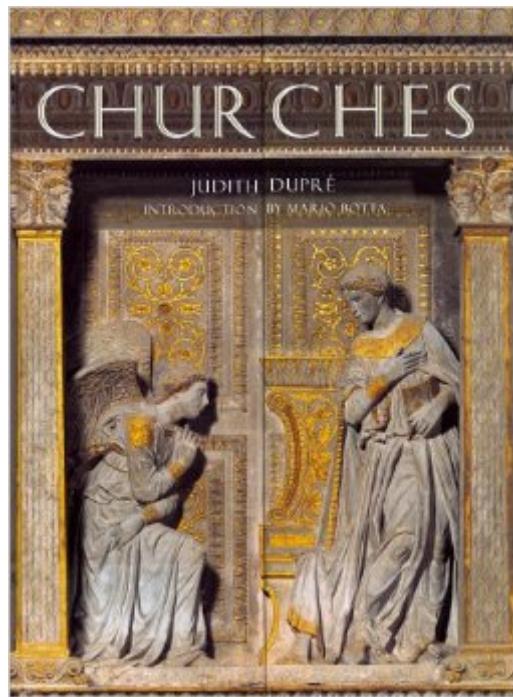


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# Churches



## Synopsis

Humble or grand, wood or marble, churches have given physical shape to humanity's highest spiritual and artistic aspirations over the past twenty centuries. These structures not only stand as monuments to God, they also offer revealing testimony to humanity's immense potential and constant effort to understand, express, and honor the Divine. *Churches* is a work of art that reflects the grandeur of its subject matter. In this compelling book, Judith Dupré, bestselling author of *Skyscrapers and Bridges*, presents an architectural tour of fifty-nine of the world's most enduring Christian churches, from such celebrated landmarks as St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois., and Le Corbusier's Chapel at Notre-Dame-du-Haut in Ronchamp, France, to lesser-known masterpieces, including Huialoha Congregational Church on Maui and the Church on the Water in Hokkaido, Japan. Special theme essays cover the earliest Christian churches, the construction of Gothic cathedrals, the evolution of the baptismal font, churches designed by contemporary artists, and the revival of meditative labyrinth walking. With stunning imagery, fascinating essays, and an innovative design, this book is rich with factual detail and beautiful photography presented in an inviting, browsable format. Ms. Dupré offers a nuanced portrait of each structure, blending its architectural history with a deep appreciation for art and a reverence for religious traditions. Encompassing houses of worship from six major Christian denominations and all corners of the earth, *Churches* is a powerful chronology of faith and achievement that will inspire anyone interested in architecture, art, travel, religion, or photography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As like Judith Dupre's other books on architecture, the physical form immediately connects you to the subject matter: "Churches" opens in the center like an ancient tabernacle, and begins it's display of remarkabley picked photos of the world's most important historic churches accompanied by a finely researched text comparable to Dupre's other literary landmarks for architecture. Each page also contains famous quotes, important first-glance facts, and a delicate strip of passages from the bible leading from one page to the next. Begining with the Pantheon, the book's historic churches are contrasted by contemporary works by architects such as Ando, Pelli, Johnson, Fay Jones, Siza, Legoretta, etc. Many of the photos themselves are historical, such as the oldest known view of Wall Street, or the opening day of the second Vatican council, to the first IKONOS image of St. Peter's Square taken 400 miles above earth. And so these extraordinary images are accompanied by fascinating stories and facts that immerse you into the voyage of humanity's unending quest in making the house of worship. "Churches" also opens with the first in-depth English interview that Mario Botta, a preeminent church-builder in Europe, has ever given. From the cover, to the endpapers, to the center's two-page lay-out of the restored Sistine Ceiling, the book is a joy to handle, and every page a joy to turn as you enter into an informative and visual journey of history's most fascinating places of worship. Thank you Ms. Dupre'!

This is a superb, very large (in both scope and physical size) work that covers the history, architecture, and social aspects of major world churches. From small chapels to huge cathdrals, this book is an explosion of color and information. Especially helpful are the "data-lines" at the bottom of each church's section, giving an 'at-a-glance' view of designer, years constructed, congregation/denomination served, etc. This book is worth the money for the lavish pictures alone. If sacred buildings call to you, then this book is for you. You'll really enjoy it.

The cover design is a vital clue to the treasure that lies within. Judith Dupre held my interest with her essays in Skyscrapers and Bridges. But, I'm enthralled with the layers of information she offers in Churches.Her switch to color photography is appropriate for the subject. How else could we appreciate the golden glow of the mosaics in Venice's Basilica San Marco or the colorful mosaics in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis?I'm intrigued by the choices for inclusion and am left wishing I knew about the ones that didn't make the cut.My favorite touch -- the ticker of biblical prose and

poetry running from page to page across the top edge. My Christmas shopping is going to be very easy this year!

Anyone who has travelled, particularly through Europe, will attest to the fact there are some magnificent examples of architecture, culture and history to be found in exquisite churches. This book is a fine example of the history that has been preserved throughout the years. The reader will marvel at the unique shot of St. Peter's Square, the intricate restoration of the Sistine Ceiling and the breath-taking wonder of La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Spain has, without question, some of the most incredible, historic churches in existence. I thought the book could have been a more conventional size in dimension. It is rather cumbersome, but overall the book is still a prime example of the elegance, grace and splendor of many impressive and majestic churches.

A simply wonderful book! For those who love architecture and history, it is first rate - the photography is outstanding, the essays document the history and styles over a number of centuries. It is a real pleasure to just peruse the pages. More impressive to me than the documentary aspect is the humanity found in the essays. The author maintains a thread throughout the book - that of our ever-present desire to reestablish and maintain a relationship with God. Each church has a very human story behind it, illustrating this point and bringing the often grand scale of the structure into something more relatable and meaningful. I found the book heartening and warm. It seems particularly appropriate in these times of uncertainty. I can't recommend it enough.

I own and love two earlier books by Judith Dupre ("Bridges" and "Skyscrapers") both of which include truly exceptional b/w photographs. I'd heard that she was working on "Churches" and I anticipated it to be similar to the others. Well, in some very positive ways, it is. The degree of diligence in her research is the same. Her choice of subjects is, as before, impeccable. The quotations she includes are apt and inspire further exploration by readers. Her selection of Mario Botta, prominent Italian architect, to write the introduction was a brilliant move. All this, and then, COLOR photos, wonderful color photos! Upon opening this book, I felt a kinship with the discoverer of King Tut's tomb when first he laid eyes on the riches therein. I'm looking forward to her next publication with great expectation.

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