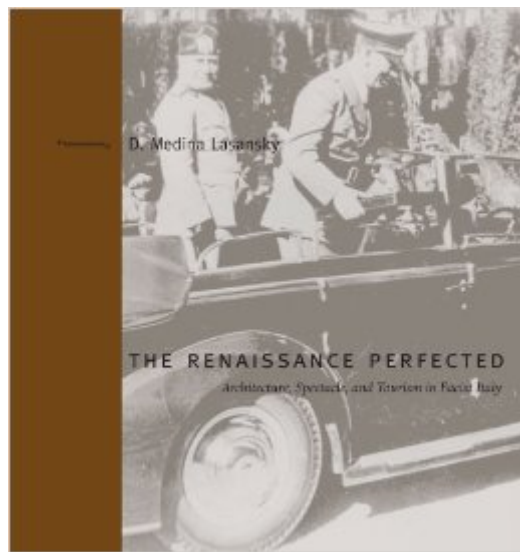


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The Renaissance Perfected: Architecture, Spectacle, And Tourism In Fascist Italy (Buildings, Landscapes, And Societies)



Synopsis

Mussolini's claims on the monuments and rhetoric of ancient Rome have been the subject of a number of books. D. Medina Lasansky shows us a less familiar side of the cultural politics of Italian Fascism, tracing its wide-ranging efforts to adapt the nation's medieval and Renaissance heritage to satisfy its programs of national regeneration.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a thoroughly amazing, informative and very well illustrated narrative of a most unusual and little-known Fascist re-building effort which was carried out in grand scale to help increase tourism in Italy and to spread the political influence and recognition of the Fascists in Mussolini's Italy between 1922 and 1945. Entire plazas and piazzas were rebuilt, giving them a medieval flair, with stone turrets, parapets, towers, massive cobblestone streets. Entire village squares were rebuilt to look as though they had been designed in medieval times. The results were quite pleasing, imposing and not only were definitely attractive to tourists, but were also a source of pride for the local community, and the setting for many impressive local festivals. These imposing structures, continued tourist attractions, still stand today and are often mistaken as being of medieval origin and construction. Copiously illustrated (color and black and white) throughout the book (including "before and after" photographs) as well as with drawings of modern origin and from antiquity, and with fifty-four pages of well-researched and very informative notes, as well as a substantial Bibliography

and a copious index, this book stands alone as a notable monument in itself. As well as being a tremendous tool for researchers, it is also a fascinating voyage into a little known civic enterprise carried out in the midst of some very troubling times. Dr. Lasansky has, with this book, made a valuable and beautiful contribution to history -- with her painstaking and thorough research and with the exquisite layout of this book.

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