

## Session at SAH: Questioning the concept of Mudéjar Architecture

Pasadena/LA, Apr 6–10, 2016

Deadline: Jun 9, 2015

Prof. Dr. Francine Giese, Vitrocentre und Vitromusée Romont

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### QUESTIONING THE CONCEPT OF MUDÉJAR ARCHITECTURE

Medieval exchange processes between Muslim Spain, the northern Christian kingdoms and the Sephardic Jews created a specific building style in the Iberian Peninsula. On the occasion of his inaugural lecture *El estilo Mudéjar en arquitectura*, held in 1859 at the Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, José Amador de los Ríos named this specific style Mudéjar, a term used in the academic literature till this day. The transmission of a historical term designating a specific population group (i.e. Muslims in Christian territories) into architectural history induces a terminological grey area. When did the term Mudéjar appear in historical records, i.e., was it already used in Pre-Modern times as a category for demarcation? Where shall we draw the frontiers between Islamic, Mudéjar, Christian and Jewish Architecture? Which are the determining factors that feature a building as Mudéjar? Is it the confession of the patron or that of the craftsman, the functional aspect (church, synagogue) or the stylistic feature that permits a classification? How do we relate a Mudéjar building to Mudéjar population? What is the role of the patron and/or the craftsman in modifying Islamic patterns into a Christian or Jewish language?

The interdisciplinary approach (Art History/Historical Sciences) of the session will allow a critical debate on the concept of Mudéjar Architecture, which has recently been questioned in the work *Under the influence: Questioning the Comparative in Medieval Castile* (Leiden, 2005). We encourage the submission of specific case studies that will permit to simultaneously highlight the complexity of cross-border processes and question the compatibility with the current field boundaries, while emphasizing the significance of the Iberian Peninsula as a cultural contact zone within the current international globalization discourse.

Session chairs: Francine Giese, University of Zurich; francine.giese@khist.uzh.ch; and Ana Echevarría Arsuaga, UNED Madrid; aechevarria@geo.uned.es

Please submit abstracts (no more than 300 words) via the online submission portal by June 9, 2015.

Reference:

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