

TIMELESS BEAUTY, PROPORTION AND VISION IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ITALY’S MOST INFLUENTIAL ARCHITECT

He had an unquenchable passion that inspired him to great achievements – and many others over the centuries would emulate his Palladian principles. Today, a unique embodiment of the renowned architect’s vision, a masterpiece unlike any other in America, stands in Newport Beach.



PALLADIO’S LEGACY

Andrea Palladio (1508-1580), the acclaimed architect of the High Renaissance and arguably Italy’s most influential architect ever, is celebrated for his churches, villas, palaces and other grand edifices in Northern Italy. Internationally heralded over the centuries, his architectural style – based on the classic building principles of ancient Rome and Greece – emphasizes perfect harmony with the natural landscape.

While the modern-day concept of a resort property was unknown in Palladio’s day, the grand master would be impressed by the inspired adaptation of his Palladian style at The Resort at Pelican Hill®. Crisp lines, elegant proportions, classically-designed porticos, beauty combined with functionality, new yet timeless, residential yet grand – these are descriptions of Palladio’s work, shared by Pelican Hill. Appropriately, the Resort opened November 26, 2008 – virtually 500 years to the day of the birth in 1508 of Palladio.

Palladio was only a youth when he dedicated himself to the study of architecture, becoming a disciple of Vitruvius, the first century-BC writer who chronicled Roman architecture and conducted continuous empirical research at ancient architectural sites. Palladio came to believe that the ancient Greeks and Romans had found a perfect union of geometry, measure and proportion in their architecture – qualities

and characteristics that mirrored the beauty found in nature and the human body. He committed himself to reviving this harmony between nature and architecture that, in his view, had been lost since ancient times.

His passion and talent grew by the day, enabling him to rise up from obscurity and a working-class background at a time when social mobility was virtually non-existent. Palladio was initially trained as a stone mason, but his genius gained him architectural apprenticeships, entry into a top educational institution and eventually commissions – on his way to becoming the unofficial first architect of the world's most celebrated architectural site, the city of Venice. He excelled so at his studies at the Trissino Academy that the young *Andrea Di Pietro della Gondola* was renamed *Palladio*, after the Greek goddess of wisdom, by his mentor and distinguished scholar of the time Gian Giorgio Trissino.

By publishing his *I Quattro Libri dell' Architettura* (The Four Books on Architecture) in 1570, Palladio made his ideas and thinking accessible to the entire world, for all time. Indeed, his architectural gospel spread to the far corners of the European continent, and even to the New World where Thomas Jefferson employed Palladian principles in the construction of his famed Virginia home of Monticello.

A MODERN PALLADIAN ADAPTATION

In Newport Beach, at Pelican Hill, Palladio's legacy has been reborn in a unique incarnation: the wisdom of the ancients, interpreted and shaped by a genius of the Renaissance, now adapted to the 21st century to create a resort of timeless beauty, proportion and vision.

As Palladio would have done, Pelican Hill nestles into the coastal hillside site, engaging and complementing the natural setting, adapting to the gentle slope of the terrain through terracing. A full range of distinctive Palladian elements grace and define the Resort, including rows of arched porticos, barrel-vaulted ceilings, multi-story entry rotundas, graceful corniced columns that create temple-like settings, gracious courtyards with flowing fountains, and archways that frame vivid vistas of the sea.



The adaptation of Palladio's principles is evident, when comparing the Resort with such works by the renowned architect as Villa Emo (photo below left), built near Venice for the Venetian Emo family, and Villa Rotonda (photo below right), in Palladio's adopted hometown of Vicenza.



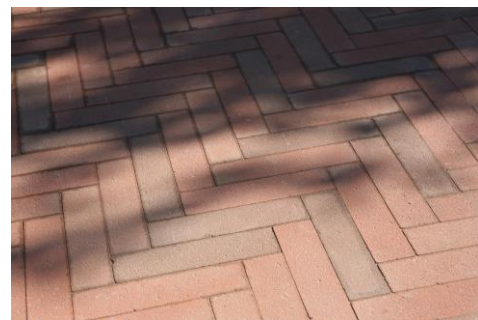
COUNTLESS DETAILS

Understanding that the creation of a masterpiece is in the countless details, and that the Palladian ethos was to strive for perfection, continuous experimentation and testing of materials, textures, colors and applications went on for many months to create the right look and feel of all interior and exterior surfaces and settings – to create an atmosphere that melds the timeless brilliance of Palladio’s Renaissance with Pelican Hill and its location on the California coast.

From conception through grand opening, Pelican Hill mandated an emphasis on detail unprecedented in the resort world. The goal was two-fold: to achieve an authentic adaptation of Palladian architecture that is aesthetically pleasing, timeless, and perfectly suited to the coastal setting; and to ensure the perfect guest experience, where every aspect, step and moment of a guest’s stay is comfortable, satisfying and uplifting. *The possibility of perfection...is in the numerous tiny details, such as the following examples:*

Design Details:

- Specialized artisans were brought in to create classical doors and windows, crafted of wood and bronze.
- Hand-cut and carved limestone from Italy is sourced for all fireplaces, in public areas, Bungalows and Villas.
- Herring-bone design brickwork (photo at right) from the main square of Siena, Italy, is replicated throughout the Resort in arrival areas, entry courts to the Villas and Bungalows, walkways and loggia.
- Millwork, including moldings, crowns and column capitals, are true to the Renaissance period.
- Classically designed lighting from Italy includes wrought-iron pendant lanterns and sconces.
- Railings and wrought iron are modeled after Italian Renaissance prototypes.



Landscaping:

- Imparting a feeling of timelessness and substance, Pelican Hill features mature plants and trees with lush intensity, so the Resort appears to have been here for many years.
- Reminiscent of an Italian village, Mediterranean landscaping is used throughout the Resort, mostly notably approximately 750 mature olive trees that line the main thoroughfares and access roads to the Bungalows and Villas.



Colors, Textures & Finishes:

- Under the direction of consultants with specific expertise, continuous experimentation and testing of materials, textures, colors and applications, was conducted for many months as part of a master plan to create the authentic look and feel of classical Italy for all interior and exterior surfaces and settings.
- Color and antiquing of roof tiles to replicate those on old Italian buildings.
- Lime-based Italian plaster used on interior and exterior walls, requiring adjustments throughout construction because the color evolves as it dries and ages.
- A dedicated mock-up yard, where the different colors, surfaces and materials were developed, tested and finalized before being applied to the actual construction.

Guest Experience:

- Acoustic plaster throughout the Resort reduces noise and enhances privacy.
- Clear and colorless Starphire glass, which doesn't block or influence actual colors, encloses guest room terraces, pools terraces and other areas to ensure open, pure vistas.
- Laminated Starphire glass with a low E film, which has a light bronze tint, creating a perfect and protected ambiance in all public areas and accommodations.
- Heated floors in outdoor dining terraces provide comfort on cool mornings and evenings.

Architecture

Hotel, clubhouse and Public Facilities: Altevers Associates, San Diego

Bungalows & Villas: Robert Hidey Architects, Irvine

Interior Architect: Andrew Skurman Architects, San Francisco

Landscape Architect: Burton Landscape Architecture, Solano Beach, California

Interior Design: Darrell Schmitt Design, Los Angeles