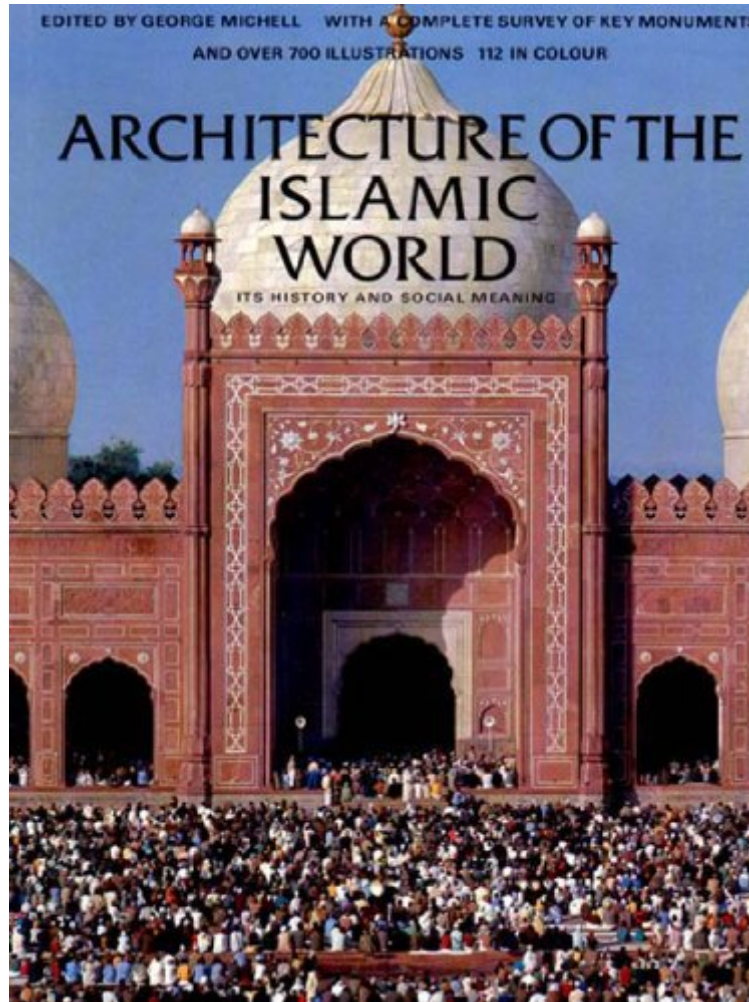


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Architecture of the Islamic World: Its History and Social Meaning

Professor Ernst J Grube

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Best introduction to Islamic design history By Lyric Space editor I have 35 books on Islamic Design. This book is the fountainhead. This is the best introduction to the diverse reasons that make a seeming irrelevant historical design, thousands of years old, useful today. I've been an interior designer for 30 years and I learned my lessons through Islamic Design. I still believe the functional needs to be beautiful too for our spirit to flourish. Beauty in an architectural project is not left to chance in these ancient works. Truth is I'm a westerner working in an English style and the lessons I learned about beauty and geometry through Islamic design work just as well here. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Oldie but a goodie By asad This book was my

introduction to the subject before I was able to take formal classes in college. I found myself continuously referring back to it as I learned more. its survey of historic monuments with plans was extremely useful and I wished it was more extensive. But in 1995, prior to the vast resources we have now, I was grateful for whatever I was able to get, and this book is one of the best for understanding the big picture. 45 of 45 people found the following review helpful. A very comprehensive introduction to muslim architecture By Mag Konstanze Wagenhofer I love this book. It gives you a very good insight to muslim architecture and is at the same time easy to read and entertaining. As an orientalist in a postgrad study program I got to read books on the subject that are much more confusing or that are written in a slightly boring style. This book is a thorough introduction that never just stays on the surface of the matter. It does not give you a chronological account of architecture history, but answers a lot of questions like "Why it was built like it was built?" In the back part of the book you find plans and short descriptions of the most important buildings, in the first part you find a lot of good photographs and even better articles on single subjects like materials or building techniques. But the most important thing: It's NEVER boring.

From mosques to markets, from citadels to cemeteries, this text is a survey of the entire field of Islamic architecture. Although Islamic buildings may make an immediate visual impact, it can be useful to know something of the society which they serve. This text relates the architecture to the social areas of religion, power structure, commerce and communal life, placing emphasis on function and meaning rather than on style and chronology.