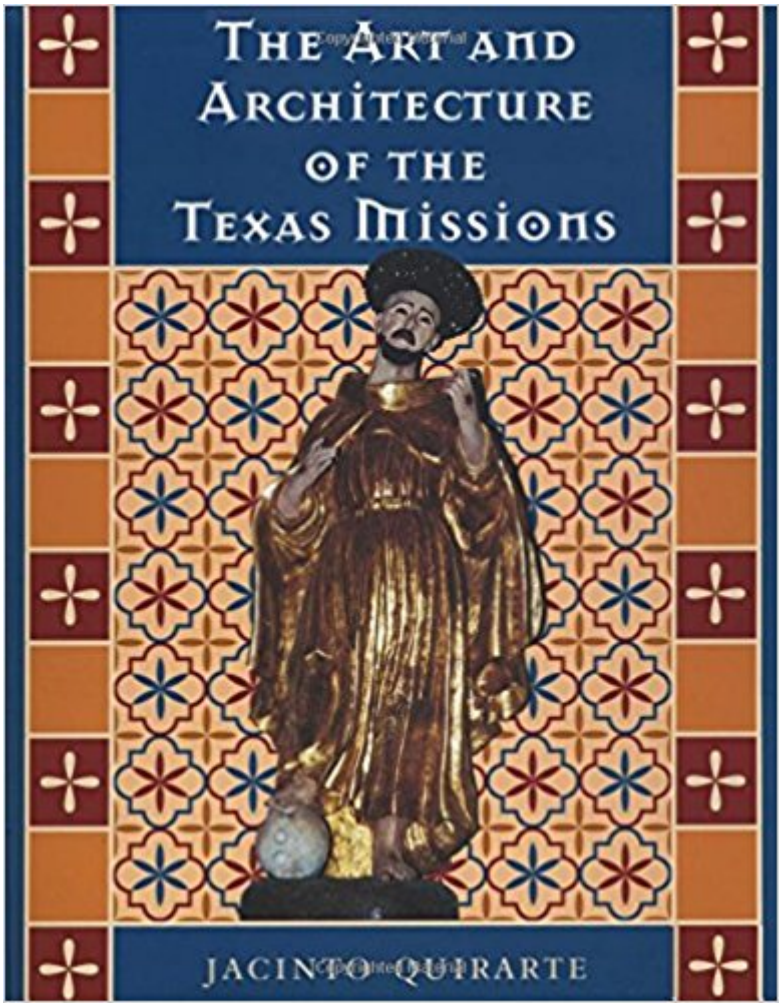
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The Art And Architecture Of The Texas Missions (Jack And Doris Smothers Series In Texas History, Life, And Culture (Hardcover))



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Synopsis

Winner, Presidio La Bahia Award, Sons of the Republic of Texas Built to bring Christianity and European civilization to the northern frontier of New Spain in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries...secularized and left to decay in the nineteenth century...and restored in the twentieth century, the Spanish missions still standing in Texas are really only shadows of their original selves. The mission churches, once beautifully adorned with carvings and sculptures on their faÃƒÂ§ades and furnished inside with elaborate altarpieces and paintings, today only hint at their colonial-era glory through the vestiges of art and architectural decoration that remain. To paint a more complete portrait of the missions as they once were, Jacinto Quirarte here draws on decades of on-site and archival research to offer the most comprehensive reconstruction and description of the original art and architecture of the six remaining Texas missionsÃ¢â ¬â •San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo), San JosÃƒÂ© y San Miguel de Aguayo, Nuestra SeÃƒÂ ora de la PurÃƒÂ-sima ConcepciÃƒÂ n, San Juan Capistrano, and San Francisco de la Espada in San Antonio and Nuestra SeÃƒÂ ora del EspÃƒÂ-ritu Santo in Goliad. Using church records and other historical accounts, as well as old photographs, drawings, and paintings, Quirarte describes the mission churches and related buildings, their decorated surfaces, and the (now missing) altarpieces, whose iconography he extensively analyzes. He sets his material within the context of the mission era in Texas and the Southwest, so that the book also serves as a general introduction to the Spanish missionary program and to Indian life in Texas.

Book Information

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Photography > Architecture > History

Customer Reviews

As important elements of New Spain’s colonial enterprise, Franciscan missions were meant to bring the gospel to the Indians on the northern frontiers and forge them into useful subjects of the Crown. Building upon earlier research for the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, Quirarte (art history, emeritus, Univ. of Texas, San Antonio) reconstitutes what six extant mission complexes were like from the 1740s to the 1820s. Informative analysis and discussion span the periods when they were constructed, then abandoned, and finally restored or reconstructed. The work draws heavily upon archival records, historic photos (not always crisply reproduced), and drawings. The text recaptures original mission art and architecture, including iconographic schemes, decorations, and the arrangement of sacred images, titular saints, and altarpieces. Appendixes provide a census of Texas missions founded from 1680 to 1793, colonial mission documents and sources, and a glossary of architectural and religious terms. Recommended for academic and regional collections, this book is also of value for its broader historical, religious, and cultural contexts and insights. Russell T. Clement, Northwestern Univ. Lib., Evanston, IL Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Jacinto Quirarte is Professor Emeritus, History of Art and Criticism, at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Good read - Lot’s of good information on the missions of old Texas.

This book was just like new with the exception of the library’s plastic cover with the library catalog number and a sticker with the library name. I don’t think anyone had ever checked the book out or read it. It is wonderful. Good service for delivery also.

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