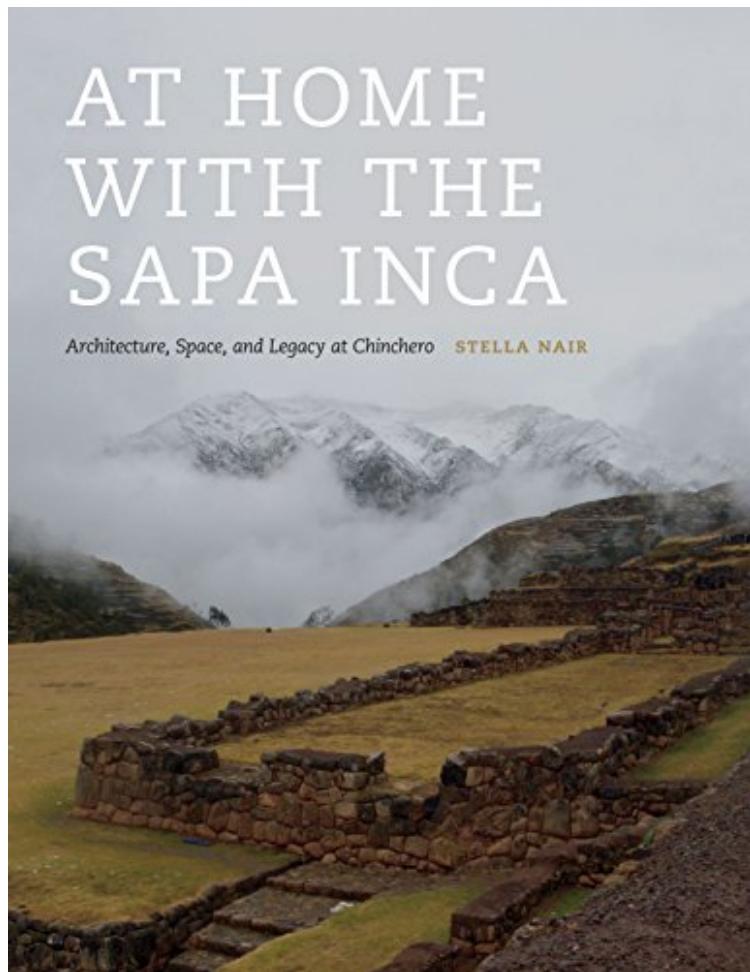


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## **At Home with the Sapa Inca: Architecture, Space, and Legacy at Chinchero (Recovering Languages and Literacies of the Americas)**

*Stella Nair*

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**Stella Nair : At Home with the Sapa Inca: Architecture, Space, and Legacy at Chinchero (Recovering Languages and Literacies of the Americas)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised At Home with the Sapa Inca: Architecture, Space, and Legacy at Chinchero (Recovering Languages and Literacies of the Americas):

By examining the stunning stone buildings and dynamic spaces of the royal estate of Chinchero, Nair brings to light the rich complexity of Inca architecture. This investigation ranges from the paradigms of Inca scholarship and a summary of Inca cultural practices to the key events of Topa Inca's reign and the many individual elements of

Chinchero's extraordinary built environment. What emerges are the subtle, often sophisticated ways in which the Inca manipulated space and architecture in order to impose their authority, identity, and agenda. The remains of grand buildings, as well as a series of deft architectural gestures in the landscape, reveal the unique places that were created within the royal estate and how one space deeply informed the other. These dynamic settings created private places for an aging ruler to spend time with a preferred wife and son, while also providing impressive spaces for imperial theatrics that reiterated the power of Topa Inca, the choice of his preferred heir, and the ruler's close relationship with sacred forces. This careful study of architectural details also exposes several false paradigms that have profoundly misguided how we understand Inca architecture, including the belief that it ended with the arrival of Spaniards in the Andes. Instead, Nair reveals how, amidst the entanglement and violence of the European encounter, an indigenous town emerged that was rooted in Inca ways of understanding space, place, and architecture and that paid homage to a landscape that defined home for Topa Inca.

"Nair's book is an important contribution to Andean scholarship, demonstrating that a nuanced appreciation of architectural space can result in surprising insights about an ancient culture." -- Jerry Moore, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*"This volume is a major contribution to the field. . . . Nair is eminently qualified to conduct this study, and her arguments and conclusions are extremely well supported." -- Gordon F. McEwan, Professor and Chair of Anthropology, Wagner College [author of *The Incas: New Perspectives* and *Pikillacta: The Wari Empire in Cuzco*; and coauthor of *Moray: Inca Engineering Mystery*] "This book will be heralded by architectural historians, art historians, archaeologists, ethnohistorians, and Andeanists of all disciplines. . . . [it is] a welcome addition to studies of Inca royal estates, the operations of the Inca state, Inca architecture and the built environment, and Inca history." -- Carolyn Dean, Professor, History of Art and Visual Culture, University of California, Santa Cruz, [author of *A Culture of Stone: Inka Perspectives on Rock and Inka Bodies and the Body of Christ: Corpus Christi in Colonial Cuzco, Peru*] "This is an impressive and important contribution to Andean studies and to the anthropological study of landscape and architecture. The volume is full of nuanced analyses of the construction and experience of Chinchero. Nair presents fascinating interpretations throughout the book and touches on a wide range of theoretical domains. . . . [A] wonderful and erudite book that will inform analyses of the Inca state for years to come." -- Scott Smith, American Anthropologist "This is exactly the sort of book I wanted. This is exactly the sort of book you probably want, if you're interested in the Inca and even possibly if you aren't. Of all the Inca Imperial material I've read, this is the one I would recommend most highly." -- marissalingen.com "As eloquent and sure-footed as it is insightful and practical, both generalists and specialists will appreciate the volume's detailed analysis of Inca architecture and landscape rooted in close observation and measurement, archaeology, ethnohistoric sources, and the acuity of a phenomenological methodology. . . . In sum, At Home with the Sapa Inca is a critical addition to Andean studies." -- Jeremy George, CAA s (College Art Association s). . . . This volume is a major contribution to the field. It represents a comprehensive study of an Inca royal estate and presents the remarkable amount of information that an architectural study can glean from even a 500-year-old ruin. The book's contributions not only consist of new information regarding the structure and function of the estate at Chinchero but also represent a major addition to the study of Inca architecture in general. . . . Nair is eminently qualified to conduct this study, and her arguments and conclusions are extremely well supported.. (Gordon F. McEwan, Professor and Chair of Anthropology, Wagner College; author of *The Incas: New Perspectives* and *Pikillacta: The Wari Empire in Cuzco*; and coauthor of *Moray: Inca Engineering Mystery*). This book will be heralded by architectural historians, art historians, archaeologists, ethnohistorians, and Andeanists of all disciplines. . . . The author builds significantly on previous studies of Inca royal estates (chiefly those by Morris and Niles) by focusing on the site of Chinchero. . . . The book will make a significant contribution to Andean studies and will be a welcome addition to studies of Inca royal estates, the operations of the Inca state, Inca architecture and the built environment, and Inca history.. (Carolyn Dean, Professor, History of Art and Visual Culture, University of California, Santa Cruz, and author of *A Culture of Stone: Inka Perspectives on Rock and Inka Bodies and the Body of Christ: Corpus Christi in Colonial Cuzco, Peru*) About the Author Trained as an architect and architectural historian, Stella Nair is Associate Professor in the Department of Art History and Core Faculty in the Archaeology Interdepartmental Program at UCLA. She coauthored (with Jean-Pierre Protzen) *The Stones of Tiahuanaco: A Study of Architecture and Construction*.