

## Croatia at the Crossroads of Time and Space Study Tour Lectures

- 1) From a small refugee colony, through an independent republic, to the “Pearl of the Adriatic” - history of Dubrovnik

The lecture will cover the history of Dubrovnik, from its beginning as a refugee colony, to the forming of a city through a series of progressive city planning and policy decisions, and its establishment as an independent republic. Conversation will explain **the success of the Republic’s diplomacy being situated between the major world powers of its time and elaborate on the particulars of the citizens’ power sharing arrangements in running the Republic.** Architectural highlights will introduce several unique places in the city.

- 2) Layers of civilization at the edge of Western Europe – continuum of life from Roman through present times

The Croatian coast was a **well-inhabited area prior to the Roman Empire’s expansion,** and the only place where an authentic Roman Palace (in Split) has been continuously lived in through the modern era. The lecture will show the transformation of Split into a modern port city where layers of subsequent development brought interesting dynamics into the city growth. Examples from other coastal cities will illustrate the contribution of architectural styles throughout the major European epochs, from the early Romanesque, through the Renaissance, all the way to contemporary infill projects establishing a dialogue with buildings from the distant past.

- 3) Creating an authentic sense of place under the influences of major European cultures

Being a small country with exceptional natural beauty at the edge of Western Europe meant that the major powers and empires controlling Croatia throughout the centuries left permanent marks in the development of the built environment. The lecture will highlight the influence of such an architectural heritage and the gradual formation of a harmonious result comprising architecture of many different origins. The conversation will explain the creation of an authentic approach to the architectural discipline, well evidenced in the dialogue of modern architecture with its predecessors.