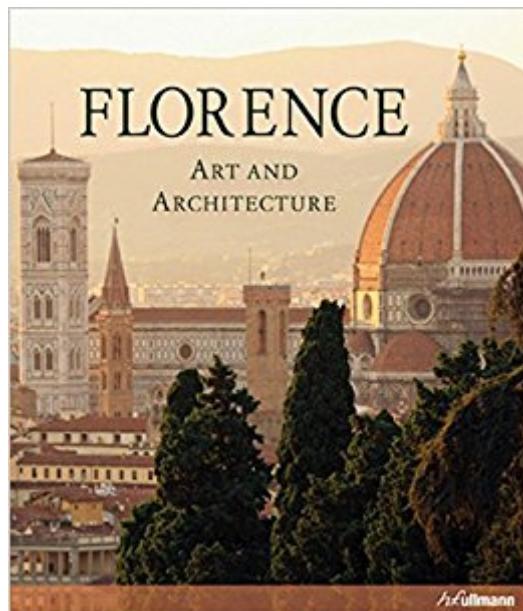


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# Florence Art And Architecture



## **Synopsis**

Florence: Art and Architecture combines interesting and clearly written texts with an abundance of pictures. Prominent Florentine scholars and museum directors accompany the reader on a journey to the unique artistic treasures of the city on the Arno. They introduce historical buildings and sculptures in their historical contexts, and lead you through world famous painting galleries such as the Accademia and the Palazzo Pitti.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

VENICE OR FLORENCE ?Choosing between Venice or Florence can not only be a hard choice but an unfair one. There is too much to see, too much to experience and feel in both enchanted cities that FW recommends once in your life to go to both. Until then however, the two books by Ullmann Publishing give you an insightful look into the two worlds.Venice The Golden Centuries is a look into the city on water through the eyes of dazzling style in architecture, design, sculptures and paintings. This book allows you to learn, explore and dream of the heaven like city and does not seize to amaze of what has been preserved until today only waiting for you to experience in real life!The other keepsake, Florence Art and Architecture is another magical book that inspires you to travel to the other part of the world that offers sculptures, paintings, design, churches, chapels and masterpieces that let you dream of another time.Fashion Weekly Magazine August 2012 issue by Sakina K.VENICE: The Golden CenturiesISBN-10: 384800013X FLORENCE: Art and Architecture ISBN-10: 3848000083Holiday Gift Guide: Florence: Art and Architecture and Venice: The Golden CenturiesIf various reports are to be believed, the recession is drawing to a close. Even so, money

is tight, gifts are precious and travel is dear. That might mean a lot of the things, but to me it means that gorgeous, elegant and rich books about wonderful places are going to be among the top holiday time gifts this year. How could they not be? Even an expensive book is a tiny fraction of the cost of a trip and it can last ever so much longer. Two great gift giving candidates come to us this season from H.F. Ullman. *Florence: Art and Architecture* and *Venice: The Golden Centuries* are both massive, impressive, filled with wonderful information and both books are relative bargains: pound for pound, these two might just be the best book bargains out there! Neither of these books are contemporary travel guides which, in many ways, make them much better gifts. The information contained herein is not time sensitive or dependent. These are art books and, considering the topic at hand, both deal with the artistic history of the city under discussion. Noted scholars and historians contribute chapters to do with their own areas of expertise, while hundreds of images in each book complete the full illustration of two of the most artistically important cities in history.

January Magazine coverage **THE MOST VIVID PHOTOGRAPHY AND WRITING EVER PUBLISHED ON THE RENAISSANCE AND BEYOND** Whether you have visited Florence just once, or stay in the fabled Italian Renaissance city annually, you remain overwhelmed by the amount of art and architecture. Florence is not that big of a city, but its museums, cathedrals and ancient streets are repositories of hundreds of thousands of significant pieces of art and architecture. No matter how many notes you took, no matter how many images you brought home on a digital storage card -- you return with a thirst for more information. *Florence Art and Architecture*, an astounding 500-plus-page book published by H.F. Ullmann, truly is the only body capable of quenching your thirst for knowledge. The book is huge -- nearly 10 inches by 12 inches in size and about five pounds in weight. Its stock is beyond luxurious. The pages feel almost like photo paper. And the reproduction on that high grade stock is astounding. Photos of classic art leap off the page in vivid detail. You be tempted to carefully tear out a full-page reproduction of a Botticelli classic and frame it for your office wall. But don't deface this treasure. *Florence Art and Architecture* is why we sincerely hope that printed books are never killed by digital downloads. Because nothing can compare to the sheer joy of thumbing through this monster of visual delight. Although the book features hundreds of photos of priceless pieces of art from the Uffizi, Bargello, Ornimichele, Palazzo Pitti, Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Strozi and other world class repositories of Florentine creativity, it is far from being a simple coffee table publication. *Florence Art and Architecture* -- edited by Antonio Paolucci, the famed art historian and director of the Vatican Museums -- features more than two dozen chapters authored by some of the foremost architecture and art authorities in all of Italy. Other contributors include luminaries such as Carlo Cresti, Angelo Tartuferi, Mario Scalini, Marco

Chiarini, Elena Capretti, Annamaria Giusti, Clarissa Morandi and Silvestra Bietoletti. Paolucci's chapter "Art and history in Florence: an overview of five centuries" opens the book with some astounding facts. "In 1342, with 100,000 inhabitants, Florence was more populous than Paris. It had double the population of London and five times that of Rome," Paolucci writes. "The gold florin (Dante's 'lega suggellata dal Battista' (the metal with the Baptist's form imprest -- Inferno, Canto XXX) was the currency of the world's markets from Barcelona to Constantinople, from Bruges to Milan. Florentine finance, industry and commerce spearheaded the European economy..." The book's more than 500 high quality photos are almost exclusively taken from the world-famous Alinari photographic studio. Founded in Florence in 1852, Fratelli Alinari is the oldest firm in the world working in the field of photography. The birth of photography and the story of Alinari go hand in hand in their development and growth and the firm owns more than four million classic images. The Alinari touch and Ullmann's dedication to fine quality print stock shows in haunting architectural images of Brunelleschi's dome on the Duomo, Michelangelo's Medici chapels in San Lorenzo and dozens of other images of piazzas, cathedrals and sculptures. "The Idea of Florence still fascinates the world, because no city in Europe is the showcase of art more than Florence," Paolucci writes. "Nowhere else does the voice of a glorious past appear so visible and still so eloquent. It is not possible to look at Florence with the eyes of an archeologist; you do not walk the streets of a dead city." Florence Art and Architecture can be enjoyed on many levels. If you are feeling purely visual, thumb through the many facing pages that represent a single piece of art displayed in nearly poster-sized 12x20 format. If you are feeling curious, but not super engaged, gaze at the art of Donatello, Giotto, Cimabue, Bronzino, Vasari, Pisano, Ghiberti, Della Robia, Da Vinci, Fra Angelico, Raphael, Masaccio, Lippi, Michelozzo, Michelangelo, Botticelli, Brunelleschi while reading only the detailed photo captions. If you are thirsting for the stories behind art and architecture in the cradle of the Renaissance, read the excellent essays by the dream team of art critics assembled for this book. You will learn a great deal about the painted, sculpted, frescoed and otherwise ornamented Florence -- much of it by the patronage or force of will of the Medici family. And though Florence will always be known for the Renaissance, the Art and Architecture publication sets the scene by first exploring Medieval Florence and Gothic styles leading up to the Renaissance. The book triumphs most when its large format allows the armchair art historian to enter a magical world of heighten knowledge through detail shots. The deliciously ghastly "Last Judgment" mosaic decoration on the vault of the Baptistry of St. John gives one reason to venture beyond the famed bronze doors -- south done by Andrea Pisano and the north and east by Lorenzo Ghiberti, whose magnificent east pair of doors were dubbed by Michelangelo as "the Gates of Paradise." The enlarged detail of

Christ's face and bleeding torso, from Giotto's Crucifix in the church of Santa Maria Novella gives much more insight into the human-like depiction of Christ than one could ever see while gazing at the crucifix from inside the old church. The detail of Andrea Orcagna's Triumph of Death portrays the imperfect townspeople's faces more vividly than one sees when visiting the detached fresco in the Museo dell'Opera di Santa Croce. The greatest blown up image of the book comes from Filippino Lippi's Madonna with Saints altarpiece from Santo Spirito. On one page, the full painting is printed with the Madonna, child and saints taking up the vast majority of the image -- with some ancient buildings and Tuscan hills in the background. The entire facing page is dedicated to an enlarged full detail of only the background scenery seen in a small portion of the full painting. All of a sudden, Florence itself comes alive with Lippi's depiction of the San Frediano gate and other buildings as they appeared in 15th century Firenze. Better still, about a dozen depictions of daily life in late 1400s Florence come to life in the detail shot -- including a father hugging his daughter good bye and a pair of dogs growling at each other in the street. Such treats await every turn of the page in H.F. Ullmann's brilliant Florence Art and Architecture. - Steve Wright review, Urban Travel and Accessibility September 2012 blog

Antonio Paolucci is a renowned Italian art historian of the Renaissance, a former Minister of Culture, and the director of Vatican Museums.

Gorgeous photography. Surprisingly, it lacks a table of contents or index of sites. This makes it difficult to look up a particular place as it can be mentioned many times throughout the book. I have never seen a book like this without chapters! For example, you cannot just look up the Duomo, the Baptistry, the Pitti Palace, the Palazzo Vecchio, or the Uffizi Gallery. The captions are full and complete, but the lack of structure to the book is baffling. It is not even organized chronologically, so important in a city that saw the birth of the Renaissance. I still recommend the book 100% for people who have been to Florence or intend to visit, but it is more for people who have been there! The photos are stunning! "An Art Lover's Guide to Florence" is much better written, but all the (few) illustrations are in black and white.

This is a beautiful coffee table book. You will be amazed. Glossy thick pages, hundreds of pages long. A glossary and index, articles written by academics and scholars of art and cultural antiquities. I was in Firenze in March, and now am going back in November and this book is adding so much to my knowledge of what I have already seen, I can't wait to see them again in person with fresh and

deeper knowledge of these treasures. Honestly, I can't believe I only paid \$38 for this book.

I found this book amazing. I am using it as a basis to research art works and their history for my second trip in 2 years to Florence, which will occur this summer. This time I will be touring on my own, not just guided to the usual sites to see the usual "suspects" for only short periods of time. This way I can see much more artwork--and yes--more churches and other sites. As locations are given, it helps me determine my daily itinerary by site and know what to look out for. It is not a tour book; it is an art book. But it has been very helpful in accumulating information on where to see incredible art as well as find it. And the quality of the photographs of art and architecture of all kinds by many Renaissance and earlier and later Florentine and other artists and architects is excellent. And buy it even if you are not going to go to Florence yourself. But it just might make you want to plan a trip there to see the art and architecture in person..

stunning reproductions. for the quality this book is an outstanding value. I saw Florence mainly from the outside and this book takes you inside to see the amazing artworks of Florence thru the ages.

This is a beautiful book that I bought for my 90 year old Mom for Mother's Day. Her Dad had always hoped that one day she could travel to Florence. He thought it was the most beautiful place. She could never make the trip, so this book is a wonderful way for her to still enjoy the sights. She loves it!

Misprinted cover--the tower next to the Duomo is totally flawed. Thankfully the book itself seems to be without printing errors.

It was a gift, recipient very happy. Beautiful photos, thoughtful text. Very nice

This was a Christmas gift and they loved it

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