

The Visibility of the Architect across Cultures (Venice, 8-10 Apr 10)

Matteo Burioni

Call for papers

Renaissance Society of America,

Annual Meeting 2010, April 8-10

Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Isola San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice

Session: The Visibility of the Architect across Cultures

In all epochs and cultures patrons and rulers have built cities and buildings. They did want to be considered mainly as builders, architects or creators. Following the lead of the pioneering study by Ernst Kris and Otto Kurz "Myth, Legend and Magic in the image of the artist" (1934) the session aims at a revision of commonly held ideas about the figure of the architect. The literary forms (biography, legendary tales, administrative bookkeeping, novels, etc.) and the visual means (portrait, inscription, bust, sculpture, etc.) that gave visibility to the persona of the architect in the early modern period will be of central interest. How can biography, epigraphic inscription and portrait, just to name only this few instances, be compared across cultures? How did the visibility of architect relate to the image of the ruler? A particularly fascinating topic seems to be the interpretation of the epigraphic roman inscriptions that were available to many different cultures in the Mediterranean basin. Their interpretation varies a great deal from culture to culture. In Italy, for example, they were sometimes (mis-)interpreted as "signatures" of architects. In Ottoman architecture we find a great deal of epigraphic inscriptions that commemorate the architect. Contributions on colonial and missionary architecture, Mughal India, the Ottoman Empire, Asia as well as Europe (but also other geographic regions) are especially welcome.

Chair: Alina Payne, Harvard University

Please submit your abstract (no more than 150 words) and a short CV no later than April 30, 2009 to:

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Reference:

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