

L'Egyptomanie dans L'Architecture et le Design d'Intérieur en Occident

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Abstract:

Ancient Egypt was an inexhaustible source of inspiration whose influence is still significant on the cultural imagination of all Western cultures. If the flame of Egyptomania had been lit since Roman antiquity, the beginning of the 19th century would have made it stronger than ever. Egyptomania is an exceptional art form that selects and restores the themes, elements, graphic and decorative codes, and symbolism of ancient Egypt, reinterpreting them in new, original creations that differ from their original function, combining Egyptian art with the specific style of the period in question. Egyptomania invaded all artistic fields in the West in the 19th century. This phenomenon had a profound influence on all sectors of architecture and interior design in Europe and America. Research into the impact of this phenomenon on Western architecture and interior design from the early 19th to the early 20th century is scarce, and the reasons for the choice of the Neo-Egyptian style and its relevance to building function are unclear. The aim is to study the phenomenon of Egyptomania, its history and the key factors behind its rise in the West (early 19th - early 20th century), and its impact on architecture and interior design in the chosen period, to analyze the exterior architecture and interior design of some key Neo-Egyptian works in Europe and America, to identify their characteristics and elements inspired by the architecture of ancient Egypt, and to clarify the reasons for the choice of the Neo-Egyptian style for the works studied in Europe and America, and the relevance of this style to the function of the buildings designed. The study represents a major contribution to the history of 19th-century architecture and interior design. For the methodology, a historical approach involves the study of the history of Egyptomania, the reasons for its rise, and the inspirations of ancient Egyptian architecture. An analytical and descriptive approach involves describing and analyzing the selected Egyptian works. To conclude: Egyptomania had a major impact on architecture and interior design in Europe and America (from the early 19th to the early 20th century): the West drew inspiration from the themes, graphic, decorative, and symbolic codes of ancient Egypt in new Neo-Egyptian-style creations. The main factors behind the rise of Egyptomania in the 19th century in the West were: Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt, the deciphering of hieroglyphics, the erection of Egyptian obelisks in Western metropolises, the opening of the Suez Canal, the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb and the Western world's fascination with Egyptian civilization and its profound symbolism. Western buildings in the Neo-Egyptian style (early 19th - early 20th) centuries are divided into two categories, the first of which completely imitates the architectural form of ancient Egyptian temples without any modern influence, and the second tends to renovate and reformulate elements inspired by ancient Egyptian architecture in addition to integrating it with other architectural styles of the time in modern architecture. The basic elements often reused in Neo-Egyptian designs, both interior and exterior, and referring to the architectural vocabulary of ancient Egypt, are coved cornices, sloping walls, torus moldings, columns with capitals (palmiform, papyriform, lotiform), winged disks flanked by two cobras, hieroglyphs, and inscriptions. A hybrid style, Art Deco / Neo-Egyptian, emerged, assembling Egyptian and other Art Deco motifs, in the late 1920s, popular in the architecture and interior design of new cinemas in Europe between the wars, intended to give the public a feeling of Exoticism and finally the choice of the Neo-Egyptian style in the works studied, in Europe and America was for symbolic reasons desired by the patron (grandeur, mystery, immortality) and the style was relevant to the function of the buildings designed.

Keywords:

Egyptomania, Neo-Egyptian style, Exoticism

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