

## ROMAN BUILDERS

### A STUDY IN ARCHITECTURAL PROCESS

How were the architectural ideas behind great Roman building projects carried out in practice? *Roman Builders* is the first general-interest book to address this question. Using the Baths of Caracalla, the Pantheon, the Colosseum, and the great temples at Baalbek as physical documents for their own building histories, this book traces the thought processes and logistical considerations – the risks, reversals, compromises, and refinements – that led to ultimate success. Each major phase of the building process is considered: design, groundwork, support structures, complex armatures (such as the superstructures of amphitheaters), vaults, and decorations. New hypotheses are advanced on the raising of monolithic columns, the construction sequence of the Colosseum, and the vaulting of the Pantheon. The illustrations include archival and original photographs, as well as numerous explanatory drawings.

Rabun Taylor is Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. The author of *Public Needs and Private Pleasures: Water Distribution, the Tiber River, and the Urban Development of Ancient Rome*, he has excavated in Italy and the United States and has contributed articles to many journals, including the *Journal of Roman Archaeology*, the *American Journal of Archaeology*, and the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*.

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PROCESS

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*To my parents*

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