

Benjamín Ibarra Sevilla

El Arte de la Cantería Mixteca: Mixtec Stonecutting Artistry

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 2014

This exhibition catalogue addresses in detail the transfer of technology for constructing ribbed stone vaults in the 16th century from France and Spain to Mexico, resulting in a "splendid collection of clean Gothic examples nine thousand kilometers from Europe." Techniques travelled from Amiens, Burgos and Seville to the Mixteca region near Oaxaca in Southern Mexico, where they were interpreted and appropriated through different stonecutting and masonry techniques of skilled indigenous masons.

The bilingual publication presents three case studies in carefully detailed comparisons. Professor Ibarra-Sevilla put new technology to use, including laser measurements, Lidar point clouds, 3D printing, and computer renderings, confronting those with images and accounts from early modern manuscripts. As a result, the fine-grained complexities of cultural transfers and encounters in early colonial Mexico brilliantly come to light through different, yet equally rigorous methods.

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