



Islamic Architecture: Form, Function, and Meaning

By Robert Hillenbrand

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This beautifully conceived and produced survey of Islamic architecture explores the glorious world of the caravansarai, mausoleum, palace, and mosque. Focusing on the multifaceted relation of architecture to society, Robert Hillenbrand covers public architecture in the Middle East and North Africa from the medieval period to 1700. Extensive photographs and ground plans? among which are hundreds of newly executed three-dimensional drawings that provide an accurate and vivid depiction of the structure?are presented with an emphasis on the way the specific details of the building fulfilled their function.

Included are chapters on religious and secular architecture and the architecture of tombs. Each building is discussed in terms of function, the links between particular forms and specific uses, the role of special types of buildings in the Islamic order, and the expressions of different sociocultural groups in architectural terms. Here the student or historian of Islamic architecture will find an astonishing resource, including Maghribi palaces, Anatolian madrasas, Indian minarets, Fatimid mausolea, and Safavid mosques, each rendered in lavish illustrations and explained with incomparable precision.

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Editorial Review

Review

Elaborate and extensive... The brilliant dimension of this book is the author's investment in raising issues of intellectual inquiry.

(Howayda Al-Harithy *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*)

Review

Hillenbrand writes with authority and insight....Absolutely essential.

(Richard W. Bulliet, author of *Islam: The View from the Edge*)

From the Back Cover

Robert Hillenbrand explores the range of public architecture in the Middle East and North Africa from the medieval period to 1700, focusing on the relationship between architecture and society. Included are chapters on religious and secular architecture and the architecture of tombs, each one providing a lucid and penetrating overview of a characteristic building type. Buildings are discussed in terms of form and function, the roles of specific building types in the Islamic order and the expression of different sociocultural groups in architectural terms.

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