

Special Issue

Paper-Thin: Imagining, Building and Critiquing Medieval Architecture

Message from the Guest Editor

Cutting and folding can actively generate ideas: according to the ninth-century geographer al-Ya'qūbī, the minaret of the Ibn Tulun Mosque in Cairo is modelled after a piece of paper (or perhaps papyrus) that had been rolled up absentmindedly by the commissioning sultan. Fragile paper was clearly a site for both highly controlled geometrical design and creative play, a freedom traditionally attributed to the Renaissance. This Special Issue will consider paper as an instrument and subject for medieval architectural imagination. Articles may focus on the usefulness and fragility of cut-outs, templates, drawings, and papier mâché models; on temporary, unrealisable, or fictional buildings; on cutting, folding, rolling, turning over as paper-bound forms of design. More broadly, they could consider paper's relationship to parchment and papyrus, and the role of paper as an artistic support in the historiography of medieval and Renaissance architecture.

Guest Editor

Dr. Costanza Beltrami

The Department of History of Art and Centre for Visual Studies,
University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 2JD, UK

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 June 2023)



Arts

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.3



mdpi.com/si/105519

Arts
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
arts@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
arts](https://mdpi.com/journal/arts)





Arts

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.3



[mdpi.com/journal/
arts](https://mdpi.com/journal/arts)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Arts welcomes scholarly contributions that address fundamental issues in the arts, broadly conceived, from any meaningful perspective—theoretical, historical, interdisciplinary, and global. Submissions are expeditiously and rigorously reviewed by peers, in order to insure the highest scholarly standards. Because *Arts* is an online journal, articles reach their desired audiences more quickly and reliably than its print media peers. The future is digital, and *Arts* combines the stringent scholarly standards of traditional journals with the easy accessibility afforded by digitalization.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Andrew M. Nedd

Department of Art History, Savannah College of Art and Design,
Savannah, GA 31402, USA

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within ESCI (Web of Science), and other databases.

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 37.3 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 6.8 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).