



Islamic Architecture in Iran: Poststructural Theory and the Architectural History of Iranian Mosques (International Library of Iranian Studies)

By Saeid Khaghani

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The architecture of the Islamic world is predominantly considered in terms of a dual division between "tradition" and "modernity" - a division which, Saeid Khaghani here argues, has shaped and limited the narrative applied to this architecture. Khaghani introduces and reconsiders the mosques of eighth- to fifteenth-century Iran in terms of poststructural theory and developments in historiography in order to develop a brand new dialectical framework. Using the examples of mosques such as the Friday Mosques in Isfahan and Yazd as well as the Imam mosque in Isfahan, Khaghani presents a new way of thinking about and discussing Islamic architecture, making this valuable reading for all interested in the study of the art, architecture, and material culture of the Islamic world.

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Review

"This book marks a welcome progression in seeking to move beyond "Islamic Art History" as a monolithic continent-wide movement. By explaining how and why Iran absorbed Islam and vice versa, Khaghani successfully demonstrates that Islamic Architecture is shaped by cultural and traditional factors as much, if not more, than purely religious imperatives. It is to be hoped that this opens the way for more regional studies and a more subtle understanding of the Architecture of Islam and Iran in the future.'" - Emma Loosley, Senior Lecturer in Islamic Art, School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, The University of Manchester

About the Author

Saeid Khaghani holds a PhD in Art History and Visual Studies from the University of Manchester.

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