

Abstract

Islam, like other major religions, creates connections between societies which are geographically remote from each other and culturally may have very little in common. Architectural styles in such diverse places as Spain, India, Egypt, China, the United States and the United Kingdom have been influenced and inspired by Islam. The Dictionary of Islamic Architecture is the first major reference work which covers the full range of Islamic architecture throughout the world.

Using the techniques of archaeology and architectural studies the Dictionary of Islamic Architecture examines every major Islamic society as well as less well-known buildings and styles throughout the world. The relatively new field of Islamic architectural studies is growing rapidly and this book fills a significant gap in the literature, providing the most comprehensive up-to-date coverage available. In addition to in-depth research into the history and culture of Islamic societies the author has visited and studied first-hand many of the sites which are discussed in the book, a number of which have not previously been written about. The Dictionary presents new research which will add to the growing body of knowledge on non-western architecture and the history of cultures such as the once flourishing Islamic communities in Spain.

Types of entries include site descriptions of both major and lesser buildings and remains; lengthy, detailed dynastic and regional overviews which address the historical and cultural context in which the styles and techniques evolved; and overviews of the architecture of major Islamic cities such as Cairo, Jerusalem and Mecca. There are also biographical entries and concise technical definitions of the terminology used throughout the book. Relevant diagrams of many of the sites, maps, and photographs illustrate the entries providing accurate architectural details and supplementing the information provided in the text. Cross-references, further reading, and a detailed index provide the

reader with further research tools.

Author Info

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