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052183676X - Rethinking Decoration: Pleasure and Ideology in the Visual Arts

David Brett

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## *Rethinking Decoration*

**This book offers theoretical and practical reinterpretations of the decorative**

by addressing a neglected topic: the significance of decoration. Concerned with the central problem of taste, David Brett asks how individual pleasure and social function suffuse one another, drawing examples from architecture, fashion, textiles, ceramics, and the whole domain of visual and plastic arts. Using theoretical propositions derived from a critical approach to the concept of aesthetic experience, and from study of perceptual psychology and psychoanalytic theory, Brett focuses on historical instances of decoration and ornament significant to the development of a 'visual ideology.' He considers a variety of attempts at the rejection of decorative value and proposes a 'poetics of workmanship', which deals with the metaphorical power of material processes.

David Brett is Emeritus Reader in the History of Design at the University of Ulster. He is the author of books on a variety of subjects including the history and theory of design, among them, *The Plain Style* and *C. R. Mackintosh: The Poetics of Workmanship*.

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Pleasure & ideology  
in the visual arts

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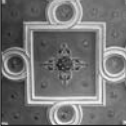

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