



Center for the Study of Etruscan Culture Volterra, Italy

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The fine arts celebrate and record the legacy of human experience. Cultural architecture exists to serve the social and cultural needs of a society. Cultural centers provide a physical fabric to contain and present cultural character as markers of a society's evolution into the future. These centers provide the opportunity to preserve, record and find use of the accomplishments of humankind.

The "Center for the Study of Etruscan Culture and Artifacts" project will seek to confront and analyze profound issues on expectations for new urban or historic-like civic environments. The following issues will be discussed:

1. To establish a centerpiece structure of symbolic significance.
2. To search for a timeless architecture to display the art, culture, and history of the Etruscan region and its mosaic of peoples.
3. To reflect an appropriate contemporary Architectural expression.
4. To record appropriately, the legacy of both indigenous Etruscan peoples and immigrants.
5. To search for simplicity so as not to overwhelm what is contained.
6. To establish an "urban/campus" presence: a complex of early 21st century contemporary forms with permanence, dignity and integrity.
7. To search for timeless contemporary architecture to represent the past, express the present and anticipate the future.

8. To create an Architecture dedicated to a people who want to express and experience their heritage, to engage in scholarship and research, and be repositories of historical and contemporary artifacts of the Etruscan culture.
9. To understand how information on culture and climate influences the shaping of forms and spaces to provide appropriate architecture.

The Center for the Study of Etruscan Culture and Artifacts will be located in Volterra, Italy. Volterra started as the Etruscan seat of the three thousand year old culture. Volterra as an Etruscan City, became a Roman City and then a walled Medieval City atop a high plateau, 1500 ft above the Tuscany valley floor. The Roman Theatre and Baths are the only current visible signs of the old Roman City. The completely walled city is served by four primary gate (Porta's) entry. The Porta All' Arco is the only original Etruscan gate into the city left. It is just below the vehicular bus/car entry into the city. The vehicular bus/car plaza with its entry to a four-level parking garage and formal entry into the city, will be the primary site area for the Center for the Study of Etruscan Culture and Artifacts. The existing Etruscan acropolis site and the fortification site may also be considered.



David M Chasco FAIA is a board member of the Volterra-Detroit Foundation. Professor Chasco has taught in the Volterra International Design Workshop for three summers. In 2019, Professor Chasco was the Workshop Design Team Leader. The Volterra International Design Workshop will commence again in the summer of 2021/