## Introduction:

Pompeii and Herculaneum are two towns that lost more than just human life from the eruption of the stratovolcano, Mount Vesuvius on August 24, 79 AD. With this loss came a great opportunity for future researchers and archaeologists to discover and learn about the lives that were lived in the 1st century AD and before. The sudden burial of the towns after the eruption made it possible to preserve what remained for multiple centuries, until it was able to be uncovered. Upon excavation, researchers were able to understand more about the layout of the ancient town and the homes that occupied the land, the way the average life of an ancient civilian may have been lived, and the importance of the frescoes that decorate so many of the interior surfaces of each habitable space throughout each town.

### Objectives:

- Understand the reason of the high quality preservation of Pompeii and Herculaneum, primarily in terms of fresco
- Develop a documentary with first-hand footage of each site with research findings

## Research:

The research of this project consisted of learning more about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the magnitude that caused the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum to be completely covered in ash and magma. It was a primary focus to understand how the frescoes painted on the walls of the residential and public buildings were so magnificently preserved, as well as the ideas and designs that spread from these amazing creations to other parts of Italy. After gathering all of the necessary research, a research paper was composed in addition to a documentary that was compiled with all the information that fully covered the main points of the research study as well as showing footage from the area.

The research of this project was done during the 2018 Fall Semester in the Bay of Naples, completed through an independent study while enrolled in the College of Design’s Rome Program. The Rome Program is a semester-long, study abroad opportunity to most majors in the College of Design. It is offered during the Fall semester of Junior year in the field of Interior Design.

## Conclusion:

Each and every house in Pompeii and Herculaneum show their own identity through the way that they were decorated in ancient times. Decoration was once an important aspect in the way lives were lived, and the same thing can be said about today. Without the sudden burial of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the history of these Italian cities may have been lost, as were so many others.

From the past up until now, there are a lot of similarities in the ways that the frescoes were composed. This idea of the revival of these styles, particularly in the Neoclassical area in 1640, show the relation between history and the past. These connections and revivals are important to preserve history and draw upon the ways of the past to improve the future. At one point, they were influential in the ancient living environment, and they can be in the future as well. Without the disastrous and tragic eruption of the stratovolcano, Mount Vesuvius, these particular design techniques may not have been recovered, as well as the history that is Pompeii and Herculaneum.

## Reproductions & Original Fresco Images