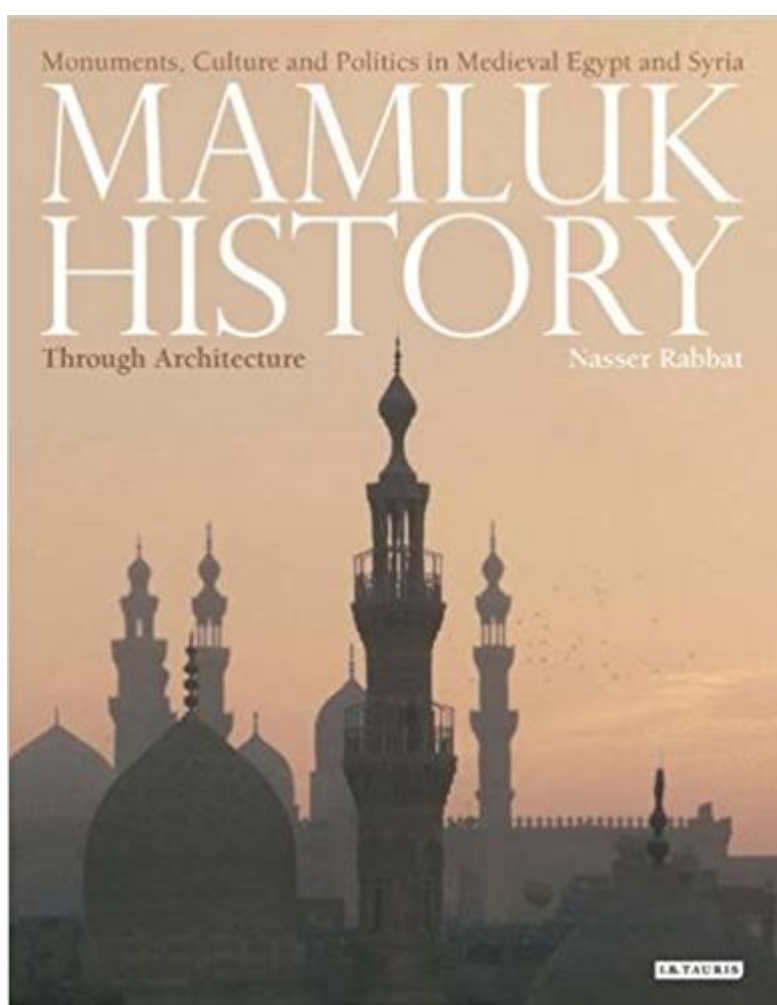


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# Mamluk History Through Architecture: Monuments, Culture And Politics In Medieval Egypt And Syria (Library Of Middle East History)



## Synopsis

The most enduring testament to the Mamluk Sultanate is its architecture. Not only do Mamluk buildings embody one of the most outstanding medieval architectural traditions, Mamluk architecture is actually a key to the social history of the period. Analyzing Mamluk constructions as a form of communication and documentation as well as a cultural index, *Mamluk History Through Architecture* shows how the buildings mirror the complex -- and historically unique -- military, political, social and financial structures of Mamluk society. With this original and authoritative study Nasser Rabbat offers an innovative approach to the history of the Mamluks -- through readings of the spectacular architecture of the period. Drawing on examples from throughout both Egypt and Syria, from the Citadel and Al-Azhar Mosque of Cairo to the Mausoleum of al-Zahir Baybars in Damascus, Rabbat demonstrates how Mamluk architecture served to reinforce visually the spirit of the counter-Crusade, when the Muslim world rebounded from the setbacks of the First Crusade. Both holistically and in case studies, Rabbat demonstrates how history is inscribed into and reflected by a culture's artifacts. This is a groundbreaking work in the study of architecture and social history in the Middle East and beyond.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'This book provides a major contribution to the social and intellectual history of the Mamluk age.' - Robert Irwin; 'Few scholars in the current generation have done as much to enlighten us on architecture in Egypt and Syria as Nasser Rabbat. Anything by this author on the Mamluks is to be

considered essential reading. He brings to the subject keen analytical skills with a thorough knowledge of the monuments and the sources, all grounded in the most up-to-date methodologies.' - Bernard O'Kane, Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture, The American University in Cairo

Nasser Rabbat is the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture at MIT and Director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. He was educated at the University of Damascus, UCLA and MIT. His previous books include *The Citadel of Cairo: A New Interpretation of Royal Mamluk Architecture* and, in Arabic, *The Culture of Building and Building Culture*.

This book gave me the perfect additional info i needed for my master thesis. The illustrations are magnificent and pertinent, and permit concrete visualisation of the items treated in the book. So, it can be called a basic handbook for every student of Islamic history and culture.

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