
Collegium historiae artium

Hlavní referující

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Téma

The Habsburg Architect: Bonifaz Wolmut and the European Renaissance

Early modern authors and modern scholars alike have both considered an understanding of theory and higher level of learning the primary distinction between the true “Renaissance architect” and a craftsman, yet the evidence for architects as readers is frustratingly small as few of the books themselves survive. However, the library of Bonifaz Wolmut (c. 1500–1579) offers a unique opportunity to examine the intellectual life of a preeminent Renaissance architect. Wolmut acted as the Habsburg court architect in Bohemia in the mid-sixteenth century, and during this period was responsible for some of the most innovative architectural designs in Central Europe. He also amassed a large collection of books and commissioned German manuscript translations of Latin texts on astronomy and astrology with the assistance of prominent court humanists. In tracing Wolmut’s reading habits and methods of acquiring books it is possible to reconstruct his intellectual life and relationships with important humanists including Wolfgang Lazius, Georg Turner and Paulus Fabricius. Although he did not own any architecture books, Wolmut’s Renaissance works reflect a thorough understanding of the period’s architectural theory, and he was highly literate, comfortable learning new subjects from books and associating with intellectual circles at court. Wolmut thus conforms to the usual scholarly expectations of a Renaissance architect, and offers a unique approach to the role of a Central European Renaissance architect at court.



Kdy

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