

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 29 November 2011

**THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME GATHERS
ARCHAEOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS AND CONTEMPORARY
ARCHITECTS TO DISCUSS THE LEGACY OF
ROMAN ARCHITECTURE IN A CONFERENCE
ON 6 & 7 DECEMBER 2011**



Image: Basilica, Leptis Magna, Libya; the William L. MacDonald Collection, Princeton University

Rome – The American Academy in Rome is pleased to present the two-day international conference *Paradigm and Progeny: Roman Imperial Architecture and Its Legacy*, to be held at the Villa Aurelia on 6 and 7 December 2011 from 9am-7pm. The symposium, which is open to the general public, will explore topics in Roman construction and design, urbanism, the impact of Hadrian, and more generally, the nature and legacy of Classicism, and will gather distinguished archaeologists, architects, architectural historians, and scholars to investigate the enduring impact of the legacy of Classicism as well as its impact on the modern world. The conference also commemorates the work of **William L. MacDonald**, FAAR'56 (1921-2010), who exerted a powerful influence on the field of Roman imperial architecture, shifting its study in significant new directions. The conference is organized by John A. Pinto, FAAR'75, RAAR'06, Howard Crosby Butler Memorial Professor of the History of Architecture at Princeton University; Diane Favro, professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of California, Los Angeles; and Fikret K. Yegül, RAAR'98, professor of Roman Art and Architecture at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Tuesday 6 December

Paradigm and Progeny will open with a tribute to the work of William L. MacDonald, FAAR'56 (1921-2010). The first session entitled *Rome Builds: Construction and Design* investigates the spread of the Roman Empire to the various provinces, from Leptis Magna in Libya to the introduction of the *opus caementicium* in Asia Minor. In particular there will be an emphasis on the different construction techniques and Roman architectural models, as well as a focus on how these were often converted to adapt to different cultural influences and local morphology.

The second session: *Urban Armature: The City Shaped*, will include a lecture by Eugenio La Rocca, professor of archaeology and Greek and Roman art history at l'Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza." His lecture, entitled *Between Late Republic and Early Augustan Rome*, will analyze the contribution of the Emperor Augustus in the restoration of ancient cults and in the construction and renovation of dilapidated temples.

Wednesday 7 December

Day two of the conference will be largely focused on the figure of the Emperor Hadrian and his role as the founder of many cities in the provinces of the Empire and of villas that represent the Imperial residence archetype. Among the participants will be Sandra Gatti, archaeologist with the Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali; Pierre Gros, Professor Emeritus of Latin and Roman civilization at the Université de Provence and University Institute of France; and Guy Métraux, Professor Emeritus of Art History at York University in Toronto.

The conference will conclude with an installment of the Academy series *Conversations That Matter*, moderated by American Academy in Rome Director Christopher S. Celenza, FAAR'94, and Trustee John A. Pinto. Participants will include Laurie Olin, FAAR'74, RAAR'90,'08, landscape architect and partner at OLIN in Philadelphia; Frederick Fisher, FAAR'08, architect and partner at Frederick Fisher and Partners in Los Angeles; and Stephen Kieran, FAAR'81, architect and partner at KieranTimberlake in Philadelphia. The *Conversation* will focus on how contemporary architects and designers have been inspired by the classical past and how that inspiration is reflected in their work.

The complete program of the conference will be available on the Academy's website, www.aarome.org.

The conference is funded with grants from The Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Trust, The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

EVENT: PARADIGM & PROGENY: ROMAN IMPERIAL ARCHITECTURE

LOCATION: VILLA AURELIA, LARGO DI PORTA SAN PANCRAZIO, 1 - ROME

WHEN: TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 9AM-7PM

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 9AM-7PM

For more information:

Anne Coulson Tel. +39 06 584 6431, email a.coulson@aarome.org

Milena Sales Tel. +1 212 751 7200 ext. 345, email: m.sales@aarome.org

The American Academy in Rome

Established in 1894 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the American Academy in Rome is a leading center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Situated on the Janiculum, the highest hill within the walls of Rome, the Academy today remains a private institution supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the memberships of colleges, universities, and arts and cultural organizations as well as by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to approximately thirty individuals working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern;

modern Italian studies; architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation; literature; musical composition; and visual arts. The annual application deadline is 1 November. The Academy community also includes a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, as well as Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. For more information please visit: www.aarome.org