

Name: _____

Date: _____



Villa Medici in Fiesole

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1. The Villa Medici in Fiesole was built for the famous Medici family in the countryside outside of Florence. It is one of the earlier villas built during the Renaissance and was an example of how the Renaissance thinkers modeled the ideas of the classical Romans and Greeks. As you explore the garden, find these design principles identified by the Roman author Vitruvius that were used in designing the garden and villa:

1. Statuary
2. Terraced hillside location
3. Symmetry
4. Ornamental fountains
5. Potted plants
6. Vine-covered pergolas
7. Arched arcades

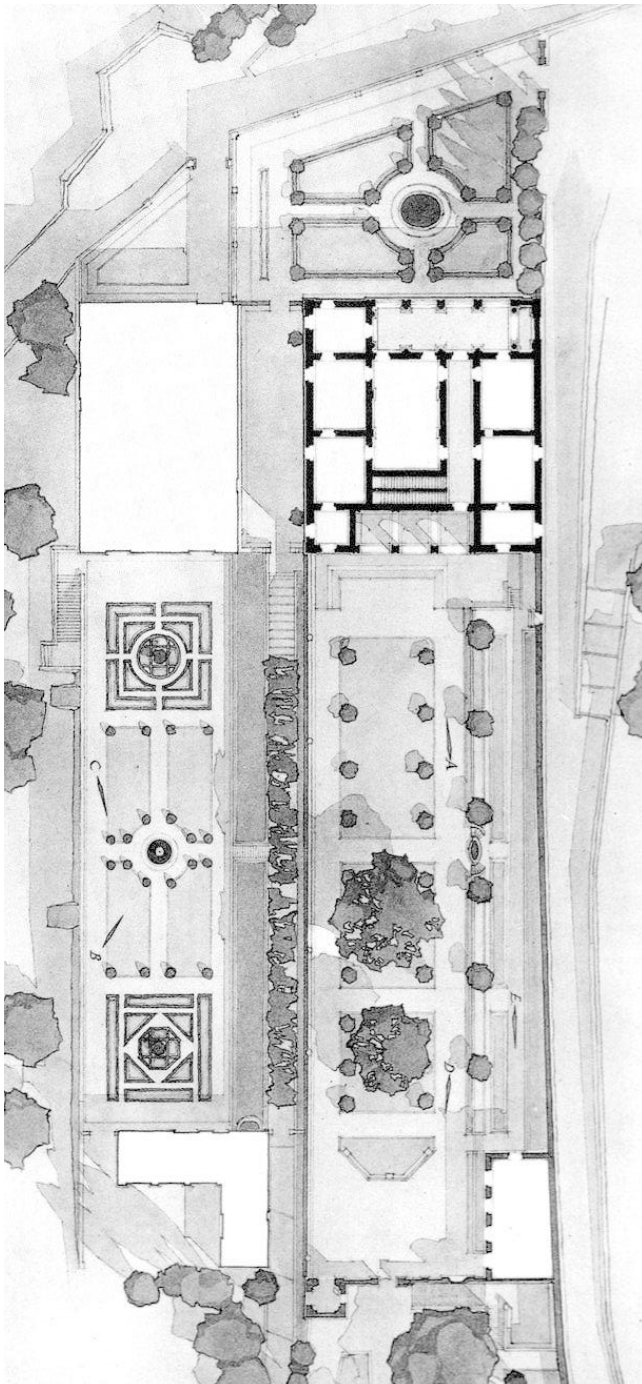
2. Cosimo Medici held his Platonic Academy at this villa. The Platonic Academy was a gathering of artists and philosophers who would discuss the ideas emerging in the Renaissance (art, science, philosophy). One reason that the Platonic Academy met at the villa was so they could discuss with each other while in the garden. Plato famously taught his pupils in a garden. What are some reasons why meeting in a garden might have been so appealing to these great thinkers? How do you think your learning experience would change if you were in a park or garden?



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3. As you explore the garden, pay attention to how the designers merged the landscape and the architecture. This creates a seamless feel between the two. It is so seamless that it can be difficult to identify what parts are landscape and what are architecture. As you explore the virtual tour, annotate the map below using colors to indicate the parts of the villa that are landscape, the parts that are architecture, and the parts that are both. For the parts that you feel are both, comment what about the design makes you feel that way.



FASCINATING FACT

While the Medici family is often depicted as ruthless businessmen, they were also some of the most important patrons of the arts. The piano was invented by a musician supported by the Medicis.



Map from Italian Gardens of the Renaissance, Jellicoe & Shepherd, 1925.