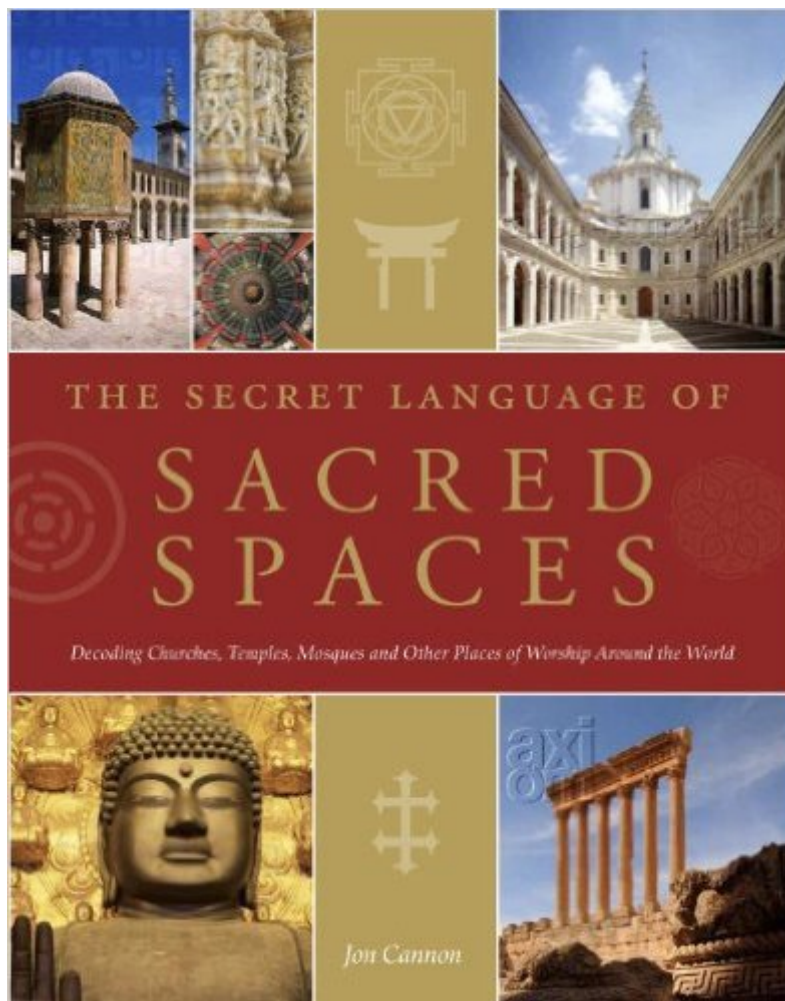


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The Secret Language Of Sacred Spaces: Decoding Churches, Cathedrals, Temples, Mosques And Other Places Of Worship Around The World



Synopsis

Across the globe, pilgrims and tourists, locals and foreigners flock to sacred sites and houses of worship. Why? Because throughout time, humans have directed extraordinary amounts of energy toward the creation of architecture that expresses their religious beliefs. From Stonehenge to the Sagrada Família; from the Acropolis to Angkor Wat, *The Secret Language of Sacred Spaces* offers fascinating insights into some of the most impressive man-made structures in the world. By revealing how these historical places of worship were used and how tenets of a faith were encoded in their structures, the book enhances our understanding and appreciation of the human mind and spirit. The superb full-color photographs that can be found on every page are supplemented by ingenious 'decoder' sections. These zero in on the most important design elements, combining close-up detail with fascinating explanatory detail. The book emphasizes the key living faiths (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism), but early chapters also look at the great sites of prehistory and antiquity, including the stone circle at Avebury in southwest England and the Pyramids at Giza.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Watkins Publishing (October 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1848991118

ISBN-13: 978-1848991118

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 1 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #380,390 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Religious Buildings](#) #252 in [Books > Religion &](#)

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Customer Reviews

I was disappointed on several levels with this book. I found it via the Folio Society's website, and my respect for them suffered as a result. They produce excellent books, and I'm happy to have about a dozen in my library, but someone at Folio was asleep at the switch when they advertised this text on their site. It's a coffee-table book, and I know now why that term is dismissive. This book is long on

flash (it has some lovely photos) and short on content. Fortunately, those lovely photos take up about half of the 210 pages, because the text is numbingly uninspired. The title is quite misleading. There may well be a "secret" language of the architecture of churches, temples, mosques, etc, but this book does not deliver it. I bought this expecting an analysis and description of how the architecture of these religious buildings reflects some of the theological ideas of the religion, and there is some of that. It's not absent, but it amounts to little more than 25% of the text (and I'm being generous, I think). Instead one gets an unending string of loosely connected facts of history (names, dates, sites, architectural nomenclature in the language of the religion's adherents), seasoned ever so lightly with a few comments that can be read as a bit of "decoding" of the architecture of these sacred buildings. Overall, however, the dominant impression is of an utterly boring travelogue that gives you a vague impression of having been told something, but you're hard pressed to say what it was. I have taught writing for decades, and this book is weakly cohesive and quite incoherent. It never delivers on the thesis implied in the title. I wish I had my \$28 back.

this book bring you right into the great religious buildings and structures in the world today. a great gift idea for anyone studying The Sacred!!

gift for my daughter

I purchased the book for a woman to give her husband for Christmas. He was thrilled with the gift, but passed away before he could read it.

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