Andrea Palladio
1508-1580
Predecessors, contemporaries

• Dante Alighieri (1265 –1321), *The Divine Comedy*
• Christopher Columbus (1451 –1506)
• Brunelleschi (1337 – 1446)
  *First architect to employ mathematical perspective to redefine Gothic and Romanesque space;*
  *Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence (1417 - 1434)*
• Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519)
• Michelangelo (1475 – 1564)
• Gallileo Gallilei (1564 – 1642)
• Andrea Pallado (1508 – 1580)
Palladio’s life, projects

- Born in Padova in 1508
- At age 15 went to Vicenza to became an assistant in a workshop of stoncutters and masons
- Later introduced to the writings of Vitruvius, classical Roman architect
Palladio’s life, projects

• In 1548 he began receiving commissions for country villas from prominent Venetians (Barbaro, Cornaro)
• Villa Malcontenta (1549 - 1563)
Palladio’s life, projects

• In 1560 he received first commission for work in Venice: completion of the Benedictine monastery San Giorgio Maggiore
Palladio’s life, projects

• Teatro Olimpico in Vicenca, 1584
• *Four Books of Architecture*, published in Venice in 1570
• Overview of his architectural principles as well as practical advice for builders
The Palladian grammar

• Eight steps for generating uni-axial villa plans
  1. Grid definition
  2. Exterior wall definition
  3. Room layout
  4. Interior wall realignment
  5. Principal entrances (porticos, wall inflections)
  6. Exterior ornamentation (columns)
  7. Windows and doors
  8. Termination

• Unit of measure: the ancient foot of Vicenca
  standard ground floor wall thickness in his villas was two Vicenca feet
The Palladian grammar

Stage 1: Grid definition
Every grid consists of \((2m + 1) \times n\) array of variously dimensioned rectangles

- **Bilateral symmetry of the grid** – north-south of the coordinate system
- Each rectangles to the left of the axis has a corresponding reflection to the right of the axis
- Parameterization of the rules (page 8)
The Palladian grammar

Stage 3 Room Layout

• The interior spaces in Palladio’s uniaxial villa plans may be
  – Rectangular
  – H shaped
  – T shaped and
  – + shaped

• A plan can have at most one nonrectangular space and this space must be bisected by the north-south axis of the coordinate system