

**LOMBARDIC  
ARCHITECTURE: ITS  
ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT  
AND DERIVATIVES. VOL. I**

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Lombardic Architecture: Its Origin, Development and Derivatives. Vol. I by G. T. Rivoira & G. McN. Rushforth

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**G. T. RIVOIRA & G. MCN. RUSHFORTH**

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**LOMBARDIC ARCHITECTURE  
ITS ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT AND  
DERIVATIVES \* \* By G. T. RIVOIRA**

TRANSLATED BY G. McN. RUSHFORTH, M.A.

*WITH OVER EIGHT HUNDRED ILLUSTRATIONS*



VOL. I

LONDON : WILLIAM HEINEMANN

MCMX



## PREFACE

It was in the course of one of my numerous artistic pilgrimages in the countries north of the Alps that there came to me like a flash the vision of what I call the real origins of the styles of architecture which flourished in those lands in the XIth and XIIth centuries. Far from being intimidated by the importance or difficulty of the subject, I forthwith determined to devote my studies and researches to the development and completion of the idea. I set to work without delay, making it my object to follow the path of truth, which was my only guide, so far as it was revealed to me by those same studies and researches. And now at last I find myself in a position to lay before the world of students the results of a labour which can be truly described as conscientious.

The book is divided into two parts. The first deals with the origins of the Lombardic vaulted basilica—the main stem from which were derived the shoots whence sprang the Northern styles above referred to. The second part is concerned with the origins of the chief derivatives of the Lombardic basilica in the lands beyond the Alps.

The work is based on investigations which are absolutely original; and not less original are the conclusions to which they give rise. Some of these conclusions, I mean those relating to the origins and modifications of the Byzantine vaulted basilica, though not immediately connected with my subject, will have the effect of opening up a wider and more rational field of research for the ecclesiastical architecture of the East. Other paths, as yet untrodden, are pointed out to students of Western mediaeval art.

The historical arguments, which form an essential part of my work, are the result of long and patient study of the original sources. Further, all

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the existing buildings or monuments described in this book have been, with rare exceptions, personally investigated on the spot. These buildings and monuments represent but a very small part of those which I have examined. The rest have been omitted here, either because they did not appear to me to throw any fresh light upon the subject, or because they were not directly connected with it.

## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

THE Author's Preface and the Introductions to the two parts of this book explain so clearly its origin, method, and scope, that it is unnecessary for me to say more than a few words with regard to the translation which is now presented to the English-speaking public.

In the first place I should like to point out that it is not a mere reproduction of "Le Origini dell' Architettura Lombarda" (1st edition, Loescher, Rome, 1901 and 1907, 2 vols. : 2nd edition, Hoepli, Milan, 1908, 1 vol.). The great bulk of the material and its treatment of course remain the same ; but the Author has taken advantage of the translation to revise the whole work, with the result that considerable improvements have been made in the form of correction, amplification, re-statement ; not to speak of important additions to the subject matter, among which we may call especial attention to the account of the so-called Temple of the Clitumnus, and the Excursus on Hadrian as an architect.

In the next place I think it is due to the Author to explain his relation to this version. Throughout it has had the advantage of his personal supervision in a very exceptional manner. Signor Rivoira's knowledge both of the English language and of English architectural and archæological terminology is such that he has been able to exercise a real control over every word that I have written. Constantly when difficulties have arisen (and they have not been few) as to the rendering of passages or phrases connected, for instance, with such abstruse and technical matters as vault and dome construction, it is he who has provided the solution. I think it will be admitted that it is an inestimable advantage thus to get the Author's own version of his statements, so that the originality and individuality of his presentation may be conveyed direct to his readers.

With regard to my own part in the translation, it has been one of my main objects to preserve this individuality ; and I would ask those who may feel aggrieved at new or unusual forms of description or statement, to remember that a large part of the value to us of works which come from other countries and other intellectual atmospheres consists in the freshness and novelty of the presentation. Above all I would ask them to reflect that, in this case, the form of statement and the terms have been settled by one who comes from the land and belongs to the race which created the art of vault construction, and fostered its development from Roman times onwards.