

As Interior Design majors, we must take Art History courses as well as a course over the history of interior design. Both of these courses focused heavily on the Italian Renaissance and the classical buildings, paintings and sculptures that had been created during that time. My partner Shelby Wilkins and I both had the opportunity last summer to study abroad in Italy for two weeks, where we visited multiple cities; Rome, Alberobello, Sorrento, Florence, Cinque Terre, and Milan. We were given the opportunity to see all of these great works we learned about in class! Due to the cultural impact these famous works had on society, we wanted to study how much of the Italian Renaissance was still prevalent in modern day Italy.

The Renaissance began around 1400 in Florence, Italy and eventually spread throughout Milan, Rome, and the rest of Europe. The Renaissance spanned from the 14th to the 17th Century and it was the most profound art movement, it was the enlightened age of art and architecture. The Italian Renaissance is known as the golden age of music, literature, and art, and has been the muse for many famous Renaissance artists: da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli, and father of Renaissance architecture Brunelleschi.

We collected information and analyzed textbooks (they can be useful even after the class is over!), articles, pictures, and videos relating to and addressing Italian Renaissance influenced buildings and art. We then compared the six cities to each other to learn how the needle of the Italian Renaissance threaded through each city and to determine the prominence of that era in their modern state.

Through our findings we discovered the Italian Renaissance is heavily prevalent in:

- Rome
 - St. Peter's Square, St. Peter's Basilica, Sistine Chapel, and the Vatican museums
- Florence
 - Cappella dei Principi, Palazzo Medici's courtyard, Bartolommeo Bandinelli's Orpheus, Galleria dell'Accademia, Michelangelo's David, The Uffizi, Botticelli's The Birth of Venus, Piero Della Francesca's The Duke and Duchess of Urbino, and Artemisia Gentileschi's Judith Slaying Holofernes, Giotto's Campanile, and the Baptistery of St. John
- Milan
 - Sant'Antonio Abate, San Barnaba, Basilica of San Lorenzo, San Carlo al Lazzaretto, Casa degli Omenoni, Casa Fontana-Silvestri, Santa Maria presso San Satiro, Portinari Chapel, San Bernardino alle Monache)

With soft influence in:

- Sorrento
 - The Sedile Dominova
- La Spezia

- residential buildings that have been built in the past 10 to 20 years had decorative elements of the Renaissance style.

In conclusion, the Italian Renaissance will continue to have an influence in Italy and the presence will remain, if not grow over future years. The Renaissance is found throughout each city's art, architecture, and design, which was predicted in the anticipated outcomes of the research.