

## Why Ornament Matters: A User's Guide

### 1. *Struggling with Ornament*

*definitions, etymology, basic identities, essential tasks.*

1 – 38

### 2. *Expanding on the Elusive Ornament*

*how writers, theorists, scholars, architects, and designers have presented and represented ornament: Michelangelo, Theodor Adorno, Richard Sennett, Jacques Tati's 'Playtime.' The daemonic. Knitting and weaving, mediating boundaries, ornament's special talents in urban rescues. Mashrabiya and the layered view. A wealthy Venetian's hubris. That searing dilemma over ornament: applied or integrated? And what's scale got to do with it anyway?*

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### 3. *Morality and Ornament: Roast Beef and Sugar Tongs*

*The history of the debates, Vitruvius to the present. Bernard of Clairvaux (ornament obscures God) vs. Abbot Suger (ornament illuminates God); Alberti's "concinntas," Carlo Lodoli's disheveled genius; Laugier's primness; Kant's big divide; Nietzsche's malignant fever; Pugin's truths; Ruskin on the importance of lying in the grass; Sullivan's writhings; Edward Garbett's notion of polite and selfish buildings; tattoos and tribe; Wright's USonian "perfs," the real parent to the deYoung's copper skin; Walter Benjamin's critique; Lethaby's anguish; home-grown Art Deco; Balthasar Neumann and Mies van der Rohe's lovely dancer; Adold Loos; Postmodernism's blithe disregard for scale ... and yet always, ever, more Loos.*

76 - 195

### 4. *Ornament in the Realm of Environmental Psychology*

*Bambi's meadow and Woody Allen's fear of Nature. Our structural, predisposition to ornament. Ralph Ellis dances with eyes. What evolutionary biology, fractal geometry, and cognitive science have to say about ornament, a sense of place, emotional connection, and repairing urban fabric? The answer is in the acacia tree ...*

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