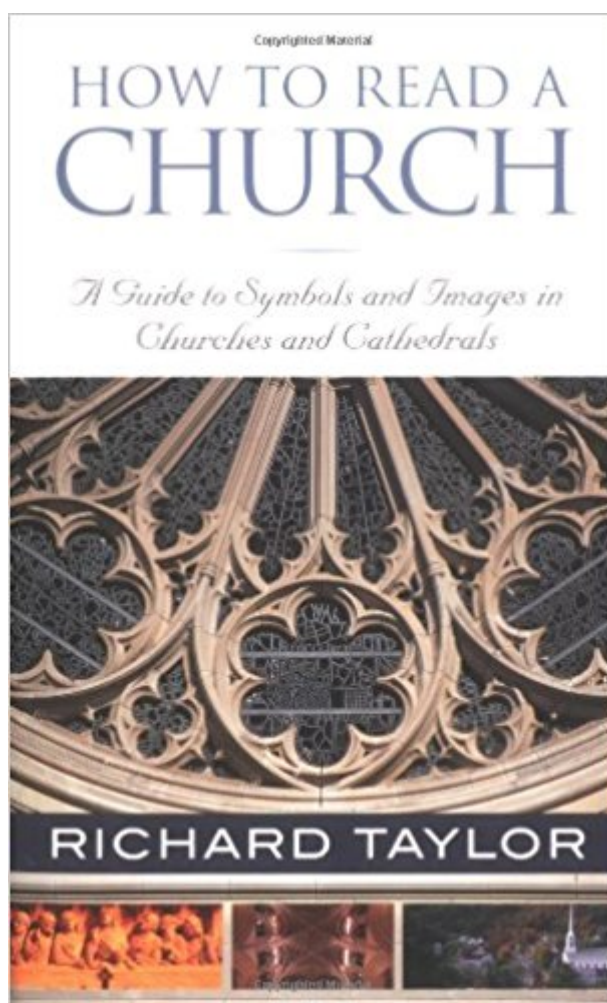


The book was found

How To Read A Church: A Guide To Symbols And Images In Churches And Cathedrals



Synopsis

Explores the principal features of a church or cathedral and what each represents, such as the significance of church layout, the importance of such details as the use of colors or letters, the identity of people and scenes, and the symbolism of animals and plants. Original.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Taylor studied English at Cambridge University and Law at London University, and now lives and works as a lawyer in Sheffield, England. He has lectured on Christian symbolism to people of many faiths and those of none. This book was inspired by their enthusiastic reactions.

I was more than happy with "How to Read a Church". Even if you were raised in the Catholic religion as I was, the symbolism utilized by the church was hardly ever explained or alluded to. After reading the book I felt that I understood far more about churches, faith and the motivation behind the use of the symbols. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has a basic understanding of religion and churches, but is looking for more of the necessary background. I only wish that we had examined a bit more of the material contained in this book, and, had a bit less catechism thrust at us in our childhood religious studies. Richard Taylor proved to be an excellent author. He is tremendously well informed, writes very well and was surprisingly amusing. "How to Read a Church" was an absolute delight and will be kept at hand for easy reference.

An excellent resource and interesting, beginner's level book to church meaning and architecture.

I found the book interesting. I have read the bible from my youth but I did not know much about the extra-canonical stories.

Good quality

Ever wonder why some saints in paintings and sculpture have square haloes? Why columns have foliate capitals? And what are all those hand signals? Richard Taylor explains in *How to Read a Church*, written not as a scholastic thesis but as a general guide for lay persons. The basic layout of churches, the number and placement of stained glass windows, the grouping of figures and how to identify who's who - all of this can be helpful in figuring out what the builders and decorative artists were trying to convey to those viewing and appreciating the results of their labors. The book works as a resource, and does not have to be read from cover to cover. Individual chapters, such as that on styles of crosses, can be read separately and perused at leisure. Nice resource.

Very useful and interesting.

This book gave great insight of why something was where it was in a church. I especially enjoyed that it was easy to look things up, such as baptismal font, what the difference between an altar and a pulpit was. Very reader friendly.

This book was exactly what I wanted to get my mother for Christmas. She went to Europe and when she came back all she talked about were the cathedrals. The photography and stories behind each picture were priceless. Well worth the money!! Loved it.

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