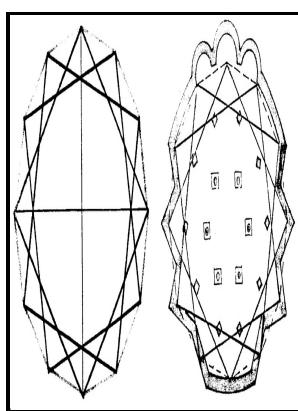


Wise master builder - Platonic geometry in plans of medieval abbeys and cathedrals

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- Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. [307]-320) and index.
This edition was published in 2000



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The Wise Master Builder: Platonic Geometry in Plans of Medieval Abbeys and Cathedrals by Nigel Hiscock (Paperback, 2019) for sale online

This book represents a formidable amount of research and exhibits the author's considerable skill in handling difficult material. Did the plan of medieval churches have any underlying symbolic meaning? The investigation further reveals whole series of geometric relationships between some of England's most celebrated Norman cathedrals, such as Norwich or Durham, together with a wide sample from the Continent, from Old St Peter's in Rome to Chartres Cathedral, and sets out a comprehensive design method in each case. Similar attention to editing would have made this book exemplary of its kind.

The Wise Master Builder: Platonic Geometry in Plans of Medieval Abbeys and Cathedrals

Ethelwold, in addition to serving as bishop, acted in many other capacities, as abbot, schoolman, scriptorium advisor, reformer, and rebuilder of monasteries.

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Medieval architectural practice -- pt. The labored language and awkward grammatical constructions, however, too frequently obfuscate Hiscock's analyses. A short chapter or section of the book providing an explanation of the use of these two terms in the Middle Ages and a review of the literature on the subject would have greatly enhanced Hiscock's thesis.

Nigel Hiscock, The Wise Master Builder: Platonic Geometry in Plans of Medieval Abbeys and Cathedrals

If the Ashgate Press had provided crucial editing, the manuscript would doubtless have evolved from its dissertation stage into a more readable book. After establishing the importance of the Ottonian Revival, Hiscock makes a comprehensive summary of the primary sources in translation for Platonic geometry, as well as its means of transmission and incorporation into Christian Platonism.

The Wise Master Builder: Platonic Geometry In Plans Of Medieval Abbeys And Cathedrals by Nigel Hiscock

A basic query that Hiscock has not fully answered, however, concerns the definition of the occupations of architect and mason . In challenging prevailing claims for the use of arithmetical ratios in architectural design, notably those based on the square root of two, Dr Hiscock advances a perspective consisting of proportions derived from the figures of Platonic geometry - the square, the equilateral triangle and the pentagon - and provides evidence for the symbolic interpretation of these figures.

Nigel Hiscock, The Wise Master Builder: Platonic Geometry in Plans of Medieval Abbeys and Cathedrals

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The author's explication of the interrelationship of the liberal arts, number theory, and geometry is helpful to those not conversant in those fields, and provides a convenient review for specialists.

The Wise Master Builder: Platonic Geometry in Plans of Medieval Abbeys and ...

His presentation of the subject may lead readers familiar with the material to reconsider their points of view, and those not versed in it to gain new insight into a major part of medieval culture, namely its religious architecture.

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