

## 2018 SPIRO KOSTOF BOOK AWARD

John North Hopkins

*The Genesis of Roman Architecture*

Yale University Press, 2016

This book treats the genesis of Rome's first three hundred years of urban development, preceding the better known architecture of the Republic and the Empire. Through careful analysis of the sparse fragments that remain of the early city, John North Hopkins demonstrates how in quick order and with purpose Rome was transformed from three hilltop settlements separated by a flood plain to a cityscape of monumental and sophisticated architecture. The power and ambition of the city motivated creation of imposing urban form through such construction projects as the temples near the Tiber, that of Jupiter Optimus Maximus on the Capitoline, and the city walls. Placing these developments within the wider context of the urban Mediterranean, Hopkins introduces us to the unexpected image of the early Romans as vigorous, innovative, and cosmopolitan. The method is interdisciplinary and self-consciously historiographical. Hopkins draws on archaeology, art history, geography, hydrology, literature, social history, and even the language of Kevin Lynch to compose a compelling account of Rome's early urban fabric. He has not only given us an account of the changing building types and infrastructure of the city, but has made subtle and probing explorations of their socio-political implications.

2018 Award Committee:

Nancy Stieber, Chair

Kai K. Gutschow

Patricia Waddy