto, a highly significant hill town with Etruscan underpinnings and important cultural treasures dating from the past 2,500+ years.

Tour Orvieto's massive geological/environmental sustainability projects, integrating structural reinforcement of this ancient Etruscan hill town with parking garages and vertical transportation: infrastructure as a means of geological stabilization, erosion control and traffic control.

Tour Orvieto's historic center as an example of a sustainable and sophisticated historic preservation of a delicate, ancient cultural center, largely free of automobiles.

Explore the Etruscan and medieval era cave complex built under Orvieto's buildings and hill town spaces.

Experience Orvieto's series of public spaces linked to the train station below by a funicolare, leaving the town dominated by pedestrian-friendly streets.

View Orvieto's magnificent Duomo (architecturally related to the Duomo of Siena).

Stay in Civita di Bagnoregio at the Civita Institute houses and other historic lodging in Civita.

Dining: Breakfast, Dinner included, Lunch on your own.



Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Civita, breakfast in the Sala Grande, travel to Caprarola, and tour the Villa Farnese.

Day 4:

Friday

April 30, 2027

Civita and Caprarola

2 HSW Credits

Tour Civita di Bagnoregio and environs and an innovative system of modern geological sustainability measures, designed to prevent loss of life and protect irreplaceable cultural features of this ancient but fragile hill town. Observe the effects of intense tourism pressures that can at times exacerbate environmental degradation and discuss possible solutions.

Travel to the Villa Farnese at Caprarola, one of the truly outstanding examples in architectural history of a villa that integrates landscape design, art, naturalistic features, and dynamic architecture into an environmental tour de force.

Group lunch at a classic, family-owned restaurant that has provided locally-sourced food and celebration in the historic center of Caprarola for several generations.

Dinner in Civita di Bagnoregio.

Stay in Civita di Bagnoregio at the Civita Institute houses and other historic lodging in Civita.

Dining: Breakfast, Lunch included, Dinner on your own.



Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Civita, breakfast in the Sala Grande, and spend the day exploring Civita di Bagnoregio.

Day 5:

Saturday

May 1, 2027

Civita di Bagnoregio

5 HSW Credits

Introduction and Tour of the phenomenal hill town of Civita di Bagnoregio, and the environmental sustainability features of the Etruscan Hill Towns.

Presentations focusing on seismic improvements to archaic masonry structures, ancient and modern landscapes in the Etruscan heartland of Italy, and tour of typical Civita historic buildings, with various seismic conditions.

Insiders' tour of Civita di Bagnoregio structures in the center of this historic town and observe its system of naturalistic pathways into the ancient valley.

Tour the Museo Geologico e delle Frane in Civita di Bagnoregio to learn about the geological structure supporting the hill towns in this region, the seismic issues at play, design and engineering interventions completed in Civita and environs, this unique landscape, and experience a unique wine tasting exploring the fascinating effects of geology on the world-renowned wines of this region.

Stay in Civita di Bagnoregio at the Civita Institute houses and other historic lodging in Civita.

Dining: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included.



Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Civita, breakfast in the Sala Grande, travel to Pienza, stay in Siena for two nights.

Day 6:

Sunday

May 2, 2027

Pienza and Siena

3 HSW Credits

Travel to Pienza and onward to Siena.

In Pienza, four significant historic structures in this architecturally-renowned, UNESCO World Heritage site. Pienza is an “Ideal Town” of the Renaissance era that includes a series of structural interventions attempted over the past 500 years aimed at enhancing the safety of the town’s inhabitants, geological sustainability and preservation of this beautiful (but fragile) hill town.

It was in Pienza that Renaissance era idealized urban planning and architectural concepts were first put in place in a deliberate manner, based on the work of Leon Battista Alberti.

Travel from Pienza to the historic center of Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and one of the largest, most intact, medieval hill towns in Europe. Situated on a series of dramatic ridges and promontories, Siena was created and added to by successive generations as a living, sustainable work of culture, art and architecture that is integrated into the geological and natural environment.

Stay in Siena at the Hotel Athena, located in the historic center.

Dining: Breakfast and Dinner included, Lunch on your own.



Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Siena, breakfast at Hotel Athena, tour Siena and the Santa Maria della Scala complex.

Day 7:

Monday
May 3, 2027
Siena

4 HSW Credits

Tour Siena, one of the great cities of Italy, and in particular, take a guided “behind the scenes” tour of Santa Maria della Scala, a highly significant heritage site, opposite Siena’s famed Duomo. Important in the history of world art, architecture, and urbanism, the vast complex was one of the first major social welfare establishments in Europe for children, the poor, travelers and pilgrims, on a large urban scale.

Santa Maria della Scala stands out in modern times as an extraordinary example of adaptive re-use/historic preservation and sustainability, a rehabilitation completed under the direction of architect Guido Canali, now operating as a multi-story museum that is arranged on various strata of this complex structure, built up over centuries, in some parts excavated directly into the geology of Siena. It presents one of the most significant examples in Europe of a modern series of museum and interpretive interventions, woven into a structural assembly of sacred and secular art and architectural spaces, created across several centuries.

Stay in Siena at the Hotel Athena, located in the historic center.

Dining: Breakfast included, Lunch and Dinner on your own.



Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Siena, breakfast at Hotel Athena, then visit Perugia, and stay in Assisi for two nights.

Day 8:

Tuesday

May 4, 2027

Siena, Perugia, Assisi

5 HSW Credits

Siena morning: Learn more about Siena's extraordinary complex of historic structures and gardens, woven together across time, creating a self-sustaining system encircled by medieval walls, with water supplies, vegetable gardens and fruit orchards that historically supplied the population within the protected City-State. Siena presents an early and significant example aimed at urban balance and sustainability, with lessons for modern cities.

Travel late morning from Siena to Perugia: Introduction to Perugia, an ancient city with Etruscan and Roman roots – today a world-renowned center of art. Perugia's major modern interventions are woven into the context of world heritage historic architecture and urbanism.

Experience Perugia's "Minimetro" transit system integrated into the historic Etruscan hill town and its geology, designed by Atelier Jean Nouvelle (Paris), connecting newer areas to the ancient town. See the unique system of vertical transportation (escalators, elevators) integrated through the rock base of the hill town, linking parking garages and transit to the largely auto-free historic center crowning the top of the hill town. See seismic interventions in important historic structures in the center of Perugia.

Tour the Rocca Paolina, a historically-unique Renaissance era enclosure of a large medieval quarter of the city, all under one common series of roofs, with ancient streets and buildings gathered, intended as both a means of protection and control. Experience the landscape and approach to hill top Assisi, seeing the remarkable environmental relationships between the hill town and modern interventions.

Stay in Assisi at the 4-Star Fontebella Palace Hotel, a restored heritage structure located in the historic center.

Dining: Breakfast and Dinner included, Lunch on your own.



Perugia's celebrated Corso Vanucci (left); Fontebella Palace Hotel in Assisi (upper right); 1st Century BCE temple of Minerva, Piazza del Comune, Assisi (lower right).

Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Assisi, breakfast at the Fontebella Palace Hotel, all day in Assisi. Stay in Assisi.

Day 9:

Wednesday

May 5, 2027

Assisi

5 HSW Credits

Explore Assisi and experience modern insertions and restorations at a recently discovered Roman bath complex, now integrated into an architecturally-distinguished hotel, spa, and museum.

Tour the Basilica of San Francesco, which was restored with significant seismic interventions installed following the collapse of vaulting and destruction of world-renowned frescoes in a 1997 earthquake. These structural and public safety campaigns resulted in an innovative series of preservation and restoration interventions that protects people and international cultural heritage.

Experience the distinctive atmosphere of evocative and well-preserved Assisi, an ancient hill town with outstanding examples of vernacular, sacred, and civic architecture dating from Roman, Medieval, Renaissance and more recent eras, showing various seismic improvements means and methods for archaic masonry and wood structures.

See the modern parking and transport infrastructure supporting Assisi's enormous influx of visitors each year, allowing the flow of huge numbers of visitors while still protecting the historic preservation integrity of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

View beautifully-designed modern architectural insertions woven into this vibrant hill town.

Stay in Assisi at the 4-star Fontebella Palace Hotel, located in the historic center.

Dining: Breakfast and Dinner included, Lunch on your own.



Assisi: Basilica di San Francesco with Giotto and Cimabue frescoes (left); shape of ancient Roman amphitheater imprinted on medieval town form (upper right); Roman temple and remains in modern museum, NUN hotel, spa (lower right).

Historic Preservation and Sustainable Design in the Etruscan Hill Towns of Central Italy

Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Assisi, breakfast at the Fontebella Palace Hotel, travel to Todi, return to Civita.

Day 10:

Thursday

May 6, 2027

Assisi and Todi

4 HSW Credits

Travel to the Umbrian hill town of Todi, a world-renowned center of both ancient and modern art. Todi has deep historical roots, and includes architectural, artistic, and engineering treasures that date from Etruscan, Roman, Medieval, Renaissance and later times. Explore the historic center.

Experience the significant early Renaissance era church of Santa Maria della Consolazione, located just outside of Todi's walls, a landmark in architectural history with great influence on designers internationally over the past several centuries.

Return to Civita di Bagnoregio late afternoon.

Dinner in Civita di Bagnoregio.

Stay in Civita di Bagnoregio at the Civita Institute houses and other historic lodging in Civita.

Dining: Breakfast and Dinner included, Lunch on your own.



Piazza del Popolo, Todi (left) (image source: Fondazione Progetti Beverly Pepper); the temple of Santa Maria della Consolazione, Todi (right).

Historic Preservation and Sustainable Design in the Etruscan Hill Towns of Central Italy

Itinerary and Program Summary

Buongiorno Civita, breakfast in the Sala Grande, travel to Orvieto train station and depart.

Day 11:

Friday

May 7, 2027

Civita di Bagnoregio

Departure Day

Farewell Breakfast in Civita di Bagnoregio included.

Program ends, depart in morning from Civita di Bagnoregio, transportation to the Orvieto train station is provided.

Grazie e buon viaggio!

Additional notes regarding AIA learning units and this program. AIA and ASLA require notification of the following information. This program course material level is intermediate. Delivery method is face-to-face and will be given on the dates indicated in this Itinerary, although the timing for specific elements may be revised in response to scheduling adjustments or requirements. Pre-requisite knowledge that would be helpful (but not required) includes a general awareness of art and architectural history.

Payments and deposits for this course once paid are non-refundable, even if the participant is unable to attend. Participants who cancel are responsible for finding a replacement participant or forfeit any payments. Participants are highly encouraged to purchase travel and trip cancellation insurance that includes COVID related cancellation and related trip expenses. If this program and its courses are completely cancelled at the discretion of the providers, payment will be refunded in full. Any complaints about this program of courses may be directed to programs@civitainstitute.org.

The Civita Institute is a recognized provider of both the AIA and ASLA Continuing Education Systems and is responsible for reporting attendance at these courses to AIA (for AIA members) or to ASLA (for ASLA members) within 10 business days after the conclusion of the program. Learning units shown for a particular day will be earned by a participant to the extent that such participant is present for that full day course.

A participant may opt out of a specific day-long course or portion of that day's course, and if so, will not earn any of the AIA credits for that day.

The Traveler Experience and Expectations:

This 10-day program involves extensive walking, typically in rustic historic hill towns, often involving stairs or hills, without handicap accessibility, including walking up the Civita bridge most days. Travelers must be in good physical condition and comfortable with walking explorations. Motoring between sites involves passenger van or car trips, traveling over a variety of road conditions.

Participants agree that they may be included in group photographs that might be reproduced and used in outreach for future programs, unless they notify us otherwise, in writing, prior to the start of the program.



Basilica di San Francesco, Assisi

Traveler costs (excluding air fare and transportation to Orvieto):

\$5,475 per person, based on double occupancy.

\$5,675 per person, based on single occupancy.

Deposit: A nonrefundable \$500 deposit per person plus completion and transmittal of the CrossCulture Educational Program Participant Form and Agreement is required to hold a space. Capacity is limited. Deposits are made by Zelle transfer to 206-660-1264 (preferred method) or by check paid to CrossCulture and express mailed to The Civita Institute, 1326 5th Ave, Suite 650, Seattle, WA 98101-Attention: Stephen Day, or by ACH bank transfer. Simultaneously email your intent to register by contacting us at programs@civitainstitute.org and note you are sending a deposit and enrolling in Historic Preservation & Sustainable Design in the Etruscan Hill Towns of Central Italy, April 27-May 7, 2027.

Final Payment (less the \$500 per person deposit) is required on or before January 15, 2027, with payment by Zelle, check or bank transfer as described above regarding deposits. Payments and deposits for this course once paid are non-refundable, even if the participant is unable to attend. Participants who cancel are responsible for finding a replacement participant or forfeit any payments. Participants are highly encouraged to purchase comprehensive travel and trip cancellation insurance that includes COVID related cancellation and related trip expenses. If this program and its courses are completely cancelled at the discretion of the providers payment will be refunded in full.

Included: All ground transportation in passenger van or car, beginning with pickup in Orvieto and concluding with return to Orvieto at end of the program; 10 nights of accommodations divided between Civita di Bagnoregio and hotels in Assisi and Siena (accommodations in Civita include historic house lodging at the Civita Institute facilities with additional historic lodging); meals included/excluded as summarized in the itinerary attached; tour guides and museum fees that are part of the program; AIA/ASLA learning units; carbon offset contribution; one-year membership in The Civita Institute.

Exclusions, Conditions: Not included: Airfare and other transportation to Orvieto prior to the program and from Orvieto after the program ends; passport and visa fees; personal expenses; laundry; meals not specified in the itinerary; travel and trip cancellation insurance; medical insurance (required); all other items not specifically mentioned in the itinerary. This program, prices, hotels and itinerary are subject to change due to circumstances outside our reasonable control. We reserve the right to modify the program and to make final decisions on the selection of program participants. Civita Institute Visitor Conditions (including Covid vaccination) apply to all participants and are available at www.civitainstitute.org.

Accommodations in Civita di Bagnoregio

The central home base for the program for 6 out of 10 nights is the renowned hill town of Civita di Bagnoregio. Program participants have exclusive use of their accommodations in Civita for all 10 nights of the program, including when we are away on overnight stays in Perugia and Siena.

Civita is an ancient Etruscan hill town known internationally for its great beauty and remarkable historical integrity. The town has no automobile traffic, and combined with its medieval and Renaissance era buildings, has a distinctive and evocative character.

Program participants become members in The Civita Institute and stay in lodgings in the Civita Institute's restored, private houses, or in one of the historic, restored lodging establishments in Civita that we have reserved.

Program breakfast meetings in Civita are held in one of the restored historic buildings owned by The Civita Institute.

Questions? More information on these accommodations is available by contacting us at:
programs@civitainstitute.org.



Hotel Accommodations

Siena (2 nights)

Assisi (2 nights)

Siena accommodations will be in the historic center at the 4-Star Hotel Athena. The location is within the historic walls and a comfortable walk to the Piazza del Duomo, Santa Maria della Scala, and the Campo, with rooftop terrace overlooking Siena and the surrounding Tuscan landscape.



Assisi accommodations will be in the 4-Star Fontebella Palace Hotel, located in the heart of this ancient city, within the historic walls. The hotel is within easy walking distance to the Basilica di San Francesco, the main piazza in Assisi, and other major sites within this world-renowned Etruscan and Roman hill town.



Photograph credits:
Hotel Athena (upper);
Fontebella Palace Hotel (lower).

Participants of this program will be eligible to earn up to 36 AIA and ASLA-approved HSW Learning Units.

And in closing - here are a few questions that participants may consider on this program in Italy:

How is the study of historical architecture in Italy relevant to the contemporary architecture in the US and elsewhere?

What are the principles of scale, proportion, and articulation that one can see in these places that are relevant to contemporary architectural and urban design?

How do Italians incorporate important sustainability and seismic improvements to their extraordinary historic buildings?

Beauty in art and architecture are everywhere we travel on this program in Italy – how can we learn from these places and people in infusing a heightened level of beauty in modern design?

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New seismic vaulting above the chapel, below the roof, in Basilica di San Francesco, Assisi



Phenomenal staff at the vast Santa Maria della Scala museum complex, Siena

We hope you will join us in Italy!
programs@civitainstitute.org