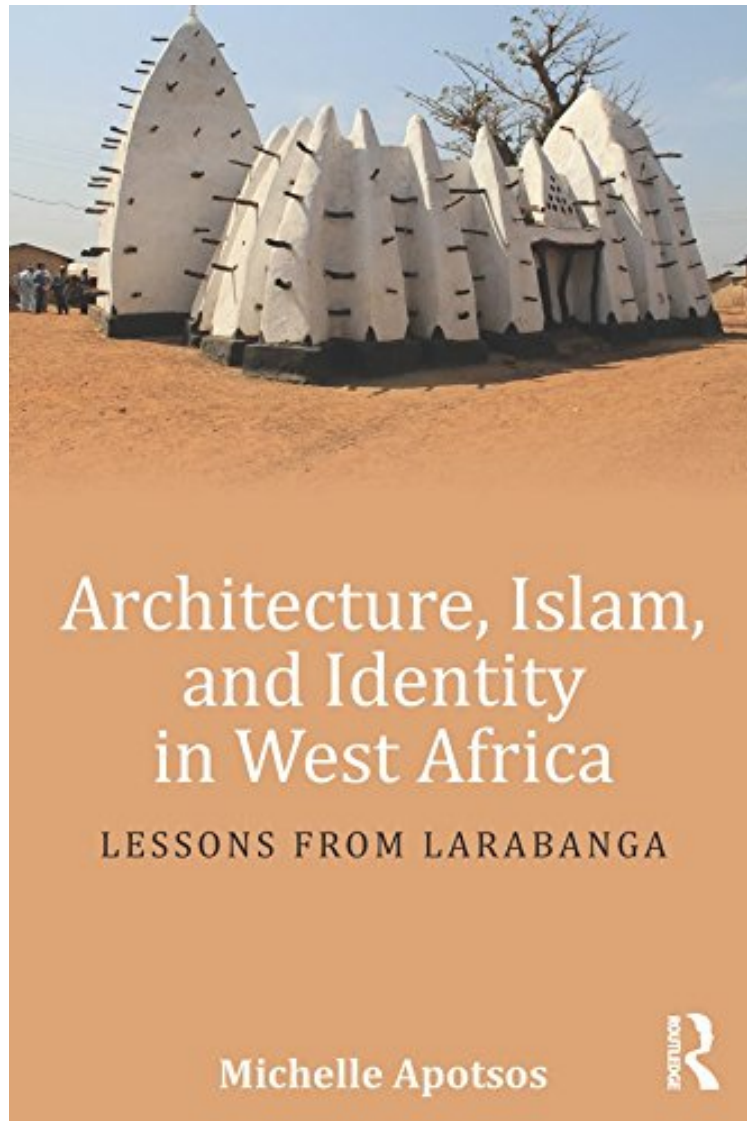


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Architecture, Islam, and Identity in West Africa: Lessons from Larabanga

Michelle Apotsos

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Michelle Apotsos : Architecture, Islam, and Identity in West Africa: Lessons from Larabanga before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture, Islam, and Identity in West Africa: Lessons from Larabanga:

Architecture, Islam, and Identity in West Africa shows you the relationship between architecture and Islamic identity

in West Africa. The book looks broadly across Muslim West Africa and takes an in-depth study of the village of Larabanga, a small Muslim community in Northern Ghana, to help you see how the built environment encodes cultural history through form, material, and space, creating an architectural narrative that outlines the contours of this distinctive Muslim identity. Apotsos explores how modern technology, heritage, and tourism have increasingly affected the contemporary architectural character of this community, revealing the villagers' current state of social, cultural, and spiritual flux. More than 60 black and white images illustrate how architectural components within this setting express the distinctive narratives, value systems, and realities that make up the unique composition of this Afro-Islamic community.

"Apotsos gives us a rich and nuanced story of one northern Ghanaian community's Islamic architecture and the dynamic relationships between its built environment and local Islamic practices and cultural identities. While these relationships are located within the long history of Islam in West Africa they are equally responsive to new building technologies, to post-colonial national heritage practices, and to a growing international tourism." - Mary Jo Arnoldi, Curator of African ethnology and arts, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA "A detailed and nuanced study of the built environment of a small rural community in northern Ghana, set within a broad discussion of the history of architecture in Muslim societies in West Africa and beyond. Apotsos successfully demonstrates how the ever-changing meanings people ascribe to historic structures contribute to shaping the identities of individuals, communities, and nations. A must-read for anyone interested in the visual cultures of Islam in Africa." - Raymond A. Silverman, History of Art and Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, USA About the Author Michelle Apotsos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art at Williams College, Massachusetts, USA, where she specializes in African architecture and the arts of the Afro-Islamic world. Her research focuses on the intersections between Afro-Islamic identity, architecture, and modernization as they are occurring in contemporary Africa. She received her PhD from Stanford University, USA, in 2013.