



Early Medieval Architecture as Bearer of Meaning

By Gunter Bandmann, Gunter Bandmann, Kendall Wallis

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At last available in English, this classic text was originally published in Germany in 1951 and has been continuously in print since then. Gunter Bandmann analyzes the architecture of societies in western Europe up to the twelfth century that aspired to be the heirs to the Roman Empire. He examines the occurrence and recurrence of basic forms not as stylistic evolutions but as meaningful expressions of meta-material content and develops an architectural iconography of symbolic, historical, and aesthetic elements.

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Early Medieval Architecture as Bearer of Meaning By Gunter Bandmann, Gunter Bandmann, Kendall Wallis Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2832782 in Books
- Published on: 2003-12-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.30" h x .99" w x 6.28" l, 1.37 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Probably the most important contribution to understanding [the] history of architecture.... The content of the work is so comprehensive, the author's excursions into related fields shed light onto so many new and surprising relationships, that it is impossible even to enumerate the variety of the historical, aesthetic, and philosophical aspects of the book.

(Paul Zucker *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*)

It makes a timely, welcome addition to essential library holdings in those areas... Highly recommended.

(*Choice*)

Thanks to Kendall Wallis's careful translation the English-speaking world now has the opportunity to rediscover ideas that have endured for more than half a century.

(*Comitatus*)

Review

Bandmann's book constitutes one of the great landmarks of historiography in the field of medieval architecture?yet it remains largely unknown to English-speaking audiences. In setting out to explain the ways in which a medieval building can convey meaning through visual references to older edifices, Bandmann deals with almost all the features of the great church-orientation, axuality, internal divisions of space, choir design, transept, western frontispiece, towers, galleries etc. This is a work of extraordinary erudition.

(Stephen Murray, Professor of Medieval art, Gothic architecture, social and cultural history and the application of the digital media to Art History, Columbia University)

About the Author

Gunter Bandmann was an eminent German historian who wrote on architecture and church history. Kendall Wallis is the humanities and social sciences librarian at McGill University. Hans Böker is professor of architectural history at McGill University.

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