

 FLORENTINE VILLAS IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY
AN ARCHITECTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

In this book, Amanda Lillie challenges the urban bias in Renaissance art and architectural history by investigating the architecture and patronage strategies of the Strozzi and the Sasseti clans in the Florentine countryside during the fifteenth century. Based entirely on unpublished archival material and little-known buildings, the value systems that emerge from these sources are very different from the traditional, idealised interpretation of the “Renaissance villa”. The pastoral idyll is replaced here by dilapidated houses undergoing renovation and conversion, by the nurturing of dynastic and patrimonial values, by a constant anxiety about farming, and an altogether thrifty, utilitarian attitude to villa life. Over thirty country houses are identified, with a close scrutiny of two outstanding examples of villa architecture: Filippo Strozzi’s modest villa at Santuccio and Francesco Sasseti’s magnificent country palace at La Pietra.

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AN ARCHITECTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

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 ABBREVIATIONS

For short titles of published material, consult the bibliography. All manuscript references are to collections in the Archivio di Stato, Florence, unless otherwise indicated.

Dates between January 1 and the Florentine New Year on Ascension Day, March 25, are given in modern style (eg, 24 February 1454 in Florentine style is 1455 in modern style).

ASF	Archivio di Stato, Florence
BNF	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence
<i>Burl. Mag.</i>	<i>Burlington Magazine</i>
Capponi	Archivio Capponi (ASF and BNF)
Cat.	Catasto (ASF)
Decima Repub.	Decima Repubblicana (ASF)
IGM	Istituto Geografico Militare
<i>JWCI</i>	<i>Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes</i>
Litta	P. Litta, <i>Famiglie celebri italiane</i>
MAP	Archivio Mediceo avanti il Principato (ASF)
<i>Mitt.KhIF</i>	<i>Mitteilungen des Kunsthistorischen Institutes in Florenz</i>
Not. Antecos	Notarile Antecosimiano (ASF)

Pupilli	Pupilli avanti il Principato (ASF)
Repetti	E. Repetti, <i>Dizionario geografico, fisico e storico della Toscana</i>
Stroziane	Carte Stroziane (ASF)

CURRENCY AND MEASURES

L. — <i>lira</i>	s. — <i>soldi</i>	d. — <i>denari</i>
1 <i>lira</i> = 20 <i>soldi</i>		
1 <i>soldo</i> = 12 <i>denari</i>		
F. = <i>fiorini</i>	s. — <i>soldi</i>	d. — <i>denari</i>
1 <i>fiorino</i> = 20 <i>soldi</i>		
1 <i>soldo</i> = 12 <i>denari</i>		
1 <i>braccio</i> = 58.3 cm.		
1 <i>staio</i> = 24.4 litres or c. 2/3 bushel		
1 <i>moggio</i> = 24 <i>staia</i> or 585 litres or c. 17 bushels		
1 <i>staiora</i> = 525 square meters (1 hectare = 5.6 <i>staiora</i> or 1 acre = 7.6 <i>staiora</i>)		
1 <i>barile</i> (barrel) of wine = 45.58 litres		
1 <i>soma</i> = 2 <i>barili</i> of wine, 91.16 litres		
1 <i>cogno</i> = 10 <i>barili</i> of wine		
1 <i>orcio</i> or <i>barile</i> (barrel) of oil = 33.42 litres		
1 <i>dodicina</i> of linen = 12 <i>libbre</i> or 4.074 Kg.		

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