

ROBERT BORK

School of Art and Art History, The University of Iowa
Art Building West, North Riverside Drive, Iowa City, IA 52242
Phone: 319-335-1762
E-mail: robert-bork@uiowa.edu

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Education

Princeton University.

Ph.D., Architectural History, 1996; M.A. 1993.

University of California, Santa Cruz.

M.S., Physics, 1990. Passed qualifying exams for candidacy to Ph.D., 1991.

Harvard University.

B.A. Cum Laude, Physics, 1989.

Granville High School, Granville, Ohio.

Graduated Valedictorian, 1985.

Professional and academic positions

University of Iowa. Professor.

Fall 1998 to Spring 2004 as Assistant Professor; promoted May 2004 to Associate Professor;
promoted May 2012 to Full Professor.

Florida Atlantic University. Assistant Professor.

Fall 1997-Spring 1998.

Sewanee, The University of the South. Visiting Assistant Professor.

Fall 1996-Spring 1997.

University of Connecticut. Visiting Lecturer.

Fall 1995.

Washington Cathedral. Technical Consultant.

Periodic employment between 1993 and 1995.

SCHOLARSHIP I: PUBLICATIONS

Books (sole author)

- 1) *Late Gothic Architecture: Its Evolution, Extinction, and Reception* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2018), 562 pages.
- 2) *The Geometry of Creation: Architectural Drawing and the Dynamics of Gothic Design* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2011), 462 pages. *The Geometry of Creation* has been reviewed
by Mailan Doquang in *Speculum* 87.3 (July, 2012), 842-844,
by Stefan Bürger in *Sehepunkte*, www.sehepunkte.de/2012/07/20750.html,
by Eric Fernie in *The Burlington Magazine* CLV, March 2013, 179-80,
by David Yeomans in *Construction History Society*, Jan 2013, 23-25,
by Paul Binski in *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 166, 2013, 212-14,
by Paul Crossley in *Architectural History*, 56, 2013, 13-14, and
by Michael Davis in *JSAH* 73, 1 (March, 2014), 169-171.
- 3) *Gotische Türme in Mitteleuropa* (Petersberg, Germany: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2008), 214 pages.
- 4) *Great Spires: Skyscrapers of the New Jerusalem* (Cologne, Germany: The University of Cologne, 2003), 504 pages. *Great Spires* has been reviewed
by Abby McGehee, in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 65 (December, 2006), 615-616, and
by Achim Timmermann, on arthist.net, at
[www.arthist.net/download/book/2005/051129_Timmermann .pdf](http://www.arthist.net/download/book/2005/051129_Timmermann.pdf)

Books (principal editor and organizer)

- 1) *New Approaches to Medieval Architecture* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2011), 258 pages.
- 2) *The Art, Science, and Technology of Medieval Travel* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008), 240 pages.
- 3) *De Re Metallica: The Medieval Uses of Metals* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005), 442 pages.

Refereed contributions to books and journals

- “Gothic Architecture,” in the *Oxford Bibliographies Online* project, entry co-written with Marc Carel Schurr, published on-line in 2018.
- “The Regensburg and Rouen Spire Drawings: A Geometrical Inquiry into Two Puzzles in Architectural Representation,” to be published in Karl Kinsella, ed. *Architectural Representation in the Middle Ages* (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2019).
- “Postface” for *L'Architecture flamboyante en France. Autour de Roland Sanfaçon*, ed. Stéphanie-Diane Daussy-Timbert: (Lille: Presses universitaires du Septentrion, forthcoming 2019).
- “The Geometrical Roots of Gothic Design and Aesthetics: The Case of the Cologne Cathedral Choir,” to be published in David Punter, ed., *The Edinburgh University Press Companion to Gothic and the Arts* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018).
- “Geometrie, Proportionen, und Vermessungen in der Liebfrauenkirche,” in Stefan Heinz and Andreas Tacke, eds, *Liebfrauen in Trier – Architektur und Ausstattung von der Gotik bis zur Gegenwart* (Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2016), 187-98.
- “Changing Geometries in the Reims North Transept,” in Jennifer Feltman, ed., *New Perspectives on the North Transept of Reims Cathedral* (London and New York: Routledge, 2016), 65-84.
- “La géométrie de la façade de Strasbourg et ses implications pour la question Erwin von Steinbach,” *Bulletin de la Société des Amis de la Cathédrale de Strasbourg* 31 (2014): 97-128.
- “Dynamic Unfolding and the Conventions of Procedure: Geometric Proportioning Strategies in Gothic Architectural Design,” *Architectural Histories* 2 (2014): 1-20,
- “Gothic Vaulting and the Dynamics of Plan Design” in David Wendland and Katja Schröck, eds., *Traces of Making* (Petersberg: Imhof, 2014), 57-69.
- “Gotischer Baubetrieb am Aachener Münsterchor,” in *Sie glänzte wie ein kostbarer Edelstein, wie ein kristallklarer Jaspis. 600 Jahre Aachener Chorhalle*, Karl-Dombauverein 16 (Aachen: Dombauverein, 2014), 22-42, co-authored with Norbert Nussbaum.
- “The Chevet Plan at Notre-Dame in Paris: A Geometrical Analysis,” in *Architectural Histories* 2(1), 2014. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/ah.bq.s1>
- “The Geometry of Bourges Cathedral,” in *Architectural Histories* 2(1), 2014 (runner-up for ARIAH on-line article prize, 2015).
- “Gothic Drawings and the Shaping of Space” in Meredith Cohen and Fanny Madeline, eds, *Space in the Medieval West* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014), 51-75.
- “Ground Plan Geometries in Suger’s St-Denis: A Prototype for Altenberg,” in Astrid Lang and Julian Jachmann, eds. *Aufmass und Diskurs* (Berlin: Lukas Verlag, 2013), 55-68.
- “The Linked Geometries of Reims Cathedral’s Nave Section and West Façade,” *AVISTA Forum* 23 (2013), 78-84.
- “Neue Überlegungen zur Geometrie des Chores,” “Geometrie in den Fensterwänden des Langhauses,” and “Die Geometrie der Westfassade” in Norbert Nussbaum and Sabine Lepsky, *Gotische Konstruktion und Baupraxis an der Zisterzienserkirche Altenberg, Band 2 Quer- und Langhaus* (Bergisch Gladbach; Altenberg Dom-Verein, 2012), 75-88.
- “La géométrie de Notre-Dame de Jumièges,” in James Morganstern, ed., *Notre-Dame de Jumièges* (forthcoming).
- “Geometrische Entwurfsverfahren Am Münsterturm: Neue Ergebnisse der Zeichnungsforschung,” in *Der Freiburger Münsterturm und sein europäischer Kontext* (Freiburg: LMU, forthcoming).
- “Gothic Towers and Spires,” in the *Cambridge World History of Religious Architecture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).
- “Provisional Investigation of Geometric Proportions in 15th-century Cologne Panel Painting,” *Zeitschrift für Kunsttechnologie und Konservierung* 1/2012, 84-92.
- “The Unspeakable Logic of Gothic Architecture” in Monique Chatenet, ed., *Le Gothique de la Renaissance* (Paris: Picard, 2011), 115-123.

Refereed contributions to books and journals, continued

- “Ars Sine Historia Nihil Est? How the ‘Story Deficit’ Helped to Doom Gothic Architecture,” in Achim Timmermann and Zoë Opacic, eds, *Architecture, Liturgy, and Identity* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2011), 323-34.
- “Villard’s Laon Tower Drawings and the Visual Transmission of Architectural Ideas” in Robert Bork, ed., *New Approaches to Medieval Architecture* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2011), 159-167.
- “Stacking and ‘Octature’ in the Geometry of Cologne Plan F,” in Zoë Opacic and Alexandra Gajewski eds, *The Year 1300 and the Creation of a New European Architecture* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2008), 93-110.
- “Art, Science, and Evolution,” in Elizabeth Mansfield, ed., *Making Art History: A Changing Discipline and Its Institutions* (New York: Routledge, 2007), 187-201.
- “The Geometrical Structure of Strasbourg Plan A: A hypothetical step-by-step reconstruction” *AVISTA Forum* 16.1 (Fall 2006), 14-22.
- “Plan B and the Geometry of Façade Design at Strasbourg Cathedral, 1250-1350,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 64 (December 2005): 442-73.
- “The Middle Ages as Metal Ages,” in *De Re Metallica: The Medieval Uses of Metals* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005).
- “Turmhelme und Kleinkunst der Parlerzeit,” in *Parlerbauten: Architektur, Skulptur, Restaurierung* (Stuttgart: Konrad Theiss, 2004), 189-96.
- “Rock, Spires, Paper: Technical Aspects of Gothic Spires,” in *Villard’s Legacy: Studies in Medieval Technology, Science, and Art in Memory of Jean Gimpel* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004), 135-56.
- “Into Thin Air: France, Germany, and the Invention of the Openwork Spire,” *Art Bulletin* 85 (March 2003): 25-53.
- “Geometry and Scenography in the Late Gothic Choir of Metz Cathedral,” in *Ad Quadratum: The Practical Application of Geometry in Medieval Architecture* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2002), 243-67.
- “Pros and Cons of Stratigraphic Models in Art History,” *Res* 40 (Autumn 2001): 77-87.
- “Art-Historical Taxonomy and the Morphology of Toledo Cathedral,” *AVISTA Forum* 10.2/11.1 (Fall 1997/Spring 1998): 31-37.
- “The Openwork Flying Buttresses of Amiens Cathedral,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 56 (December 1997): 478-93, co-authored with Robert Mark and Stephen Murray.

Shorter invited essays

- Review of Hans Böker’s *Michael von Savoyen und der Fassadenriss des Kölner Doms*, in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, forthcoming 2019.
- Review of Merlijn Hurx’s *Architecture as Profession: The Origins of Architectural Practice in the Low Countries in the Fifteenth Century* in *Speculum*, forthcoming 2019.
- Review of Anthony Emery’s *Seats of Power in Europe during the Hundred Years War*, in *Speculum* 93, no. 4 (October 2018): 1194-1195.
- Review of Meredith Cohen’s *The Sainte-Chapelle and the Construction of Sacral Monarchy: Royal Architecture in Thirteenth-Century Paris* in *H-France*;
<http://www.h-france.net/vol15reviews/vol15no161bork.pdf>
- Review of Tim Jukes’s *The Parish and Pilgrimage Church of St Elizabeth in Košice Town, Court, and Architecture in Late Medieval Hungary* in *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 167 (2014): 228-229.
- Review of Ethan Matt Kavaler’s *Renaissance Gothic*, in *The Burlington Magazine* 1316 (November 2012): 793-794.
- “Gothic Architecture, Geometry, and the Aesthetics of Transcendence,” in *UNIVERSITAS* 7 (2011-2012).
- Review of *Der Dom zu Regensburg*, in *Sehepunkte* (www.sehepunkte.de/2011/07/19252.html).
- Review of Johann Josef Böker’s *Architektur der Gotik*, *Speculum* 83.1 (January 2008): 177-79.
- “Stairways to Heaven: Gothic Architecture, Heavy Metal, and the Aesthetics of Transcendence” in the *Medieval Academy Newsletter* 157 (Spring, 2007): 10.

SCHOLARSHIP II: Invited lectures and conference presentations**International**

- Forum Kunst des Mittelalters, “Konformität und Selbstkonkurrenz in Regensburg und Metz,” Zürich, Switzerland, September, 2019.
- Oxford University: “Compression, Convention, and Communication in the Medieval Representation of Architecture,” Oxford, England, April, 2017.
- Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference: “Reframing the Latest Gothic Architecture,” Bruges, Belgium, August 2016.
- Courtauld Institute of Art: “Gothic Drawings and the Transmission of Geometrical Knowledge across Time, Space, and Media,” London, England, November, 2015.
- Forum Kunst des Mittelalters, “Zwischen Aufriss and Auszug: Wandelnde geometrische Entwurfstrategien in den Plänen für die Strassburger Münsterfassade,” Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, September, 2013.
- Universität Trier, “Geometrie, Proportion, und Vermessung in der Liebfrauenkirche,” Trier, Germany, October, 2012.
- TU Dresden, “Gothic Vaulting and the Dynamics of Plan Design,” Dresden, Germany, January, 2012.
- Wallraf-Richartz Museum, “Geometrie in Kölnische Tafelmalerei,” Cologne, Germany, November, 2011.
- Forum Kunst des Mittelalters: “Geometrie und Modularität im gotischen Bauprozess,” Halberstadt, Germany, September, 2011 (with Norbert Nussbaum).
- University of Vienna: “Neue Beobachtungen über die Geometrie der Türme des Stephansdoms,” Vienna, Austria, June, 2011.
- Leiden University: “Dynamic Proportioning Strategies in Gothic Architecture,” Leiden, the Netherlands, March, 2011.
- Albert-Ludwigs University, Freiburg: “Geometrische Entwurfsverfahren am Münsterturm: Neue Ergebnisse der Zeichnungsforschung” Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, September, 2010.
- International Medieval Society Annual Colloquium: “Gothic Drawing and the Production of Space,” Paris, France, June, 2009.
- Deutscher Kunsthistorikertag, “German-American Relations in Architectural History—Experts and Networks,” Marburg, Germany, March, 2009 (with Norbert Nussbaum).
- CNRS Centre André Chastel, colloquium on Gothic Architecture in the Renaissance: “La logique indicible de l’architecture gothique,” Paris, France, June, 2007; English versions presented at Stanford University in April, 2007, and at the University of California, Berkeley, in May, 2007.
- University of Toronto: “The ‘Unspeakable’ Logic of Gothic Architectural Design,” Toronto, Canada, October, 2006.
- University of Cologne: “Gothic Architectural Design,” special three-day seminar team-taught in German with Professor Norbert Nussbaum, Cologne, Germany, January, 2006.
- University of Cologne: “Tower Design at Vienna’s Stephansdom in the 15th Century,” Cologne, Germany, May, 2005.
- Courtauld Institute of Art: “The Geometry of Rhenish Façade Design around 1300,” London UK, May, 2005.
- Courtauld Institute of Art: “Geometry and Competition in Central European Tower Design,” invited lecture delivered in London, UK, November, 2003.
- Leeds International Medieval Congress: “The Constructive Geometry of Plan B for Strasbourg Cathedral,” Leeds, UK, July 2002.
- Leeds International Medieval Congress: principal organizer for a series of five sessions dealing with the medieval use of metal, Leeds, UK, July, 2002.
- McGill University: Invited as colloquium speaker to give two talks, “Geometry in Gothic Spire Design,” and “Medieval Spires and their Meanings,” Montreal, Canada, October, 2001.
- International Colloquium on the Parler Dynasty of Medieval Builders: “Turmhelme und Kleinkunst der Parlerzeit,” invited lecture given in Schwäbisch-Gmünd, Germany, July 2001.
- Canadian Medieval Art Historians’ Conference: “Macro- and Micro-Architectural Paradigms in Gothic Spire Design,” Montreal, Canada, March 2001.
- Leeds International Medieval Congress: session chair and commentary for “Late Gothic Architecture: Towards an Integrated Approach,” Leeds, UK, July 1999.

Domestic presentations

- College Art Association, "Reassessing the Lateness of Late Gothic Architecture," Chicago IL, February, 2020.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "From the Square to the Scanner: Revisiting the Geometries of Reims and Metz Cathedrals using LiDAR," Kalamazoo MI, May, 2019 (with Rebecca Smith).
- Festschrift presentation for Stephen Murray, "The Invention of the Openwork Spire," recorded for delivery at Columbia University, New York NY, May, 2018.
- Chicago Architecture Biennial, contribution to panel "Everything old is new again: Digital History and Digital Practice in Architecture," at DePaul University, Chicago IL, September, 2017.
- Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference: "Dimenticando ogni lor cosa di ordine"? The Renaissance Myth of Gothic License," Chicago IL, April, 2017.
- The University of Nebraska, Omaha: "Fantasy and Reality in the Medieval Representation of Architecture," Omaha NE, November, 2016.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "The Revival of Geometrical Research on Gothic Architecture," Kalamazoo MI, May, 2016.
- Rice University, "The Regensburg Façade Drawings: Reality, Fantasy, Geometry," Houston TX, April, 2016.
- University of Georgia: "Drawing Lines and Crossing Lines," Athens GA, October, 2015.
- Yale University, "Grappling with the Anti-Gothic Turn," New Haven CT, October, 2015.
- CASVA: "Geometrical Composition Strategies in the Paintings of Piero di Cosimo and Friends," Washington DC, April 2015.
- Claremont Graduate University, "Gothic Art, Proportion and Procedural Order," Claremont CA, April, 2015.
- UCLA, "Computer as Compass: The Geometrical Analysis of Gothic Design," Los Angeles CA, April, 2015.
- University of Virginia McIntire Lecture: "The Anti-Gothic Turn," Charlottesville VA, November, 2014; repeated at CASVA in Washington, DC, November, 2014.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "Plan Geometries at St-Denis," Kalamazoo MI, May, 2014.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "Changing Geometries in the Reims North Transept," Kalamazoo MI, May, 2013.
- University of Michigan: "The Extinction of Gothic Architecture," Ann Arbor MI, April, 2013.
- Iowa Humanities Festival: "If You Build It They Will Come," Des Moines IA, March, 2013.
- Knox College: "Gothic Architectural Design Principles," Galesburg IL, April, 2011.
- University of Northern Iowa: "Gothic Architecture, Geometry, and the Aesthetics of Transcendence," Cedar Falls IA, March, 2011.
- College Art Association: "Speaking the Un-speakable: Drawings, Texts, and the Explication of Gothic," New York NY, February, 2011.
- The Society of Architectural Historians: "Drawing, Geometry, and the Procedural Logic of Gothic Design," Chicago IL, April, 2010.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "Connecting the Dots: Towards 'Geometrical Connoisseurship,'" Kalamazoo MI, May, 2009.
- Sewanee Medieval Colloquium: commentary on "Medieval Architecture," Sewanee TN, April, 2009.
- CASBS and Sarum Seminar research group: "Life is Elsewhere: European and American Schools of Medieval Architectural History since 1945" Stanford CA, February, 2009.
- College Art Association: "Making the Case for Evolutionism in Art History," Dallas TX, February, 2008.
- The Teaching Company: "Explaining the Demise of Gothic Architecture," Chantilly VA, February, 2008.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "The Geometry of Tower Design at Ulm Minster," Kalamazoo MI, May, 2007.
- CASBS: "Who Killed Gothic Architecture?" Stanford CA, December, 2006; re-presented in February, 2007.
- American Philosophical Society: "The Geometry of Creation," Philadelphia PA, May, 2006.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "Geometrical Design Strategies in Central European Gothic Architecture," Kalamazoo MI, May, 2006.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: principal organizer for a series of five sessions on the art, science, and technology of medieval travel, Kalamazoo MI, May, 2006.
- Columbia University Branner Forum for Medieval Art: "Unexpected Octagons in French Gothic Architectural Drawings" New York NY, October, 2005.

Domestic presentations, continued

- University of Michigan: "Gothic Façade Design Methods," Ann Arbor MI, March, 2005.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "New Perspectives on the Compass as a Tower Design Tool," Kalamazoo, MI, May, 2004.
- The Society of Architectural Historians: session chair and commentary for "The Role of Taxonomy in Medieval Architecture," Miami, FL, June, 2000.
- The Society of Architectural Historians: "A Tale of Two Cities: Cologne, Freiburg, and the Origins of the Openwork Spire," Miami, FL, June, 2000.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "Some Technical Aspects of Gothic Spire Construction," Kalamazoo, MI, May, 2000.
- College Art Association: "Desedimenting Time? Pros and Cons of Stratigraphic Methods in Art History," New York, NY, February, 2000.
- UW Platteville: "The Architecture of Gothic Cathedrals," Platteville, WI, September, 1999.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "Continuity and Change in the Late Gothic Campaigns at Metz Cathedral," Kalamazoo, MI, May, 1999.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "Architecture of Autonomy: The Late Gothic Campaigns at Metz Cathedral," Kalamazoo, MI, May, 1998.
- Sewanee Medieval Colloquium: session commentary on "Reading Buildings," Sewanee, TN, April 1998.
- International Congress on Medieval Studies: "Gothic Spires in Theory and Practice: A Case Study in the Dynamics of Symbolism," Kalamazoo, MI, May, 1996.
- Columbia University Branner Forum for Medieval Art: "Openwork Spires and the Fulfillment of Rayonnant Principle," New York, NY, November, 1995.
- The University of California, Santa Cruz, physics colloquium: "From Subscripts to Subtexts: Adventures of a Physics Student in the Humanities," Santa Cruz, CA, January, 1995.

DISSERTATIONS SUPERVISED AT UI

- Rebecca Smith, *Measuring the Past: The Geometry of Reims Cathedral* (2018).
- Steven Kerrigan, *Normandy's role in the development of the Flamboyant style* (2013).
- Danya Crites, *From mosque to cathedral: the social and political significations of Mudejar architecture in late medieval Seville* (2010).
- Beata Niedzialkowska, *Ars Nova in Poland* (2004).
- Nancy Bishop, *The Barberini Gospels* (2004).
- Andrea Kann, *Picturing the world: the illustrated manuscripts of The book of John Mandeville* (2002).

INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION COMMITTEE SERVICE

- Université de Paris, 2018: Mathieu Lejeune, *Recherches sur les flèches monumentales du xiii^e siècle dans le nord de la France: Le cas de la tour sud la cathédrale de Senlis* (Dany Sandron, primary advisor).
- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, 2016: Carmen Pérez de los Ríos, *Aspectos constructivos y formales en la obra de Guillem Sagrera: El uso de las plantillas* (Enrique Rabasa Díaz, primary advisor).
- Courtauld Institute of Art, 2015: Amanda Dotseth, *San Quirce de Burgos: Reframing Rural Romanesque Architecture in Castile* (John Lowden and Therese Martin, primary advisors).

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS SINCE BEING EMPLOYED AT UI

- CASVA Samuel H. Kress Senior Fellowship, Fall 2014-Spring 2015.
- University of Iowa Arts and Humanities Initiative Grants, awarded 2002, 2005, 2013, and 2018.
- University of Iowa International Programs Summer Travel Grants, awarded 2001, 2003, 2013, and 2016.
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, 3-summer fellowship, awarded Summer 2007.
- ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship, Fall 2006-Spring 2007 (2 semesters, one of 11 in US)
- American Philosophical Society Fellowship, Spring 2006 (1 semester, one of 20 in US)
- Kress Foundation Grants for book publication expenses Spring 2007, Spring 2006, Spring 2002.
- University of Iowa Faculty Scholar Award, awarded Fall 2004 (3 semesters, one of six at UI)
- University of Iowa Collegiate Teaching Award, Fall 2003.