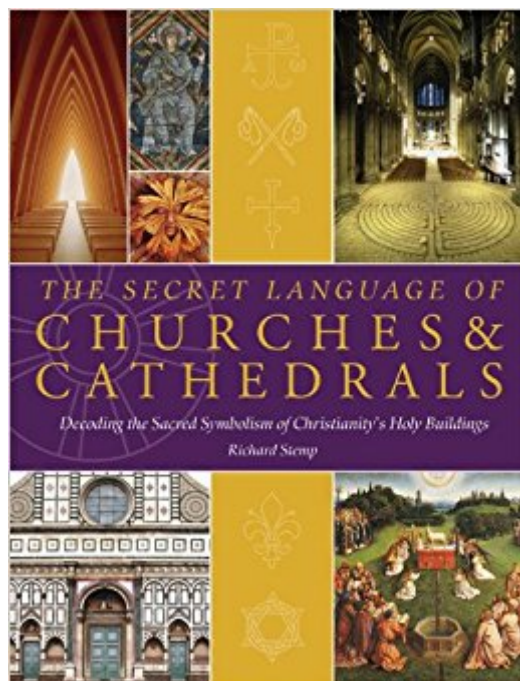




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The Secret Language Of Churches & Cathedrals: Decoding The Sacred Symbolism Of Christianity's Holy Buildings



Synopsis

Thanks to books and films like *The Da Vinci Code* and its sequel, *Angels and Demons*, interest in secret religious symbols has never been greater. This carefully researched guide takes the reader into some of the world's most famous churches, decoding messages that are hidden in plain sight—in stained-glass windows, statuary, patterned flooring, ornamentation, and even the buildings' architectural design: Why do fierce beasts and grotesque faces peer from the walls? Who chose to depict one particular saint and not another? What's the significance of an eagle? A dragon? A pelican? No one who reads this book will ever again experience a visit to a cathedral in quite the same way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Stemp lectures at the National Gallery, Tate Modern and Tate Britain. He wrote and presented the TV series *Art in the National Gallery* for Channel 4. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book exceeded my expectations on every level. It is written by a serious author who clearly researched his subject and has not allowed himself to be corrupted by revisionist history or political correctness. The photographs are large and beautifully reproduced; every detail the author refers to is plainly visible. The text is reserved and restrained, but contains a wealth of information and detail. Everything about this book is exceptional, from the quality of the writing to the quality of the paper. It even has a ribbon bookmark. When is the last time you saw one of those?

Many parish priests take great care in how they design worship areas. This is a great book to inspire great ideas. I loved it. It is as fascinating as the title and cover pics suggest.

Wonderful review of architecture and church history.

Love the insider details and wonderful pictures. Great book.

Beautiful book...arrived early

Beautiful !

Interesting subject matter. However, a good amount of subject matter wasn't covered: e.g. stained glass windows, symbols used by the early churches on tiles, graves, mosaics, etc.

I had only the description to go by and was concerned that it wouldn't meet my needs. It was more than I could have expected. It's a large coffee table sized book. That does make it awkward to read --and it has such good information you want to do more than look at the wonderful photographs. However, the large size does allow for a better view of the pictures.

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