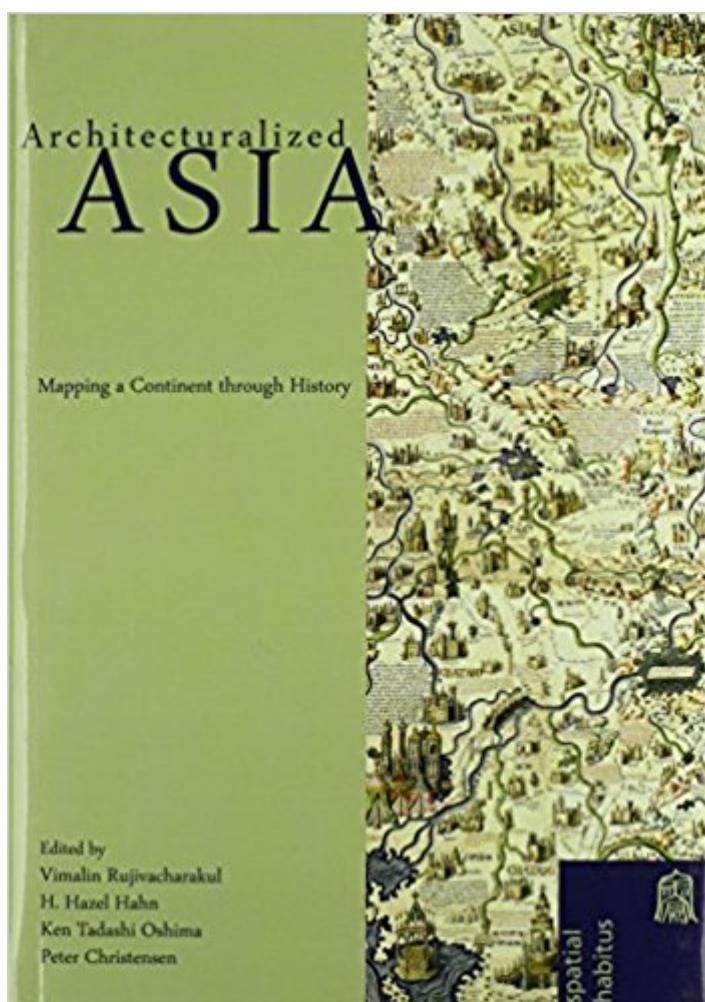


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Architecturalized Asia: Mapping A Continent Through History (Spatial Habitus: Making And Meaning In Asia's Architecture)



Synopsis

This collection explores built environments and visual narratives in Asia via cartography, icons and symbols in different historical settings. It grows out of a three-year project focusing on cultural exchange in the making of Asia's boundaries as well as its architectural styles and achievements. The editors -- architectural scholars at University of Delaware, Seattle University, University of Washington and Harvard University, respectively -- attracted contributions from Asia, Europe, and North America. The manuscript consists of three sections. In Mapping Asia: Architectural Symbols from Medieval to Early Modern Periods, authors examine icons and symbols in maps and textual descriptions and other early evidence about Asian architecture. Incorporating archival materials from Asia and Europe, the essays present views of Asian architecture seen from those who lived on the continent, those who saw themselves residing along the margins, and those who identified themselves as outsiders. The second section, Conjugating Asia: The Long-Nineteenth Century and its Impetus, explores the construction of the field of Asian architecture and the political imagination of Asian built environments in the nineteenth century. It discusses the parallel narratives of colonialism and Orientalism in the construction of Asia and its architectural environment, mapping how empire-expanding influences from Europe and North America have defined "Asia" and its regions through new vocabularies and concepts, which include, among others, "Eurasia," "Jap-Alaska," "Asie coloniale," "the Orient," and "Further India." The third section, Manifesting Asia: Building the Continent with Architecture, addresses the physical realization of "Asian" geographic ideas within a set of specific local and regional contexts in the twentieth century. It examines tangible constructions as legible documents of these notional constructions of Asia, and discusses their construction processes, materials and critical receptions as evidence of the physical's reciprocal relationship to the conceptual. Regions and conditions covered include French Indochina, Iran, post-Soviet Central Asia, Japanese landscape, and the construction of the Afro-Asian built environment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

CHOICE's OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC TITLE of 2014 -- "This is an ambitious historiographical intervention into architectural/art historical accounts of 'Asia.' In contrast to studies that take the continent's boundaries as cartographically or ontologically given, this volume emphasizes how Asia has been constructed and produced since the early modern period. . . . A valuable resource for specialists in art history, architectural history, anthropology, history, geography, religion, cultural studies, and Asian studies." --Choice (September 2014)"Architecturalized Asia" will be a revelation to anyone with an interest in global architecture. Based on sharp critiques of the concept of Asia and the sharp distinctions between Eastern and Western culture that have gripped architectural history for so long, the essayists here dissect our understanding of some of the canonical monuments of architecture on the Asian continent. Architecturalized Asia is a major contribution to the field."--Dell Upton, University of California, Los Angeles"Extending the critique of metageography into new scholarly terrain, these essays probe the construction of Asia and its sub-regions as categories of architectural taxonomy. In the process, they illuminate the surprising extent to which building types have been used as markers of regional civilization in European cartography and geographical writing. A provocative contribution."--Karen Wigen, co-author of "The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography" In late fifteenth-century Europe maps were still being printed in which the three known continents--Europe, Asia and Africa--were allotted to the sons of Noah. Paradise was farthest to the east, and the peripheries of the world were peopled by fantasies from the ancient eastward expeditions of Alexander the Great. As the cartographic description of the world unfolded, new practices of domination and exploitation arose, but so did new adaptations and accommodations, and new forms of cultural awareness. Histories of the forms and spaces of architecture provide unique access to these myriad interactions, and anyone interested in these momentous and ongoing global transformations should read this fine book."--David Summers, University of Virginia

How did terms like "Asia," "Eurasia," "Indochina," "Pacific Rim" or "Australasia" originate and evolve, and what are their connections to the built environment? In addressing this question, Architecturalized Asia bridges the fields of history and architecture by taking "Asia" as a discursive structure and cultural construct, whose spatial and ideological formation can be examined through the lenses of cartography, built environments, and visual narratives. The first section, on the study of architecture in Asia from the medieval through early modern periods, examines icons and symbols in maps as well as textual descriptions produced in Europe and Asia. The second section explores the establishment of the field of Asian architecture as well as the political and cultural imagining of "Asia" during the long nineteenth century, when "Asia" and its regions were redefined in the making of modern world maps mainly produced in Europe. The third section examines tangible structures produced in the twentieth century as legible documents of these notional constructions of Asia. In exploring the ways in which "Asia" has been drawn and framed both within and without the continent, this volume offers cutting-edge scholarship on architectural history, world history and the history of empires. Written by architectural historians and historians specializing in Asia and European empires, this unique volume addresses the connection between Asia and the world through the lenses of built environments and spatial conceptualizations. Architecturalized Asia will appeal to readers who are interested in Asian architecture, world architecture, Asian history, history of empires, and world history.

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