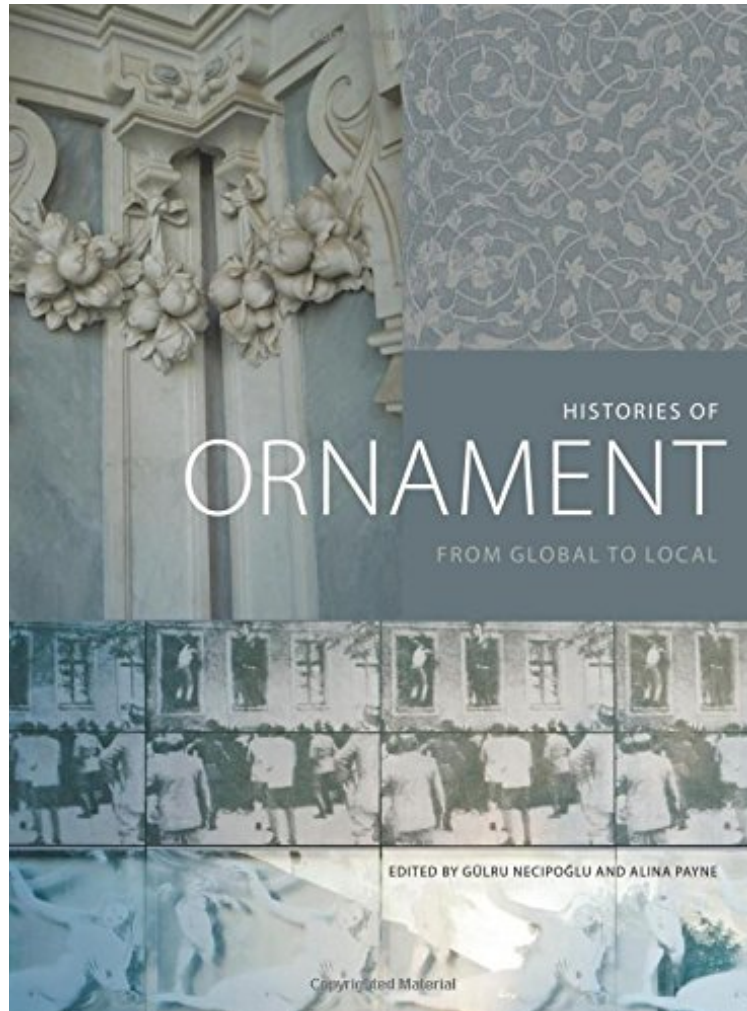


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## Histories of Ornament: From Global to Local

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This lavishly illustrated volume is the first major global history of ornament from the Middle Ages to today. Crossing historical and geographical boundaries in unprecedented ways and considering the role of ornament in both art and

architecture, *Histories of Ornament* offers a nuanced examination that integrates medieval, Renaissance, baroque, and modern Euroamerican traditions with their Islamic, Indian, Chinese, and Mesoamerican counterparts. At a time when ornament has re-emerged in architectural practice and is a topic of growing interest to art and architectural historians, the book reveals how the long history of ornament illuminates its global resurgence today. Organized by thematic sections on the significance, influence, and role of ornament, the book addresses ornament's current revival in architecture, its historiography and theories, its transcontinental mobility in medieval and early modern Europe and the Middle East, and its place in the context of industrialization and modernism. Throughout, *Histories of Ornament* emphasizes the portability and politics of ornament, figuration versus abstraction, cross-cultural dialogues, and the constant negotiation of local and global traditions. Featuring original essays by more than two dozen scholars from around the world, this authoritative and wide-ranging book provides an indispensable reference on the histories of ornament in a global context. Contributors include: Michele Bacci (Fribourg University); Anna Contadini (University of London); Thomas B. F. Cummins (Harvard); Chanchal Dadlani (Wake Forest); Daniela del Pesco (Università degli Studi Roma Tre); Vittoria Di Palma (USC); Anne Dunlop (University of Melbourne); Marzia Faietti (University of Bologna); Mara Judith Feliciano (independent scholar); Finbarr Barry Flood (NYU); Jonathan Hay (NYU); Christopher P. Heuer (Clark Art); Rmi Labrusse (Université Paris Ouest Nanterre la Défense); Glru Necipolu (Harvard); Marco Rosario Nobile (University of Palermo); Oya Pancarolu (Bosphorus University); Spyros Papapetros (Princeton); Alina Payne (Harvard); Antoine Picon (Harvard); David Pullins (Harvard); Jennifer L. Roberts (Harvard); David J. Roxburgh (Harvard); Hashim Sarkis (MIT); Robin Schuldenfrei (Courtauld); Avinoam Shalem (Columbia); and Gerhard Wolf (KHI, Florence).

"After its famous denunciation by Adolf Loos, ornament seemed a wasteful frivolity to most architects and designers. But that attitude has lost steam in recent years, as firms derive much of their revenue by building in places with a healthier regard for pattern and decoration. Right at the outset, this scholarly tome firmly establishes the vitality of architectural ornament today, leaving readers to peruse premodern histories after having shed their Loosian prejudice."--Metropolis "[A] handsome book."--Peter Parker, *A Magazine for RIBA Friends of Architecture* "[An] important volume . . . seamlessly edited by Necipolu and Payne, [the book] covers an unprecedented and stringent collection of scholarly research and reflection. It is not a history of ornament per se, but rather a rigorous and sometimes cautionary record of the history of ornament's shifting meaning and theoretical basis. This volume assesses ornament as a legitimate aspect of designing the future built environment. It is neither elegy nor encyclopedia; the purpose instead is summed up simply in the editors' introduction as to address what ornament does [and did].' The result is a summons to surrender preconceived notions about ornament as somehow apart from or inferior to architecture in its full range of possible expression."--Paul Gunther, *Architect's Newspaper* "An exceptionally stimulating . . . collection of essays on a topic that is certain to be of increasing importance to our discipline."--Kathleen James-Chakraborty, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* "The value of the publication is . . . in having succeeded in associating several histories of ornament, which are highly distinct on the surface, into a single volume and thereby establishing uncommon analogies and correspondences. . . . A remarkable new perspective."--Sbastien Bontemps, *Renaissance Quarterly* "For the richness and complexity of the questions asked, *Histories of Ornament* is an outstanding overview of the field of ornament studies today. Its emphasis on historical examples of ornamental mobility and on comparable contemporary practices are perhaps the strongest contributions to the field."--Camilla Pietrabissa, *Immediations* From the Back Cover "Histories of Ornament will propel art historical consideration of ornament to new levels. No other volume so clearly shows the profound relevance of medieval and early modern ornament, and the surprising cross-cultural aspects of their histories, to the resurgence of interest in ornament in today's global world."--Persis Berlekamp, University of Chicago "This book rethinks the study of ornament. Necipolu and Payne make a perfect team because of the sustained brilliance and near-global coverage of their scholarship. Their choice of contributors, topics, and approaches reflects their formidable knowledge of the field and its leading researchers."--Philip Sohm, University of Toronto About the Author Glru Necipoglu is the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art and director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University. She is the author of *The Age of Sinan: Architectural Culture in the Ottoman Empire* (Princeton) and *The Topkapi Scroll: Geometry and Ornament in Islamic Architecture*. Alina Payne is the Alexander P. Misheff Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University and Paul E. Geier Director of Villa I Tatti, The Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti in Florence. She is the author of *The Architectural Treatise in the Italian Renaissance* and *From Ornament to Object: Genealogies of Architectural Modernism*.