

Visualization/ Illustrations:

Keywords:

Meaning

Detail

Columns

Visualization ever since plays an important role in all kinds of books for architecture. Therefore it is no surprise that in Andrea Palladio's "I quattro libri dell'architettura" several drafts are illustrated. First, to strengthen the author's opinion second to demonstrate clearly the building in its form and geometry. Third to give a better-detailed impression of certain things.

Palladio obviously did not want to show the audience every single building or each detail of the building. Instead of the uses ground views, profiles, and drawings of a building from different perspectives in order to make sure the reader has an overview and can easily follow his written thesis. At the end of the written part of the book 23 pages present various drafts and illustrations. It is interesting not to show the drawings at the corresponding part of the text but at the very end combined with all the other images. He clearly differs the book between a written and illustrated part. This might be because he does not want the focused reader to interrupt between the pages but still makes it possible to switch from text to an image.

If you have a closer look at the type of drawings, which he presents you find it easy to understand the massiveness, geometry, and size of the building. Palladio does not demonstrate only overall pictures but shows a selected part of columns, or to be more precise capitals. These Capitals are very detailed and help the reader to find not only stylistic devices but to visualize things you would not notice otherwise. For example, you barely can see all the single strings of a leaf in a real-life situation or wouldn't count the leaves of a column at all. Even though all columns are of the same order, they differ in size or ornaments. For example, is a sunflower only shown in one column. Moreover, the reader finds the structure illustrated which helps to see architecture not just as an optic form but to understand its statics.

All in all, Palladio uses visualization to make things clearer to the reader and help him to follow his thoughts. Nevertheless, You could see the visualization as an ad to underline his opinion. I am still convinced drafts or images are essential to give the people a better impression not only about the building itself but about the context as well.