ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE
Form, function and meaning
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KEY TO THE NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR ILLUSTRATIONS
(this system refers to the text, not to the index of individual monuments)

12 refers to a colour plate
12 refers to a black and white plate
2.15 refers to a three-dimensional drawing located nearby
2.15 refers to a line drawing of the relevant monument
“Islamic Architecture is an awesome achievement … Hillenbrand’s arguments are incisively presented in a prose [which] occasionally develops an eloquence that mesmerises.”

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In a dazzling display of erudition, Robert Hillenbrand surveys the major building types of the Islamic world: religious architecture (the mosque, the minaret, the madrasa), the mausoleum ‘between Heaven and Earth’, and the caravansarai and the palace representing the secular side.

All the building types are discussed in art-historical terms, with the interplay of form and function taken as the underlying theme of the analysis. All are comprehensively illustrated with a full range of colour and black-and-white photographs, analytical drawings, thumbnail comparative assemblies and ground plans.

This major reference work, covering the area from Spain to Afghanistan and c. 700 to c. 1700, is a source of fascination for all seeking to appreciate the rich heritage of the Islamic world. Recurrent themes and patterns take on a wider significance – a persistent reminder that the Islamic faith and the particular type of society which it engendered makes light of vast gulfs of time and space.

Features:
- 24 colour plates
- 1246 line drawings
- 300 black-and-white photographs
- Section of composite drawings and ground plans

This new paperback edition includes a slightly revised text and a previously unpublished index, designed to make the book more user-friendly.

Robert Hillenbrand is Professor of Islamic Art at the University of Edinburgh.