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978-1-107-04016-8 - Architecture and Ritual in the Churches of Constantinople: Ninth to Fifteenth Centuries

Vasileios Marinis

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ARCHITECTURE AND RITUAL IN THE CHURCHES OF CONSTANTINOPLE

This book examines the interchange of architecture and ritual in the Middle and Late Byzantine churches of Constantinople (ninth to fifteenth centuries). It employs archaeological and archival data, hagiographic and historical sources, liturgical texts and commentaries, and monastic typika and testaments to integrate the architecture of the Medieval churches of Constantinople with liturgical and extraliturgical practices and their continuously evolving social and cultural context. The book argues against the approach that has dominated Byzantine studies: that of functional determinism, the view that architectural form always follows liturgical function. Instead, proceeding chapter by chapter through the spaces of the Byzantine church, it investigates how architecture responded to the exigencies of the rituals and how church spaces eventually acquired new uses. The church building is described in the context of the culture and people whose needs it was continually adapted to serve. Rather than viewing churches as frozen in time (usually the time when the last brick was laid), this study argues that they were social constructs and so were never finished, but they were continually evolving.

Vasileios Marinis is assistant professor of Christian art and architecture at the Institute of Sacred Music and the Divinity School, Yale University. Marinis has been the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, including the Aidan Kavanagh Prize for Outstanding Scholarship at Yale; a Junior Fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.; the S. C. and P. C. Coleman Senior Fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and a membership at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He has published on a variety of topics, ranging from Early Christian tunics decorated with New Testament scenes to Medieval tombs and Byzantine transvestite nuns. Before coming to Yale he was the first holder of the Kallinikeion Chair of Byzantine Art at Queens College, CUNY.

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VASILEIOS MARINIS

The Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University



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For Örgü

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From these predecessors I learned that the right to heap immoderate lyrical praise on Istanbul's beauties belongs only to those who no longer live there, and not without some guilt: for the writer who talks of the city's ruins and melancholy is never unaware of the ghostly light that shines down on his life.

Pamuk 2006: 57

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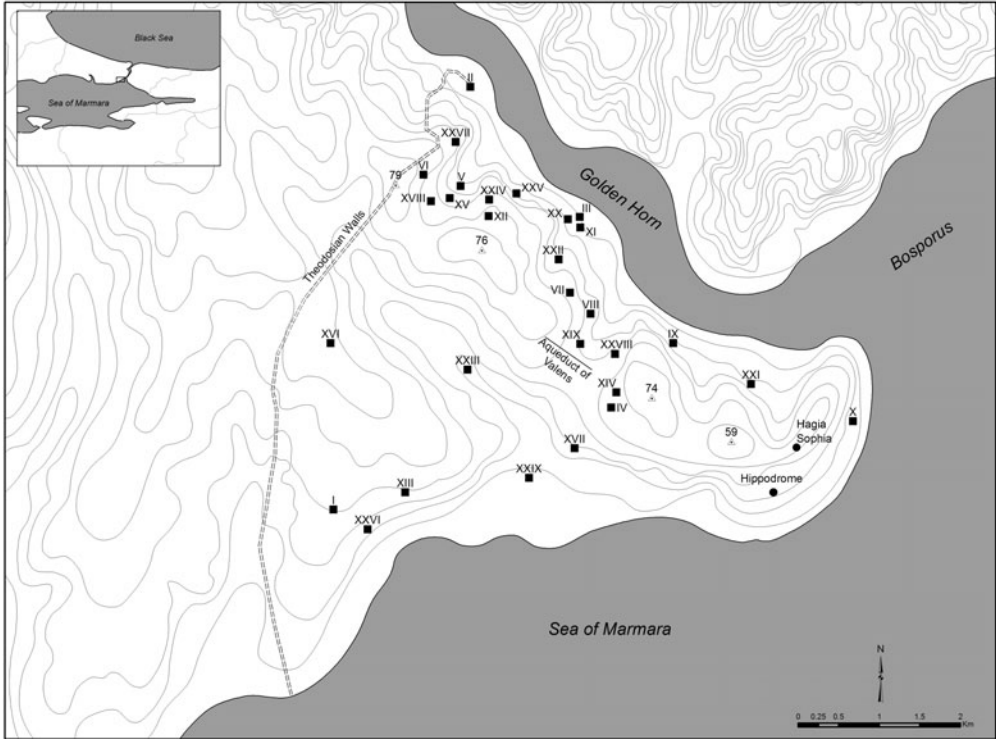
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