Histories of Ornament
From Global to Local
Edited by Gülru Necipoğlu and Alina Payne

This lavish illustrated volume is the first major global history of ornament from the Middle Ages to today. Crossing historical and geographical boundaries, it explores the nature and evolution of ornament over millennia and demonstrates the role of ornament in both art and architecture. Histories of Ornament offers a nuanced examination of how ornament is often a constant negotiation of local and global traditions. This book addresses the concept of ornament's current revival in modern architecture, its presence and role in art and design, its transhistorical and transcontinental significance, and its place in the contexts of industrialization and politics. Throughout, Histories of Ornament emphasizes the portability, agency, and role of ornament in shaping societies, abstraction, cross-cultural dialogues, and the current relevance of local and global traditions.

Featuring original essays by more than 30 scholars and experts, this authoritative and wide-ranging book provides an indispensable introduction to the histories of ornament in a global context.

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