Abstract:
Throughout his long architectural career, Thomas Jefferson considered Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio as his mentor, just as he considered Palladio's Four Books of Architecture as his "Bible." Jefferson's principal well-known works--his rebuilt home Monticello and the University of Virginia--have represented certain Palladian influences. Jefferson's initial architectural biographer, Fiske Kimball, stated about Jefferson and Palladio: "The preponderance of spiritual agreement between them [was] overwhelming." The restoration of Jefferson's retirement villa retreat, Poplar Forest, now provides a crucial missing link through which we can understand Kimball's statement and evaluate an even closer Palladian affinity. Typically, buildings are labelled "Palladian" because they mimic exterior design features. Jefferson's design for Poplar Forest comes much closer to the essence of Palladio's works through a common holistic approach that integrated structure, function, and site. For Palladio, how the building was organized was as important as how it looked.
To understand this affinity we can examine four aspects of the Poplar Forest design: Jefferson's architectural education, the tradition of the classical and Renaissance villa, a system of design, and the use of ideological forms. Renaissance theories of architecture--based on the authority of antiquity, reason, and nature--are further reflections that explain the Palladian ideals exhibited at Poplar Forest.

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with children who have busy, independent lives, they are ready to part with it. They have listed the house with Venice Sotheby’s International Realty for 35 million British pounds sterling (about $45 million). In Villa Cornaro they acquired a magnificent piece of architecture, with not only rigorously proportioned rooms topped by 24-foot ceilings, but also a trove of important artworks. One hundred and four frescoes decorate the walls of 13 of the 14 principal rooms. (Old Testament subjects are on the lower floor; New Testament upstairs.) Not only American architecture owes much to Palladio, but also Italy and particularly Veneto where the many villas designed by the great Renaissance architect have been declared World Heritage Sites. The Palladian style inspired the architecture of the most important historical Venetian residences for centuries. Today some of the most beautiful Palladian villas are for sale in Veneto. It's the case of the sixteenth-century Palladian style villa (http://www.lionard.com/exclusive-homes-and-real-estate-luxury-italian-properties.html) with a four column porch, accessible by two spectacular ra