Architecture and Mathematics in Ancient Egypt

Corinna Rossi
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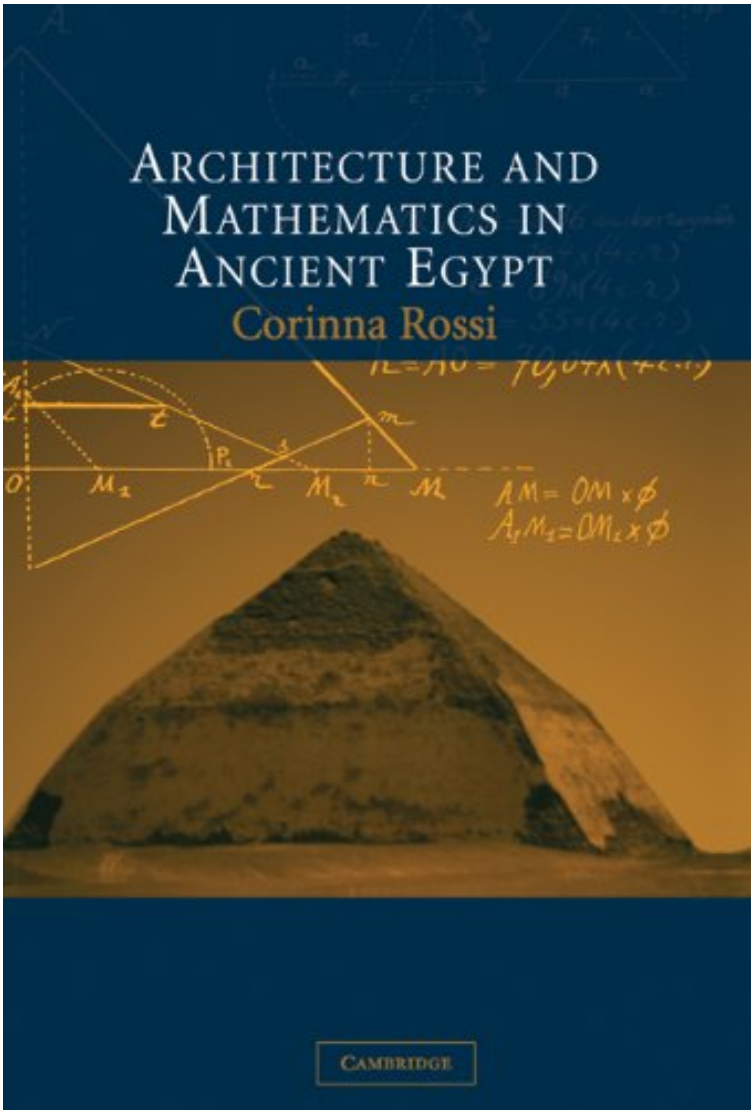

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Corinna Rossi : Architecture and Mathematics in Ancient Egypt before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture and Mathematics in Ancient Egypt:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exhaustive review and thesisBy SankhmmrCorinna Rossi's book is a thorough review of the many theories about the logic behind the construction of ancient Kmt's (i.e. Egypt's) pyramids. Because Rossi is writing from the point of view of an academic proof, most of the book is an exposition of these theories, then a consideration of the proof, and then a conclusion drawn about the theory. This is interesting stuff. However, if what you wanted was a deep dive into what the Kmtians really were up to then all you need to know is the Seked, according to Rossi.Check out the book from a university library if you want the arguments. Otherwise, save

yourself some money and look up 'seked' on a search engine.18 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Cambridge's normal skeptical viewBy MiloSeveral reviews of this book, published elsewhere, stressthe contents of Rossi's analysis were more focused towardthe skeptical side of Egyptian math and construction methods.Rossi, therefore is being fairly depicted as publishing new information within unproven paradigms.On the math side, Rossi mentions Fibonacci's algorithmand phi, two paradigms that clearly were not used in ancientEgypt, though many like to suggest that they were. TheFibonacci algorithm idea was introduced after 1891 and J.J.Sylvester's skeptical views of the RMP's 2/nth table, arereference point to 1202 AD and the Liber Abaci, but nota reference point of Egypt. Egypt used more subtle ideaslike [...] and [...] .Yet, Hultsch in 1895 clearly showed that Ahmes in 1650 BCeasily wrote out 2/p series into short and concise unitfraction series using a very simple partitioning method(as Ahmes wrote out n/p answers in his 'false position'algebra problems, ie. 5/19 written out in a long awkwardseries using 1/12th as the first partition, as he did for 2/19,as describe a couple paragraphs below. Ahmes wrote 5/19per, 5/19 - 1/12 = (60 - 19)/(12*19) = (38 + 2 + 1)/(12*19)or, 5/19 = 1/6 + 1/12 + 1/114 + 1/228).Clearly modern scholars (two being Robins-Shute) have often suggested that 'false supposition' was used by Ahmes, hintingthat Ahmes guessed at his answers. Ahmes never guessed! Ahmes'answers were always exact when he worked with rational numbers.Moderm scholars were the ones that had guessed, and missed, finding Ahmes deeper methods. Interestingly no scholar, untilvery recently, has claimed to have read Ahmes' shorthandnotes. Modern scholars had sadly filled inlogical gaps leftby Ahmes with their own intellectual guesses - many of whichhave been proven to be wrong (as Rossi had not learned, sincehe referenced none of the controversial Eguptian fraction and weights and measures issues).Bruins also discovered the Hultsch method in 1945, and todaythe method is named the Hultsch-Bruin method. It says that2/p = 1/A + (2A -p)/Apwhere A, a highly divisible number selected in the range p/2

In this fascinating study, architect and Egyptologist Corinna Rossi analyses the relationship between mathematics and architecture in ancient Egypt by exploring the use of numbers and geometrical figures in ancient architectural projects and buildings. While previous architectural studies have searched for abstract 'universal rules' to explain the history of Egyptian architecture, Rossi attempts to reconcile the different approaches of archaeologists, architects and historians of mathematics into a single coherent picture. Using a study of a specific group of monuments, the pyramids, and placing them in the context of their cultural and historical background, Rossi argues that theory and practice of construction must be considered as a continuum, not as two separated fields, in order to allow the original planning process of a building to re-emerge. Highly illustrated with plans, diagrams and figures, this book is essential reading for all scholars of Ancient Egypt and the architecture of ancient cultures.

"Rossi's book is a fascinating and worthwhile study of ancient Egyptian mathematics and architectural planning." Vanessa Smith, Expedition"Rossi has provided a fine introduction and overview of ancient Egyptian architecture. Throughout, the book is well written, clearly structured and richly illustrated. Its success is built likewise on her double expertise in architecture and Egyptology, and on her attempt to cast her net for evidence wide enough to include textual as well as archaelogical evidence. She succeeds in reconciling the two types of sources to a detailed picture of the ancient architects, and it can only be hoped that this book will be followed by further research of the same kind." - Annette Imhausen, Cambridge University"This beautifully written book explores ancient Egyptian building design in the light of surviving evidence of how the Egyptians planned and laid out their monuments and how they manipulated the numbers. Rossi's goal is to peel away anachronistic interpretations of the ancient structures and to find explanations matching a full range of primary sources. She succeeds admirably and her clear-eyed approach, informed by common sense and a grain of skepticism, results in a provocative and convincing study." - Diana Wolfe LarkinAbout the AuthorDr Corinna Rossi teaches Egyptology at the Circolo Filologico Milanese.