



Science Meeting – Scientific Report

The scientific report (WORD or PDF file - maximum of seven A4 pages) should be submitted online within two months of the event. It will be published on the ESF website.

Proposal Title:

European Science Foundation
PALATIUM Summer School Utrecht 2014

‘Court Residences as Places of Exchange in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe (III)’

Organised by PALATIUM, a research networking program of the European Science Foundation. (www.courtresidences.eu / www.esf.org) in cooperation with Utrecht University and the Dutch Postgraduate School for Art History (Onderzoekschool Kunstgeschiedenis www.onderzoekschoolkunstgeschiedenis.nl)

Coordination:

Martijn van Beek MA, secretary of the Onderzoekschool Kunstgeschiedenis
info@onderzoekschoolkunstgeschiedenis.nl

Prof. Dr. Konrad Ottenheim, professor for architectural history, Utrecht University
k.a.ottenheim@uu.nl

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1) Summary

This summer school was focused on the late medieval and early modern European court residence, or 'palace', in an interdisciplinary perspective. The world of the courts 1400-1700 constituted a network of truly European scale and international character, but its architecture is only rarely studied in its connectivity. Here the 'palace' is seen as a place for cultural exchange. Human interaction in this space is regulated and codified by a set of rules, known as the 'ceremonial'.

The interaction between palace architecture (tangible) including its interior decorations and stately collections, and the ceremonial (intangible, but known through a set of tangible testimonials of different types, written and visual) is one of the key questions this summer school addressed. The palace's space and form carry multiple connotations. To the informed observer they represent power, lineage, and tradition versus innovation. The decoding of this system of signs necessitates input not only of architectural and art historians, but also of various other disciplines, such as archaeology, social history, politics, literature, theatre and music.

Important questions addressed in this summer school are focused upon the sovereignty's space and its rituals. Of crucial importance in the ceremonial and spatial organization of the residences were the etiquette and settings used for the official confrontation between different courts at diplomatic receptions of foreign princes, ambassadors and other distinguished visitors. How was the spatial order and hierarchy of rooms, leading from the entrance of the residence to the audience hall or the stage for stately banquets? How were the different levels of distance or closeness to the nucleus of power visually expressed? What was the relationship between the state rooms and the private sections of the residence?

In connection with the previous questions also the iconography of the residence exterior and interiors was discussed, especially the display of lineage, kinship, and tradition. Claims of age-old and noble origin were of vital symbolic and identity-creating value for several European courts, regardless of political status and size. Were particular iconographic meanings expressed in relation to specific local or regional circumstances? Were the symbolic values displayed only in the more public areas, or were less accessible parts of the residence also the object of significant iconographic programs? Which role had art collections here?

The lectures at the summer school dealt with residences all over Europe; as a matter of the field trips were focussed on the most relevant examples in the Low Countries. 25 students participated in the course, 17 from outside the Netherlands, with a PALATIUM grant, and 8 from the Netherlands. 9 professors were involved in the lecture program, 6 from outside the Netherlands, 3 from various Dutch universities. (None of them was paid any fee. The summer school organisation reimbursed only travel costs, hotel costs and lunches). We hope we succeeded in opening new points of view on the researches *en cours* in Europe. The literature given at the beginning of the course was, therefore, perfect for the subject chosen for the lectures and the palaces visited were really important to understand the regional and chronological distinctions.

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- 2) **Description of the scientific content of and discussions at the event (up to four pages)**
- 3) **Assessment of the results and impact of the event on the future directions of the field (up to two pages)**

In the course, which took place in Utrecht from the 29th of June to the 9th of July, several lectures dealt with different aspects of the European palaces from 1400 to 1700 (see the full program). There were four full days with lectures at Utrecht University (in total ten lectures by the professors, each of two hours, and a ten-minute-presentation by all 25 participating students on his/her own research), alternating with four days of field trips to castles and residences related to the subject of the course, with explanations on site by the summer school teachers and professional staff of the various buildings.

The first day, Monday June 30, was dedicated to methodological introductions on the use of sources used in the research on early modern residential architecture (like the interpretation of inventories and court ordinances). The next day was filled with three lectures on medieval and sixteenth-century residences and the third day was a study trip to the sixteenth-century residences of the Lord of Bergen op Zoom and of the Nassau family in Breda. Three lectures on the seventeenth century were presented on day four, in Utrecht again, followed by two days of field trips: one day dedicated to the court in and around The Hague, with visits to Hofwyck, the Binnenhof, Noordeinde Palace and the Hall of Orange in Palace Huis ten Bosch (kind permission of His Majesty king Willem-Alexander), and one day to Het Loo palace of William III of Orange and its reconstructed seventeenth-century gardens and Middachten castle, which belonged to father and son Van Reede, both working very close to the Orange court. After one day off (Sunday) we continued on Monday July 7 with a day of lectures on the revival of the medieval past in early modern castles. Tuesday July 8 we visited Heemstede castle, Renswoude castle and church, and Linschoten country house. Wednesday morning, July 9 was the closing meeting of the summer school, with a general discussion and evaluation on the subject of the whole course.

The literature given before the start of the course was, on the one hand, a general introduction to the subject¹, on the other hand, a more specific analysis² of the sequence of the rooms in the palatial structure during the different periods, in a diachronic order, in relation to the various ceremonials. One of the main topics of the course was concerned with the distribution of the rooms on the inside of the buildings, and their relations to court ceremonies. The analysis of the different ground plans, both during the lectures and directly at the places, has helped clarify the nature of argument, which meant to define and compare the position of the various chambers, ruled upon a strict hierarchy imitating the different stages of the authority. A central point of the research was to find out which parts of the residences could be defined public and which private and what these two words meant in the different times and in the different countries.

As a matter of fact, from at least the 15th century to the baroque palaces and so forth, until the 18th century, the internal structure of the buildings has always proved to reflect the adherence to specific models, largely rooted in the symbolism of power and its ceremony. Some interesting examples, in this sense, have been elucidated by K. De Jonge and K. Ottenheim, respectively in the Burgundian residences during the 16th century and in a broader area, comprising Holland, France and England, one century later. Though many differences have been brought to light for each epoch, and, of course, from one court to the other (implying geographical and cultural varieties, nevertheless the ‘nomadic organization’ of some courts, such as the French court, still during the 1500s, like M. Chatenet has pointed out), a red thread has been noticed: the history of noble palaces and apartments cannot be separated from the purpose of creating a ceremonial space. This approach to the subject was, somehow, new for most of the students. In fact, the most investigated aspects of a building have always turned out to be the external portions (in terms of survey, understanding further additions, conservation), and the material remains connected to the structures. The attention towards the inside has generally been associated with the recognition of ancient inventories.

¹ MARK GIROUARD, *Life in the English Country House. A Social and Architectural History*, London, Book Club Associates, 1979.

² HUGH MURRAY BAILLE, *Etiquette and the Planning of the State Apartments in Baroque Palaces*, Oxford, Vivian Ridler, 1967.

and

JOHN ADAMSON, *The Making of the Ancien-Régime Court 1500-1700*, in *The Princely Courts of Europe. Rituals, Politics and Culture Under the Ancien Régime 1500-1750*, London, John Adamson, 1999.

The practice of readapting, over the years, existing buildings, according to the new social and cultural demands, has sometimes led to a 'denaturation' of the structure, particularly of the earlier fabrics, which not infrequently date back to the Middle Ages. Far from being just solid brick and stone, architecture, in actual fact, lies among the most flexible expression of monumental art. As a result, these renovations, which we count many examples in Italy and in the rest of Europe, have happened to affect, especially, the internal organization of the spaces, rather than the façades. In addition to this, there's the problem of the written sources, which are often incomplete for the medieval centuries and regularly omit details about this kind of information. This is why archaeological investigations in most of the cases evade, so to speak, that part of the recognition, considered a sort of fake, therefore no longer valuable for a research.

Conversely, and the lecture of L. Bosman, focusing on medieval residences, has partly revealed this tendency, another question in connection with this theme is the fact that sometimes buildings of the past haven't survived but for their walls, when they haven't survived at all.

In Aachen, for instance, capital of the Carolingian empire and favourite residence of Charlemagne, much of the Palatine complex has been lost, although scholars have been able to reconstruct a large portion of the original plan thanks to the excavations and to the remains of some walls (e. g. the Aula Regia). Fortunately, one of its main fabrics, the Palatine Chapel, has survived in situ and, despite undergoing many changes over the centuries, is still capable of transmitting the opulence of the very first post-classical court of Western Europe. That the space dedicated to the cult was preserved, as the place intended for the celebration of religious functions, namely the vehicles of the authority of the medieval kings, is no accident at all.

Another theme that has surfaced during the course concerns the difference between the concept of palace in the medieval times and its modern sense. In fact, while during the 16th and 17th centuries the word palace, particularly in northern Europe, denotes a well characterized typology of buildings, in the Middle Ages it fails to match a specific category, but rather an heterogeneous group of models all converging at a common point, their defensive nature, both logistic and structural. This latter aspect will gradually lose importance over the centuries, in favour of the aesthetic qualities and of a major interaction with the public sphere.

The specific theme of the revival of the medieval past in early modern castles was vividly presented by S. Fitzner and C. Wemyss, with examples of this practice in Germany in Scotland. The excursion the following day pointed exactly at this theme, making it an illustrative eye-opener in the study of court residences for the participants.

The excursions had been in some cases anticipated by an introductory lecture the previous day, in other cases the buildings had been explained directly during the visits. An important example of baroque garden had been reproduced in the Het Loo Palace in Apeldoorn, because the foundation of the original baroque garden had been found during some excavations in the seventies under the English garden. Despite the possible critiques that could be made about this very invasive intervention, the result is interesting, because it tries to recreate the original ensemble of garden and palace. The field trips had shown how the palaces in the Netherlands were influenced by different styles, originated in several countries, and adapted to the local taste and traditions. Not only one model was accepted and developed in this country, but an original mixture of influences was the standard.

4) **Annexes 4a) and 4b): Programme of the meeting and full list of speakers and participants**

Sunday 29 June: Arrival day

Arrival of participants.

Monday 30 June: Introductory lectures on court history and residence architecture in Europe

- 9.00 Konrad Ottenheim (Utrecht University):
Form and function: questions, problems and research methods
- 11.00 Fabian Person (Kalmar University):
Court ordinances as a source for residence research
- 14.00 Nuno Senos (Universidade Nova de Lisboa):
Inventories as a source for court studies

Tuesday 1 July: Lectures on late medieval and sixteenth-century residences

- 9.00 Lex Bosman (University of Amsterdam):
High medieval imperial palatine residences
- 11.00 Krista De Jonge (University of Leuven):
Burgundian residences and their afterlife in the 16th century
- 14.00 Monique Chatenet (Centre André Chastel, Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris):
The French court of the 16th century

Wednesday 2 July:

Field trip to **Bergen op Zoom** (Markiezenhof, an early sixteenth-century urban residence of the Marquis of Bergen op Zoom) and **Breda** (the early Renaissance palace of the House of Nassau; Nassau funeral monument in the City Church)

Thursday 3 July: Lectures on seventeenth-century residences

- 9.00 Konrad Ottenheim (Utrecht University):
A universal model? Variations in 17th-century court architecture
- 11.00 Karolien De Clippel (Utrecht University):
The great decoration programmes: Banqueting Hall, the Medici-cycle in the Luxembourg, and the Oranjezaal in Huis ten Bosch
- 14.00 Paper presentations by Summer School participants (round 1)

Friday 4 July:

Field trip to **Voorburg** (Hofwyck), **The Hague** (Mauritshuis, Binnenhof, Gallerij Willem V, Noordeinde Palace (exterior only), Huis ten Bosch).

Saturday 5 July:

Field trip to **Apeldoorn** (Palace Het Loo, summer residence of William III and Mary, 1685-92 and its gardens [introduction by Willem Zieleman at 12.00]) and **Middachten Castle** (castle and country seat of Godard van Reede-Ginkel, 1695-98)

Sunday 6 July:

Day off

Monday 7 July: Lectures on the revival of the medieval past in early modern castles

9.00 Sebastian Fitzner (Ludwig Maximilians Universität München)

11.00 Charles Wemyss (Dundee University)

14.00 Paper presentations by Summer School participants (round 2)

Tuesday 8 July:

Field trip to **Heemstede castle** (1645), **Renswoude** castle and church (resp. 1654 and 1639), and **Linschoten** country house (ca. 1650, 1723)

Wednesday 9 July:

9.00 Discussion of the topics chosen for the papers. With Konrad Ottenheim (Utrecht University) and Martijn van Beek (Dutch Postgraduate School for Art History).

Paper presentations by Summer School participants (round 3)

13.00 End of the summer school.

Participants

	Research topic	Affiliation	E-mail
ANDERSEN Lisa	Early Modern Intermediality: Courtly Space and its Translations in the First School of Fontainebleau	University of British Columbia	landersen88@gmail.com
BERANEK Saskia	Sights of Memory: Space and Identity in Early Modern Dutch Art	University of Pittsburgh	srb43@pitt.edu
BURDA Andronira	The spatial organization of Court Residences and its connection with the Court ordinance	Polytechnic University of Tirana	aniburda@hotmail.com
DARNELL Lorne	How did the artist's works – and perspective painting in general – function within a courtly context?	Universiteit Leiden	lgdhome1@me.com
DELMAN Rachel	Households and landscapes created by and for elite women in fourteenth and fifteenth-century England	University of Oxford	rachel.delman@univ.ox.ac.uk
DENCHER Alexander	The architectural patronage of the Prince of Orange in the seventeenth century	Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne	alexander.dencher@malix.univ-paris1.fr
DOUDESIS Panagiotis	The ritual codes of the sovereigns' public eating as an integral part of the daily court ceremonial during early modern times	National Technical University of Athens	panagiotis.doudesis@gmail.com
GRATION Jonathan	Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire	De Montfort University Leicester	Jonathan.gration@gmail.com
KARST Sander	Dutch migrant artists in London	Utrecht University	s.karst@uu.nl
KOELEMAN Floor	Inspiration for interior decoration – the prevailing tastes of court residents	Radboud University Nijmegen	floorkoeleman@gmail.com
KONDAI Robert	Flemish and Dutch paintings in private and public collections	University of Amsterdam	malta2008@freemail.hu
KONYA Anna	Late Gothic wall painting in Transylvania (c. 1450-1530)	Central European University, Budapest	konyaanna@gmail.com
KOVASIUK Stefaniia	The tangible and intangible aspects of different spaces in the context of facilitation of cross-cultural exchange in the late medieval Europe	Taras Shevchenko Kiev National University	stephanierom07@gmail.com
LAURET Lauren	The political interaction between local, territorial and state levels of representative government in the Dutch Republic at the end of the sixteenth century	Radboud University Nijmegen	l.b.lauret@student.ru.nl
PACHECO FERREIRA Maria João	Between utility and delight: The Textile Collection at the house of Bragança (16th-18 th centuries)	CHAM, New University of Lisbon	mjoaopferreira@gmail.com
PORRI Marina	Ceremonial and Diplomacy: the role and the function of ambassadors in the European courts during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. For an investigation of the inner workings of negotiations as revealed by coeval treatises and paintings	Università di Firenze, Pisa e Siena	marina.porri@unifi.it

REINTJES Melina	The use of mythological iconography in the decoration of sixteenth century court residences	Radboud University Nijmegen	mlreintjens@gmail.com
RIBEIRO SOARES Miguel	16th century Portuguese architecture; ongoing thesis on Francisco de Arruda	Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal	mlcrsoares@gmail.com
RIJPMA Hugo	Continuation of Late Medieval and Early Modern tradition in the 'Gothic Hall' of Willem II	University of Amsterdam	hugorijpma@gmail.com
SCHMITZ Linda	Architecture, art education and art and landscape	Ruhr-Universität Bochum	linda.schmitz@rub.de
SCHWAHN Kai Hendrik	Archives as sites of historical knowledge production in early modern Europe	University of Hamburg	Kai.Schwahn@studium.uni-hamburg.de
SYRER Christa	The architecture of the Neues Schloss at Ingolstadt (1479 – ca. 1500)	Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich	christa.syrer@gmx.de
VAN EEKELEN Bart	The Markiezenhof	Utrecht University	bartvaneekelen@hotmail.com
VAN RUN Tatjana	Ceiling painting in Amsterdam in the Golden Age	Delft University of Technology	t.p.vanrun@tudelft.nl
WINDISCH Laura	Anna de' Medici's residences and the interiors, as well as her art collection within early modern court culture in Europe	Humboldt-University of Berlin / University of Bern	laura.windisch@culture.huberlin.de