

CALL FOR PAPERS

“Mythic Structures: Sacred Architecture and Ornamentation in Film”

An area of multiple panels for the *Film & History* Conference on “Film and Myth”

September 26-30, 2012

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

www.filmandhistory.org

Deadline: June 1, 2012

Medieval sanctuaries, Orthodox domes, Gothic stained glass, Romanesque portals -- all suggest cinematic settings full of hidden meanings, secret histories, and visions of the sacred. Their aesthetic perfection endows them with an aura of mystery as they silently narrate myths of faith, devotion, and the Divine. Similarly, sacred ornamentation brings aesthetic beauty or symbolic significance to utility: Birds and trees connect heaven and Earth, the lotus represents purity, and the thorny-barbed acanthus guards the living from the dead. Each of these, whether adorning columns, doorways, ceilings, or altars, brings depth and intensity to cinematic settings and scenes.

This area, comprising multiple panels, seeks papers that explore the communication of myth in sacred buildings and architectural ornamentation in films across genres. Papers that explore how such myths are played out in films from outside the US and UK are especially welcome. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Monasteries and austere architecture (as in *Name of the Rose*)

Ornamentation in sacred spaces (as in *End of Days* or *The Wicker Man*)

Architectural visions of the Divine (as in *The DaVinci Code*)

Windows of faith (as in *The Blues Brothers* or *The Pillars of the Earth*)

Sacred spectacle (as in *The Secret of Sacred Architecture*)

Altars of the gods (as in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* or *The Hellfire Club*)

Proposals for complete panels (three related presentations) are also welcome, but they must include an abstract and contact information, including an e-mail address, for each presenter. Please e-mail your 200-word proposal by June 1, 2012:

Hee Sook Lee-Niinioja, Area Chair, 2012 *Film & History* Conference

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