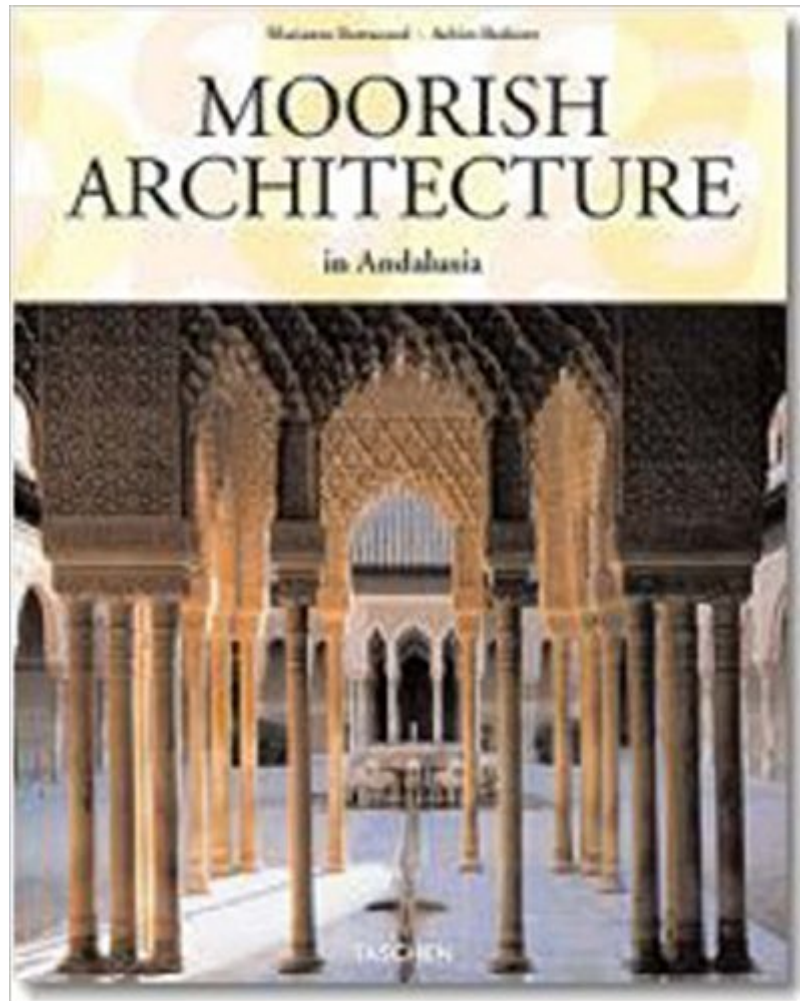


The book was found

Moorish Architecture (Taschen 25th Anniversary Series)



Synopsis

Spain owes its special historical position in Europe very largely to his intensive encounter with the Orient. In the summer of 710, a small force under the command of a Berber named Tariq ibn Mughalika landed to the west of Gibraltar. The Islamic armies that followed in its wake succeeded in conquering large areas of Spain within a short span of years. The conquerors gave the country the name of "al-andalus." Thus began a period of cultural permeation that was to last for almost 800 years. In spite of intolerance and animosity, there developed between Muslims, Christians, and Jews a shared cultural environment that proved the basis for great achievements. Moorish-Andalusian art and architecture combine elements of various traditions into a new, autonomous style. Among the outstanding architectural witnesses to this achievement are the Great Mosque in Cordova and the Alhambra in Granada, recognized and admired as part of the world's heritage right up to the present day. They are described in detail in this book. The main centres of Hispano-Islamic art and architecture, the cities of Cordova, Seville and Granada, are discussed within the chronological framework of developments, both political and cultural, from 710 to 1492.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am not doing this review to acquaint readers with what this book covers, for the above editorial review does that well. Rather, I want to make sure that readers know that in spite of selling for so little, this book offers all one would expect from a book published by Taschen: superb colored

photography, line drawings, maps, a glossary of terms and, of course, good writing/explanations. Marvel at your good fortune at finding such a bargain, and be assured that the coverage of Cordoba's Great Mosque and the Alhambra is superb. Just how much of a bargain? As I discovered when I purchased a copy of this edition for a gift, the only difference between it and the pre-anniversary edition is the shortened title and the picture on the cover, yet the latter, Moorish Architecture, which I paid \$25 for in paperback a few years ago, now starts at \$39.89. (6/12/09 update: Some used copies of the original publication are now available for much less. 2/13/10 Post-script: Wow! When I reviewed this book as "a steal of a deal," it was not yet out of print and copies were available for under \$20.

I wanted to get an idea about what is left of the Islamic / Arabic influence in Andalusia in preparation for an upcoming trip to southern Spain. It is one of my dream trips considering my Arabic roots. I was pleasantly surprised with this book; it is well done and the photography is astonishing; for example the photo of the Mihrab of Cordoba Mosque (Mezquita) takes a full page and on opposite page is a full photo of the prayer hall with its majestic columns. The 25th Anniversary version of this book is definitely under-priced but let's keep it a secret....

A surprisingly complete and well-organized book at this price, with great photos. Truly a "best buy."

This is an excellent book with the most beautiful photos of Alhambra. If you are Spanish, travelling to Spain or a Muslim you must have this book. There are very nice maps too.

Recommended for travelers to Andalusia who want to get something more than they usually get from guided tours. Also good for all those who want to see what poor Europeans did with great architecture of Moors.

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