

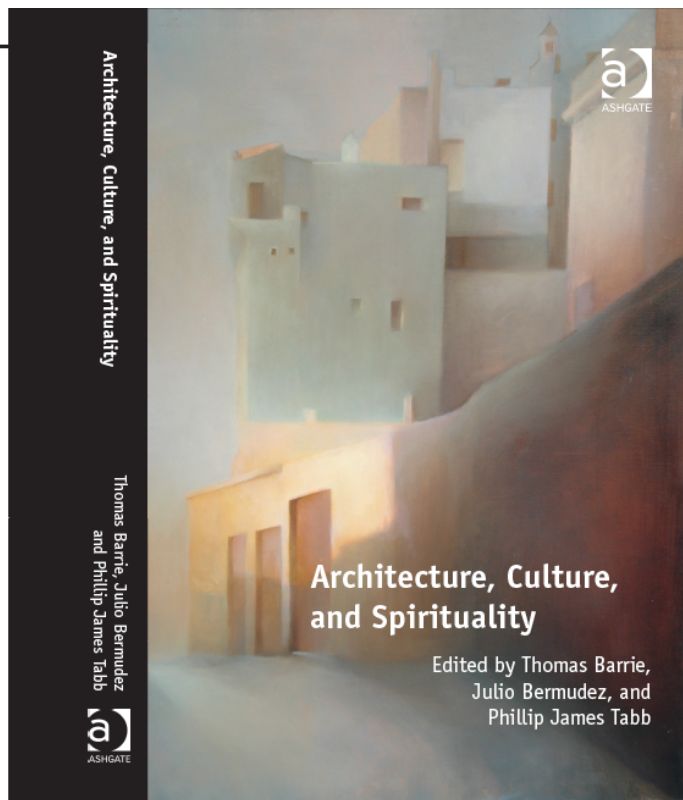
## Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality

Edited by Thomas Barrie, North Carolina State University, USA,  
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Architecture has long been understood as a cultural discipline able to articulate the human condition and lift the human spirit, yet the spirituality of architecture is rarely directly addressed in academic scholarship.

The 17 chapters provide a diverse range of perspectives, grouped according to topical themes: *Being in the World: Sacred, Secular, and the Contemporary Condition*; *Symbolic Engagements*; *Sacred Landscapes*; and *Spirituality and the Designed Environment*. Even though the authors approach the subject from a range of disciplines and theoretical positions, all share interests in the need to rediscover, redefine, or reclaim the sacred in everyday experience, scholarly analysis, and design.

Cover image: Constanza Villarreal, *Hacia Itaca*, oil on canvas, 2013.



## ARCHITECTURE, CULTURE, & SPIRITUALITY

Thomas Barrie, Julio Bermudez & Phillip James Tabb (co-editors)

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### Topic

This book is a scholarly collection of essays on contemporary perspectives regarding the nature and significance of the sacred in the built environment. Recognized experts in the fields of architecture, urbanism, landscape architecture, and religious studies bring unique perspectives to a range of topics and examples. The book's primary argument is that even though the post-modern condition has transgressed, degraded or superseded shared belief systems and symbolic languages, the experience, significance and meaning of the built environment retains a certain kind of veracity, potency and latent receptivity. Even though the authors approach the subject from a range of disciplines and theoretical positions, all share interests in the need to rediscover, redefine or reclaim the sacred in everyday experience, scholarly analysis, and design.

The book is organized according to five principal topical themes: *Being in the World, Sacred – Secular – and the Contemporary Condition, Symbolic Engagements, Sacred Landscapes*, and *Spirituality and Designed Environments*. The co-editors introduce the volume with an overview of pertinent literature, scholarly precedents, and primary areas of interest in the subject area.

This book is the result of scholarly findings and papers selected from the first four symposia conducted by the Forum for Architecture, Culture and Spirituality (ACS). Each year typically twenty-five extended abstracts have been written and presented at the symposia, from which the very best have been chosen for this work. This international scholarly organization was founded in 2007 to support architectural and multi-disciplinary scholarship, research, professional practice, and education on the significance, experience and meaning of the built environment. For more information on ACS, visit: <http://www.acsforum.org>