



Francine Giese • Ariane Varela Braga (eds.)

The Myth of the Orient

Architecture and Ornament in the Age of Orientalism

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This volume commemorates the 160th anniversary of the Selamlük of Oberhofen Castle near Thun – one of the most significant Swiss Orientalist interiors, designed by the Bernese architect Theodor Zeerleder (1820–1868) – by presenting the latest research on the spectacular smoking room inspired by the luxurious reception halls in Cairo, which Zeerleder discovered during his travels to the East. At the same time, this collection of essays explores the significance of the famous city on the Nile as a privileged model for 19th-century architecture and ornamentation.

CONTENTS: Francine Giese/Ariane Varela Braga: The Myth of the Orient • Mercedes Volait : Figuration et fortune artistique des intérieurs du Caire au XIXe siècle • Romain Siegenfuhr : Les photographies du Caire peintes par Willem de Famars Testas • Richard Parisot : Architecture(s) du Caire au prisme des récits de voyageuses germanophones au XIXe siècle • Elke Pflugradt-Abdel Aziz: Carl von Diebitsch (1819–1869): Moorish Style as State-of-the-art Architecture in 19th-century Cairo • Tarek Ibrahim: Johann Adam Rennebaum and the Architecture of Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo • Vincenza Garofalo: Mamluk Reproductions: Survey and Analysis of Tombs in the Cemetery of Sant'Orsola in Palermo • Andrea Lermer: Von Kairo nach Dresden: Zu den islamischen Vorbildern der Tabak- und Cigarettenfabrik Yenidze, ihrer medialen Vermittlung und formalen Adaption • Rémi Labrusse :

Tectonique islamique : un paradigme pour penser l'ornement au XIXe siècle • Ariane Varela Braga: Owen Jones and the Oriental Perspective • Leïla el-Wakil : La Banque Misr du Caire : Antonio Lasciac, les decorateurs italiens et le « style arabe » • Francine Giese: The Oberhofen Selamlük – a Cairene *manara* made in Switzerland • Annette Loeffel: Restaurierung des Selamlük im Schloss Oberhofen 2010–2013.

FRANCINE GIESE is SNSF professor at the University of Zurich. Her PhD thesis and habilitation dealt with different aspects of Islamic architecture and its preservation. Her research interests are Islamic art and architecture, cross-cultural exchanges in the Middle Ages and the appropriation of Islamic aesthetics in the West. Current projects: Mudejarismo and Moorish Revival in Europe / The Orient in Switzerland.

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