THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE PALACE FACADE

Structures of Authority, Surfaces of Sense

CHARLES BURROUGHS
The architectural facade—a crucial and ubiquitous element of traditional cityscapes—addresses and enhances the space of the city, while displaying, or dissembling, interior arrangements. In this book, Charles Burroughs tracks the emergence of the facade in late-medieval Florence and then follows the sharply diverging reactions of Renaissance architects to new demands and possibilities for representation in both residential and governmental contexts. Understanding the facade as an assemblage of elements of diverse character and origin, Burroughs explores the wide range of formal solutions available to architects and patrons. In the absence of explicit reflection on the facade in Renaissance architectural discourse, Burroughs notes the theoretical implications of certain celebrated designs, implying meditation on the nature of architecture itself and the society it serves and represents, as well as on the relationship between nature and culture. He also explores the resonance between shifts in architectural form and social space, and the ideas articulated in the literary production of the period.

Charles Burroughs is Professor of Art History and Director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Binghamton University, SUNY. A scholar of Italian Renaissance architecture, he is the author of From Signs to Design: Environmental Process and Reform in Early Renaissance Rome and has published extensively on early modern Italian visual culture and urbanism, emblems and architecture, and architectural theory.
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PALACE FACADE

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SURFACES OF SENSE

CHARLES BURROUGHS
Binghamton University, SUNY
For Christine and Inna
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