Race and Architecture in the Iberian World, c. 1500-1800s

Guest Editors:

Dr. Cody Barteet
Associate Professor, Department
of Visual Arts, Western University,
London, ON N6A 3K7, Canada

Dr. Luis Gordo Peláez
Department of Art, Design, and
Art History, California State
University, Fresno. 5225 N. Backer
Avenue M/S CA65, Fresno, CA
93740, USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

In the field of art history, previous scholarship has addressed (and continues to address) the contribution of Indigenous, Black, Asian, and mixed-raced artists to the early modern visual culture in the Atlantic world. Frequently scholars are interested in documenting race and its enduring legacy through a variety of cultural artifacts such as paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, featherworks, metalwork, etc. However, much less attention has been given to architectural history, and particularly that of the early modern Iberian world.

We will explore the intersection of race, labor, and architectural history and their interconnectivity with the architecture and its accompanying artistic forms in the early modern Iberian world. We do so through considering how race and architecture are activated through construction projects, the building trades, the history of labor, and in plans, pictorial, and print representations, etc., in the vast territories (European, American, African, Asian) that comprised the Spanish and Portuguese empires.

Special Issue

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Andrew M. Nedd
Department of Art History,
Savannah College of Art and
Design, Savannah, GA 31402, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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