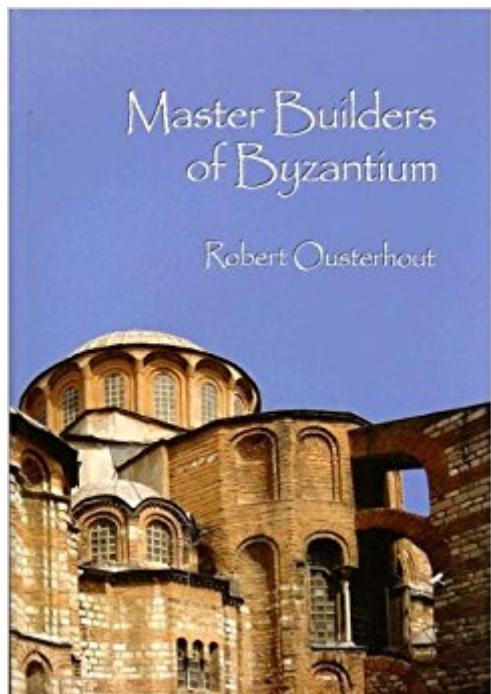


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Master Builders Of Byzantium



Synopsis

Examining Byzantine architecture—primarily churches built in the area of Constantinople between the ninth and fifteenth centuries—from the perspective of its masons, its master builders, Robert Ousterhout identifies the problems commonly encountered in the process of design and construction. He analyzes written evidence, the archaeological record, and especially the surviving buildings, concluding that Byzantine architecture was far more innovative than has previously been acknowledged. Ousterhout explains how masons selected, manufactured, and utilized materials from bricks and mortar to lead roofing tiles, from foundation systems to roof vaultings. He situates richly decorated church interiors, sheathed in marble revetments, mosaics, and frescoes—along with their complex iconographic programs—within the purview of the master builder, referring also to masons in Russia, the Balkans, and Jerusalem.

Book Information

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Amid the welter of claims... it is heartening to hear the careful study of the voucher movement by John Witte. -- Howard Gardner, *New York Review of Books* Ousterhout . . . combines overlooked archaeological reports with his own observation of bricks and tile, lime and mortar, kilns and brickstamps. . . . -- A. A. M. Bryer, *The Times Literary Supplement* -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Robert Ousterhout is Professor of Byzantine Art and Architecture and Director of the Center for

Ancient Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

A wonderful book that brings scholar-level material alive in a direct and pleasant way. A book that you will learn from, but can still read in a chair next to the pool. By the end you understand things you didn't know you wanted to understand, but are now glad that you do. You don't know if you attended the professor's class or just met him for coffee to chat, but you know you got the points he wanted to make. Highly recommend.

Anyone who is interested in Byzantine architecture, should acquire this book. You can find anything about christian orthodox churches in the pages of this book.

very good study with interesting pieces of information, both historical and technical, about byzantine building yards

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