Sacred Geometry: Deciphering the Code

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The Da Vinci Code has awakened the public to the powerful and very ancient idea that religious truths and mathematical principles are intimately intertwined. *Sacred Geometry* offers an accessible way of understanding how that connection is revealed in nature and the arts. Over the centuries, temple builders have relied on magic numbers to shape sacred spaces, astronomers have used geometry to calculate holy seasons, and philosophers have observed the harmony of the universe in the numerical properties of music. By showing how the discoveries of mathematics are manifested over and over again in biology and physics, and how they have inspired the greatest works of art, this illuminating study reveals the universal principles that link us to the infinite.

Sacred Geometry: Deciphering the Code Details

Date   : Published November 1st 2006 by Sterling (first published 2006)
ISBN   : 9781402741296
Author : Stephen Skinner
Format : Hardcover 160 pages
Genre : Nonfiction, Science, Mathematics, History, Geometry

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From Reader Review Sacred Geometry: Deciphering the Code for online ebook

Ironocker says

A primer into the area of sacred geometry. At best it serves as a reference of different areas to further your own discovery.
The editing was horrific. I lost track of the typos less than halfway through.
While I appreciate showing page numbers where a topic/individual is further discussed elsewhere in the book, it was far over used. It was also annoying to see so many that make reference to a topic/individual that is discussed later. The book could have been organized differently in order to cut down on the amount of references made.
Bottom line, I wouldn't recommend the book.

Ginger Leigh says

I've read the geometry portion so far and absolutely love it. I've stopped at the astronomy portion because at the time I was reading it, I was burnt out on astronomy, so I haven't read those chapters yet. The book is well written and fairly comprehensive.

James Owen Ether says

Really amazing. This book is obviously just an overview; I'm sure there's a million details not included. Still, I think I understand basic mathematical concepts and how they actually relate to human life in a way I never imagined before. If I had read this in 1st grade, maybe I'd be a mathematician today. (or an architect!)

Peter says

A gentle introduction to the topic...one for the journey, perhaps.

Phillias says

approachable, non-rigorous, broad coverage

Erika says

importance of mathematical relationships

Shawna says

Loved the book. The math calculations about made my head explode but then I can barely add 2+2. Once past the math which sets the stage, the remaining two thirds of the book was really interesting. I find myself seeing everyday things in a completely different light.

Gretchen says

Math, pattern, and order people will appreciate the inherently rooted mathematical principles that govern the way the physical world is constructed--both naturally and in man-made creations. Fascinating observations discuss Ancient Greek geometers and the groundwork they laid, along with applications that developed from the groundbreaking rules of math. Most important, in my mind, was the discussion on whole numbers, proportions, and ratios, as opposed to our postmodern obsession with minutely specific measurements of whatever unit we prefer. As the conclusion states, when it comes to math, simplicity is often the most profound reflection of reality.

Topics that stem from the primary observations include art, astronomy, architecture, nature/growth, concepts of phi and pi, and ancient measurement units. While the target audience is a "math-y" one, anyone interested in the ways in which reality is built would enjoy this read. Technical, yet accessible.

Lynn Abbey says

The new-age "gosh wows" exponentially outnumber the geometric insights. I had the sense that Skinner knows what he's talking about, then dumbed it down.

Kevin Fuller says

Tight, neat and succinct chapters throughout this book show that the ancients assumed the world was a Cosmos in the sense it was ordered and could be understood. Skinner begins with arithmetic, and Pythagorean number theory, highlighting the Lambda and it's relationship between the order of the planets and the notes on a stringed instrument. Skinner continues on through Geometry as it applies to the Universe, the World, the Landscape, and Man himself. Interestingly, for example, the Yard is a function of Time as well as Length, for example. Early Temples and other constructions are shown to have a relationship to either the Zodiac, the Earth, or Man, sometimes all three simultaneously! Sadly to my knowledge, we have lost the Art of Sacred Geometry for use in our Temples, but the Work has continued on in our mundane architecture, where Skinner presents modern day examples of these principles being applied by modern architects.

Matte says

Interesting book about geometry in nature in the stars in modern buildings and even in art. A lot of good info, and overall a worthwhile book. Although a bit to much mathematics for my taste

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James says

Superficial consideration, written more as an illustrated magazine article than a scholarly study, gratuitous use of the word "sacred" is annoying. One star only for a few curious connections; but new age blather has no place in a consideration of an anchient science. Skip it.

Rachel Nabors says

I am hoping this will lend some insight to my work comics and graphic design. The golden ration, fibonacci series, if I can harness the intrinsic design of the Universe and incorporate its elements in my work, my power will know no end! Muahahah!

I love non-fiction.

Kathleen Brugger says

I loved geometry in school. I put together polyhedron models out of construction paper when I was a teen-ager just for fun. I loved the perfection of the shapes, and I didn't know this same love had been experienced by ancient peoples all around the world. Skinner shows that "ancient cultures identified the repeating patterns and harmoniously proportioned shapes found in nature as evidence of gods at work and thus deemed them sacred."

This interesting and beautifully designed book hows how nature is filled with geometrical forms: Plant growth follows the Fibonacci sequence and the golden mean, crystals fall into seven basic shapes, and spirals are found in shells, horns, hurricanes, and galaxies.

The book also shows the incredible genius of the ancient Greeks in figuring so much of geometry out, and utilizing it in understanding the world and the stars. For example, the circumference of the Earth was measured almost exactly 2300 years ago by a Greek geometer named Eratosthenes. His measurement was only 1.7% off!

Skinner then shows how the people of these ancient cultures used geometry to design their sacred spaces—temples, pyramids, and the megalithic monuments like Stonehenge.

The book is good for people with a wide range of interest in geometry; its got lots of photos and the main text is geared to the person with only a slight interest in the underlying mathematics. But there are lots of sidebars with more detailed information if you want to delve deeper.

My only problem with the book is that is was slanted towards Britain, Egypt, and Greece for examples of ancient sites. I'd like to have heard about China, India, and Central America.

Chris Marchan says

Baic but ultimately very practical book on the subject.