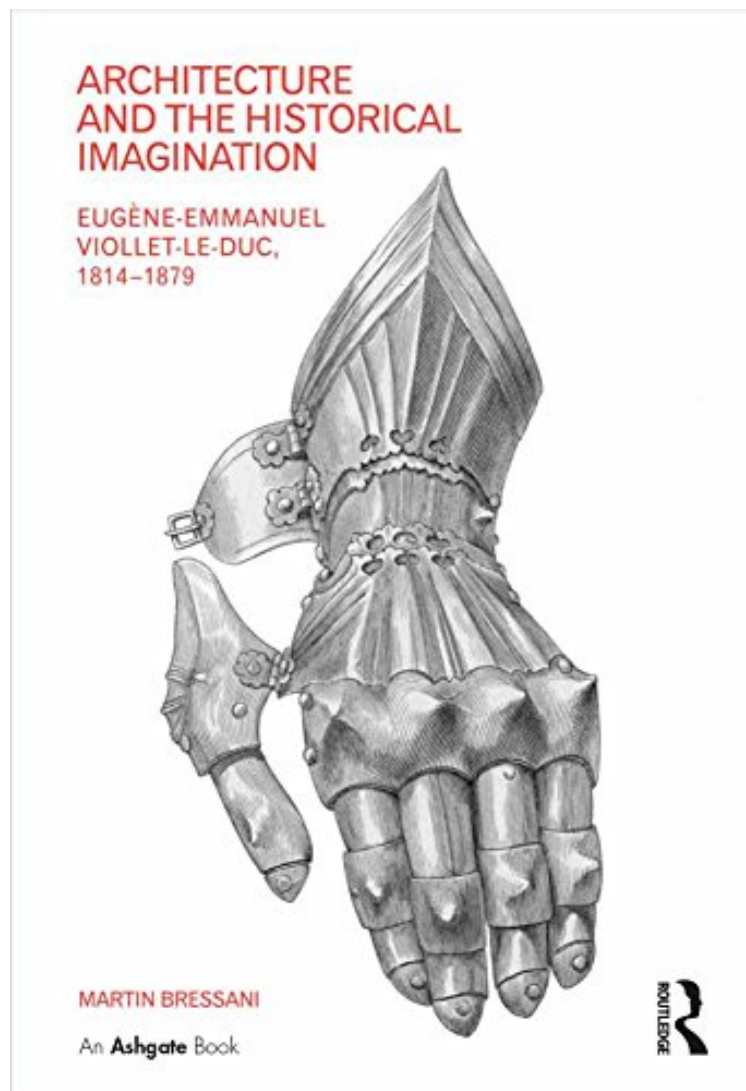


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Architecture and the Historical Imagination: Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, 1814–1879 (Reinterpreting 19th Century Architecture)

Martin Bressani

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Viollet-le-Duc, 1814–1879 (Reinterpreting 19th Century Architecture):

Hailed as one of the key theoreticians of modernism, Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc was also the most renowned restoration architect of his age, a celebrated medieval archaeologist and a fervent champion of Gothic revivalism. He published some of the most influential texts in the history of modern architecture such as the *Dictionnaire raisonné de l'architecture française du XI^e au XVI^e siècle* and *Entretiens sur l'architecture*, but also studies on warfare, geology and racial history. Martin Bressani expertly traces Viollet-le-Duc's complex intellectual development, mapping the attitudes he adopted toward the past, showing how restoration, in all its layered meaning, shaped his outlook. Through his life journey, we follow the route by which the technological subject was born out of nineteenth-century historicism.

'This is a magnum opus, in more than one sense of the term. An important work, the product of vast research and dedicated scholarship, Bressani's biographical study is a timely contribution not only to architectural studies but also to the field of historical culture in general. Through tracing Viollet-le-Duc's achievement in relation to the broad transition from Romanticism to Modernity, Bressani succeeds in bringing out his wider significance as an artist and thinker, and as a major figure in French Romanticism.' --Stephen Bann, Bristol University, UK
About the Author
Martin Bressani is Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director at the School of Architecture, McGill University, Canada.