D. Fairchild Ruggles

Publications and Works in Press

Books and edited volumes

An edited collection of papers from the symposium, “The Patronage and Production of Art by Women in Modern South Asia,” at the Doris Duke Foundation’s Shangri La (Honolulu), with papers by Catherine Asher, Madhavi Desai, Pradeep Dhillon, Alisa Eimen, Sharon Littlefield, Barbara Metcalf, Amita Sinha, Lisa Trivedi, and Mary Woods.

A defining characteristic of cities is their spatial complexity. Unlike a single historic monument, the space of the heritage city or large-scale site is typically porous and inhabited, and in this distinction, the difference between the objectives of preservation and the objectives of heritage study are revealed. Both address a historic entity, but heritage is less concerned with the act of preservation than its outcome with respect to social justice, the triad of race/class/gender, the economics of preservation management and tourism, and issues of identity and difference. Contributors include: James Barrett, Sharon Haar, Zeynep Keyzer, Chuo Li, Emily Makaš, Robert Ousterhout, Clare Sammells, Joseph Scarpaci, Helaine Silverman, and Ian Straughn. [link]

An edited collection of primary sources with commentary; it includes selections from the Quran, geographical descriptions, al-Maqqari on Madinat al-Zahra, al-Maqrizi’s description of Cairo, Ibn Khaldun on patronage and urbanism, treatises on calligraphy and painting, Firuz Shah Tughluq’s account of architectural patronage, the *Irshad Zira’a* on gardens, imperial memoirs, foreign travel account such as those of Tavernier, and selections from documentary genres such as wafiyyas, letters, legal proceedings, hisba manuals, and the Geniza archive. [link]

In 2003 UNESCO adopted the convention to safeguard “intangible cultural heritage,” but the preservation of intangible heritage is problematic both because of the very nature of the “thing” being preserved and because of the politics of preservation itself. For a performative heritage to have and keep its effect, it must not only admit change but reinvent itself through constant iteration. Thus, there are issues of preservation and documentation as well as interpretation and the degree to which a performance today represents the values of a larger cultural identity, past or present. The volume explores the non-material, intangible character of heritage by focusing on the human body as a vehicle for memory, movement, and sound, and considering the problems (such as authenticity, intellectual property rights, and how to preserve something that is, by its very nature, unstable and dynamic) and possibilities (such as revival and revitalization) of implementation of the new UNESCO convention through case studies drawn from around the world. Contributors: Michel Conan, Christopher Fennell, Rajmohan Gandhi, Usha Gandhi, Laura Graham, Janet Keller, Renata Peters, Frank Salomon, Joy Sather-Wagstaff, Amita Sinha, and Isabel Wong. [link]

This book proposes that gardens emerge from specific botanical, climatic, and hydraulic contexts that are also shaped by social factors such as agro-economics, political systems, and the resonance of past gardens, both real and legendary. It addresses these issues from the earliest period of Islamic garden-making in the Mediterranean to Central Asia, India, and the modern period. In one up-to-date scholarly volume, with an accompanying encyclopedia of sites, it provides an accurate resource text for archaeology, architecture, manuscript representations, and literature of Islamic gardens and landscape history. [link]

**Awards:** J.B. Jackson Book Prize from the Foundation for Landscape Studies; publication grant from the Getty Foundation; finalist for the Charles Rufus Morey Book Award from the College Art Association

**Reviews and notices:** *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Journal of Islamic Studies, Gardens Illustrated, The Mediterranean Garden, Choice, Chicago Botanic Gardens Current Books and Book Reviews*


Awards: Allen G. Noble Book Award from the Pioneer America Society

Reviews and notices: Journal of Cultural Geography, Stride Magazine, Landscape Architecture,

Gardens, Landscape, and Vision in the Palaces of Islamic Spain. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000. This book is divided into three parts: landscape and agricultural transformation as documented in the medieval Arabic scientific literature and geographies, the typological formation of the garden and its symbolic meaning in the eighth through tenth centuries, and finally the role of vision and framing in the apparatus of sovereignty from Madinat al-Zahra’ to the Alhambra. link

Awards: Eleanor Tufts Award from the American Society for Hispanic Art Historical Studies, and Millard Meiss Publication Grant from the College Art Association


Women, Patronage, and Self-Representation in Islamic Societies, edited volume. Albany: SUNY Press, 2000. The essays examine occasions when Muslim women from the twelfth century to the present took the stance of viewer, writer, performer or patron of art and literature. They explore the means of female empowerment, ascribing it to genealogical ties, the birth of male heirs, financial independence and the right to inheritance mandated by Islamic law, education, celibacy, and voice (which is dependent on the other categories). Some essays explore the limits to female agency in a world where the public social institutions were run by men; others focus on the rise of self-conscious feminism in the modern world and the active participation of women in public discourse and social institutions. Contributors: Ellison Findly, Elizabeth Brown Frierson, Salah M. Hassan, Nancy Micklewright, Leslie Peirce, Kishwar Rizvi, D. Fairchild Ruggles, Yasser Tabbaa, Lucienne Thys-Senocak, and Ethel Sara Wolper.

Reviews and notices: Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, Middle East Studies Journal, Journal of Islamic Studies, Arthuriana, Choice, and American Journal of Islamic Social Science

Edited journals
Gesta, vol. 43/2 (2004), special issue, “Encounters with Islam: The Medieval Mediterranean Experience,” co-edited with Robert Ousterhout. This is a collection of papers from a symposium that examined the medieval world in terms of frontiers of interaction that were characterized by fluid exchange and cultural hybridity, rather than centers of production.
The Journal of Garden History, vol. 14 (1994), special issue, “Sight and Site in the Garden,” co-edited with Elizabeth Kryder-Reid. The issue presents a range of theoretical and methodological approaches to vision in gardens from the ancient world to the present day. Our introductory essay argues that vision is socially constructed and that its manipulation may articulate relations of power. The issue as a whole presents the garden as not simply the aesthetic manifestation of human values and the conception of humankind within the natural world, but also as an important agent in shaping those perceptions.

Reports, Proceedings, and Short Essays

Cultural Landscapes of Orchha: Reclaiming the Lost Heritage, Amita Sinha and D. Fairchild Ruggles, with Neha Rajora. Champaign: University of Illinois, 2012 (62 pp.).


Panch Yatras in the Cultural Heritage Landscape of Champaner-Pavagadh, Gujarat, India, co-authored with Amita Sinha and James Wescoat, Jr. Champaign: Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois, 2005 (53 pp.).


Champaner-Pavagadh - Cultural Sanctuary, co-authored with Amita Sinha, Gary Kesler, and James Wescoat, Jr. Champaign: Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois, 2004 (49 pp.).


Recent Media


Filmed interview for Perspectives on Faith, Ebru cable television. Turkey/US, broadcast November 11, 2008.

Filmed interview for the two-hour documentary film, Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain, Unity Productions, directed by Robert H. Gardner. Broadcast on PBS (USA, August 2007; Europe, November, 2007; and reruns). (http://video.pbs.org/video/1825311011/) link
Articles and book chapters


“Arabic Poetry and Architectural Memory in al-Andalus,” Ars Orientalis 23 (1993): 171-78. link

“Fountains and Miradors: Architectural Imitation and Ideology among the Taifas,” Künstlerischer Austausch, (Akten


Encyclopedia essays and entries


Review Articles