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Architectural Crossroads

Studies in the History of Architecture

This series presents the results of in-depth research on specific subjects in architectural history, often in a diachronic perspective, as well as collected essays on different aspects of the medium.
Metropolis in the Making
A Planning History of Amsterdam in the Dutch Golden Age
Jaap Evert Abrahamse

Early modern Amsterdam was an ultra-modern city, laid out conforming to the triple demand of functionality, beauty and profit; a city that takes a unique place in European urban history because of its location, design, and impressive scale. Making of a Metropolis tells the story of Amsterdam becoming one of the largest cities in Europe in the seventeenth century. Amsterdam was one of the cradles of capitalism, but at the same time one of the most meticulously planned cities in the world.

After the Fall of Antwerp in 1585, Amsterdam took over its position as the main trade hub in northwestern Europe. The city grew rapidly to become the central harbour town – and one of the largest European cities. The boom in harbours and industry went hand in hand with an explosive population growth. This resulted in two huge city extensions in 1613 and 1663, multiplying the territory of Amsterdam by five. Around the old town, the now famous ring of canals was constructed. Beyond this residential zone mixed-use and industrial districts were laid out, with a series of harbour islands along the borders of the IJ.

Early modern Amsterdam was an ultra-modern city, laid out conforming to the triple demand of functionality, beauty and profit; a city that takes a unique place in European urban history because of its location, design, and impressive scale. This book deals with the question how Amsterdam's administration managed to realize these immense projects from the viewpoints of urban design, infrastructure, logistics, and finance.
The first part of this book is dedicated to the extension projects. A thorough analysis of all remaining administrative archives and a great many cartographic documents has enabled the author to reconstruct the decision process about the scale, design, and realization of the extensions. The second part contains chapters concerning land use, public space and water management. *Metropolis in the Making* tells the story of one of the cradles of early modern capitalism and at the same time one of the most meticulously planned cities in the world. Its broad approach of planning makes this a standard work on early modern urbanism.

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Chapter 7: Conclusion. Making the city

**Jaap Evert Abrahamse** studied History of architecture and urban planning at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands and received his doctorate with honours in 2010 for a thesis about Amsterdam's development in the Dutch Golden Age. For his thesis he was awarded a study prize of the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation. Since 2007, he has been working as a senior researcher for the landscape department of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, regularly publishing and lecturing on the history of architecture, urban planning, infrastructure, and landscape.

535 p., 105 b/w ills, 100 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2020,
Hardback: € 125 / $163.00
Series: Architectural Crossroads, vol. 6
The Great Palace in Constantinople
An Architectural Interpretation
Nigel Westbrook

The Byzantine Great Palace, located adjacent to the Hagia Sophia, is arguably the most important Western complex to have disappeared from the architectural archive. Despite this absence, it may be argued that the representational halls of the palace – crown halls, basilicas, and reception halls or triclinia – served as models for the ascription of imperial symbolism, and for emulation by rival political centres. In a later phase of its existence, Byzantine emperors, in turn, looked to the example of Islamic palaces in constructing settings for diplomatic exchange. While the Great Palace has been studied through the archaeological record and Byzantine texts, its form remains a matter of conjecture, however in this study, a novel focus upon the operation of ascription of meaning applied to architectural forms, and their emulation in later architecture will enable a sense of how the forms of the palace were understood by their inhabitants and their clients and visiting emissaries. Through comparative analysis of both emulative models and copies, this study proposes a hypothesis of the layout of the complex both in its physical and social contexts.

Dr Nigel Westbrook is Professor of Architecture at the University of Western Australia. He teaches in the areas of ancient and modern architectural history and urban theory, supervises and coordinates postgraduate studies, and researches in the areas of historic urban topographies and Early Medieval palatine architecture, with a focus on Early Byzantine palaces.
Venetian and Ottoman Heritage in the Aegean
The Bailo House in Chalcis, Greece
Nikos D. Kontogiannis, Stefania S. Skartsis (eds)

This book tells the astonishing story of a secular building and its inhabitants over six centuries and four successive civilizations. The Bailo House was constructed as a public loggia in the 14th century by Venetian officials in their Aegean colony of Negroponte on the Byzantine island of Euripos. Italian designs were followed and copied in the style of the lagoon's palaces, digging the foundations through the earlier Byzantine layers. It later became seat of an Ottoman official, also housing his apothecary. It subsequently passed into the hands of a local Ottoman dignitary, who completely transformed into a typical Middle Eastern mansion. In the early 19th century it was reshaped once again with a neoclassical façade to conform to the European models promoted by the Modern Greek state. Extensive study, excavations and restorations over a ten-year period revealed remarkable evidence for one of the few remaining examples of secular architecture in the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as abundant and rare information about urban planning, material culture, economic and cultural exchanges, art and aesthetics, etc. It is the tale of a harbor town that was always cosmopolitan, a port of call along the Silk Road, the winter base of the Ottoman fleet, a European enclave in the East.

Stefania Skartsis is currently Head of Department at the Hellenic Ministry of Culture; Nikos Kontogiannis is Assistant Professor of Byzantine Studies, at Koc University, Istanbul.

approx. 280 p., 140 b/w ills, 30 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2020,
Paperback: approx. € 110 / $143.00
Series: Architectural Crossroads, vol. 8
FORTHCOMING
Late Antique Palatine Architecture
Palaces and Palace Culture:
Patterns of Transculturation
Lynda Mulvin, Nigel Westbrook (eds)

Late Antique palaces and palace culture served as the loci of dramatic shifts in architecture and design, as well as urban planning, public works and patronage, in the Imperial cities of Rome and Constantinople, and the first palatine centres of the Holy Roman Empire. This volume provides a wealth of detailed information and perspectives on Late Antique and Early Mediaeval design practices, with emphasis on the new spatial configurations and their decorative schema.

The essays in this collection provide original, ground-breaking narratives on palatine architecture and culture in this period, integrating cross-cultural dialogues from Rome as centre of imperial palace architecture with details of late palace embellishments and the ceremonial usage which was brought to the fore, as the discussion shifts to the new imperial capital of Nova Roma, Constantinople, and then to the Carolingian centres via Rome and Ravenna.

A parallel discussion emerges, where prototypes for palaces and ceremonial courts were imported and reinterpreted through a process of citation. Principal interest resides in the contrasts of palatial and residential complexes, intended to demonstrate new ceremonies and the practices enacted within and through them. The focus of the volume is then shifted to eastern and western provincial and rural high-status residences and landscapes of power, examining the relationships between palaces and late Roman villas and the court and court culture, and ultimately revealing a political agenda in use through and in the language of architecture.

Lynda Mulvin: expertise in classical antiquity and architecture, Nigel Westbrook: expertise in interpreting late antique cross cultural changes in architecture.
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— Nigel Westbrook

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— Bernd Nicolai

Bibliography

approx. 213 p., 110 b/w ills, 50 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2020,
Paperback: approx. € 100 / $130.00
Series: Architectural Crossroads, vol. 5
FORTHCOMING
Puglia is one of the most extraordinary parts of Italy. Inhabited for over 8,000 years, this region has experienced almost every type of civilization known to the European world. Little has been written in English about the surviving Neolithic and aboriginal Italic remains of Puglia, its rich architectural heritage of Greek, Roman, Early Christian, Byzantine, Angevin French, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and even its modern monuments. This book focuses on the important Islamic contribution to the architecture of Puglia, a contribution that was centered in the once Muslim city of Lucera and subsequently came to be of significance for the building of Christian cathedrals and churches in this beautiful region, little known to the outside world.

Lucera exemplifies all the periods of architecture noted above, and is, in addition, unique because it was a protected Muslim island in a sea of Christianity during the High Middle Ages – at the very time Christians were conducting crusades against the infidel. Thus the individuality of the place stands alone, among the many ancient cities of Puglia, because it was once a Muslim world. This book shows how Lucera had always been an important center in ancient times and how it came to be an Islamic city. It spotlights the accomplishments of the Muslims, and the influence they left – despite the brutal extermination they endured in the early 14th century – on the architecture of Lucera and other cities in north and central Puglia, including such important centers as Troia, Trani, Bitonto, Canosa, Altamura, Gravina, Giovinazzo, Terlizzi, Pietramontecorvino, Bisceglie, Ruvo, Castel del Monte, Molfetta, Bovino, San Severo, and Foggia. Thus the seventeen towns and cities whose architecture is studied and illustrated in this volume serve to highlight the Islamic legacy in Puglia, a part of Italy which is known – and revered by those who know – for its archaeological, classical, and Romanesque relics.
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Chapter 10: Conclusions: The Significance of Lucera and the Muslim Legacy for Puglia

Christiane L. Joost-Gaugier is an internationally known historian of Renaissance Art and Architecture. She earned her AB, AM, and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University and in 2005 was awarded an Honorary degree from Harvard for Lifetime Achievement. Her scholarship, on Italian art, architecture, and intellectual history, has been published extensively and includes over 200 research articles and seven books.

Paperback: € 110 / $143.00
Series: Architectural Crossroads, vol. 7
The original notion of the palimpsest—one that embodies writing, erasure, and rewriting—lends itself especially well to the interpretation of architectural monuments and landscape sites. These are by their very nature often modified significantly over time, leaving them to display a complex layering of forms and a sedimentation of meanings related to the different episodes in their ongoing lives. This volume explores and develops the idea of the architectural and site palimpsest through eleven case studies drawn from different parts of the globe, from Europe and America to Africa and South Asia, and ranging in time from Roman Pompeii and medieval Cairo to modern-day Rwanda and contemporary New York. The purpose behind such chronological and cultural breadth is to provide a multiplicity of examples from which a theoretical model of the three-dimensional palimpsest can be developed, and which would be applicable to monuments and sites from different historical periods and vastly diverse geographical contexts. While there have been many studies of buildings and sites investigating specific, synchronic episodes in their biographies, very few have approached them from the diachronic perspective of the palimpsest, that is, recognizing that the fourth dimension—that of duration—is essential to understanding them as both historic and contemporary entities. As a hermeneutic tool, the concept of the palimpsest embraces the totality of time «compressed» in a given monument or site, while permitting the extraction of a series of legible and meaningful episodes that allow us to read those palimpsests as a narrative of historical processes, whether that narrative is one of deliberate revision, or one of unintended effect. This volume presents a range of methodological possibilities comfortably nestled under a single conceptual umbrella, demonstrating how the notion of the palimpsest can become a paradigm-shifting framework for future, collaborative research in architectural and landscape history.
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247 p., 30 b/w ills, 91 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2018,
Paperback: € 75 / $98.00
Series: Architectural Crossroads, vol. 4
Monuments & Memory: Christian Cult Buildings and Constructions of the Past
Essays in honour of Sible de Blaauw
Mariëtte Verhoeven, Lex Bosman, Hanneke van Asperen (eds)

This volume honours Sible de Blaauw on the occasion of his retirement from Radboud University. It is above all a tribute to an influential and respected voice in the field of early Christian art and architecture. Thirty-one authors have sought to provide their own unique answer to the question of how Christian cult buildings have played a role in cultural memory in different periods and in various geographical and cultural contexts. From its very onset, this publication was envisioned as a parallel to De Blaauw’s own research interests: Rome and its monuments, early Christianity, Christian religious heritage, liturgy and architecture, continuity of tradition, and memory. The contributions have been arranged according to three sections: Monuments – Places – Decoration & Liturgical Furnishing. Every essay addresses the memorial potential of Christian buildings, of their location, or of the accoutrement, whether or not still in situ. Not surprisingly, Rome reappears frequently in all sections, with Rome’s churches receiving special attention. Together the essays cover a period from Late Antiquity to modern times, from Helena to Gerhard Richter, from late antique poets to a Ravennasque mosaic in the 1930s. Thus, this volume assumes the diachronic nature that characterizes De Blaauw’s own scholarship. The leitmotifs of Christian cult and material and immaterial constructions of the past tie together the sections as well as the book as a whole. Nevertheless, the main binding element between the essays is their authors’ fondness and appreciation of Sible de Blaauw.

Table of Contents: www.brepols.net
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405 p., 125 b/w ills, 16 col. ills, 220 x 280 mm, 2016,
ISBN 978-2-503-56973-4
Paperback: € 100 / $130.00
Series: Architectural Crossroads, vol. 3
The Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna
Transformations and Memory
Mariëtte Verhoeven

The provincial town of Ravenna in Northern Italy is famous for its Early Christian cultural heritage: churches and chapels, decorated with mosaics, which seem to have survived in their original state. However, these religious buildings, with famous examples like San Vitale, Sant’Apollinare in Classe and the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, underwent many changes in the course of fifteen centuries of continuous use. This study takes the transformations of the monuments of Ravenna as a starting point to explore the city's attitude towards its religious cultural heritage throughout the centuries. Together with the local historiographical sources, dating from Medieval and the Early Modern times, they provide a picture of the manner in which Ravenna experienced, appropriated and imagined its past. The findings are elaborated in seven chapters, addressing respectively the cult of saints; the relationship with Rome and with Constantinople; the alleged controversy between Orthodoxy and Arianism; the post-Tridentine period; the lost monuments and the restorations at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. By considering Early Christian Ravenna from the context of cultural memory, involving both material and written sources, new insights are yielded on a frequently researched subject.

Paperback: € 90 / $118.00
Series: Architectural Crossroads, vol. 1
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