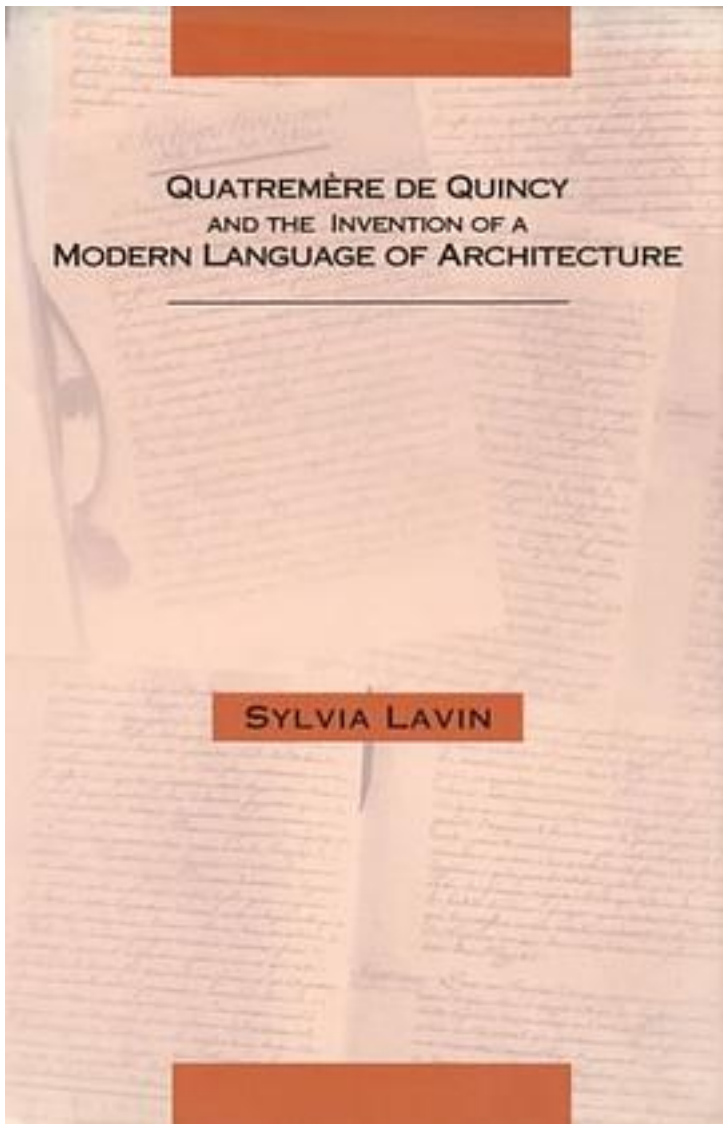# Quatremère de Quincy and the Invention of a Modern Language of Architecture

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著者:Sylvia Lavin

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In this important revisionist work, Sylvia Lavin uncovers the origins of one of the fundamental concepts of modern architectural theory, the idea that architecture is a form of language. She demonstrates how, in some little-studied texts, the late Enlightenment theorist Quatremere de Quincy transformed a simple metaphor into a framework for reconceptualizing the structure of architecture. Lavin's effort to interpret Quatremere in the context of intellectual history permits a deeper understanding of this controversial figure. More importantly, by focusing on the conceptual structure rather than the material illustrations of an architectural idea, she suggests a valuable new approach to the study of theories of architecture.Lavin suggests that by using language to provide architecture with a conventional rather than natural model, Quatremere equated architecture's capacity for progressive development with its sociality. Challenging the usual appraisal of Quatremere as a conservative academic, Lavin argues that his underlying emphasis on the social contract of architecture, rather than the neoclassical style he explicitly promulgated, is the key to the persistent interest in his writings. She shows how Quatremere's effort to establish a universally valid theory of architecture led him beyond the boundaries of academic classicism and into contemporary developments in language theory, ethnography, and Egyptology.Lavin then demonstrates how the relativism of these emerging spheres of knowledge, which sought to discover fundamental relationships between distinct cultural traditions, affected Quatremere's understanding of architecture. She posits Quatremere as the first thinker to develop a theory of architecture able to accommodate a wide range of formal expressions and generate dissimilar discourses. In the process, she reveals a consonance between the interdisciplinary nature of his thought and the extraordinary breadth of his influence.Sylvia Lavin is Assistant Professor of Architectural History and Theory in the Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of California at Los Angeles.

作者介绍:

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评论

断断续续读完；写作略显拖沓；概括到位；全面总结了卡特梅尔的建筑起源说、模仿说、语言说、寓言说。并讲述了这些建筑理论在其人生轨迹中与其具体经历之间的关系。卡特梅尔的理论思辨性大于实证性，不过，有些洞见在今天仍然有帮助。他在当时也影响了建筑设计的走向，比如布扎体系对于城市建筑布局的原则、比如老建筑的再利用，像巴黎先贤祠的改造；比如英国的soane对于古典主义的态度，以及由此产生的抽象手法。。。。。。好书。

Sylvia Lavin's PhD dissertation at Columbia. reference for QdQ.

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