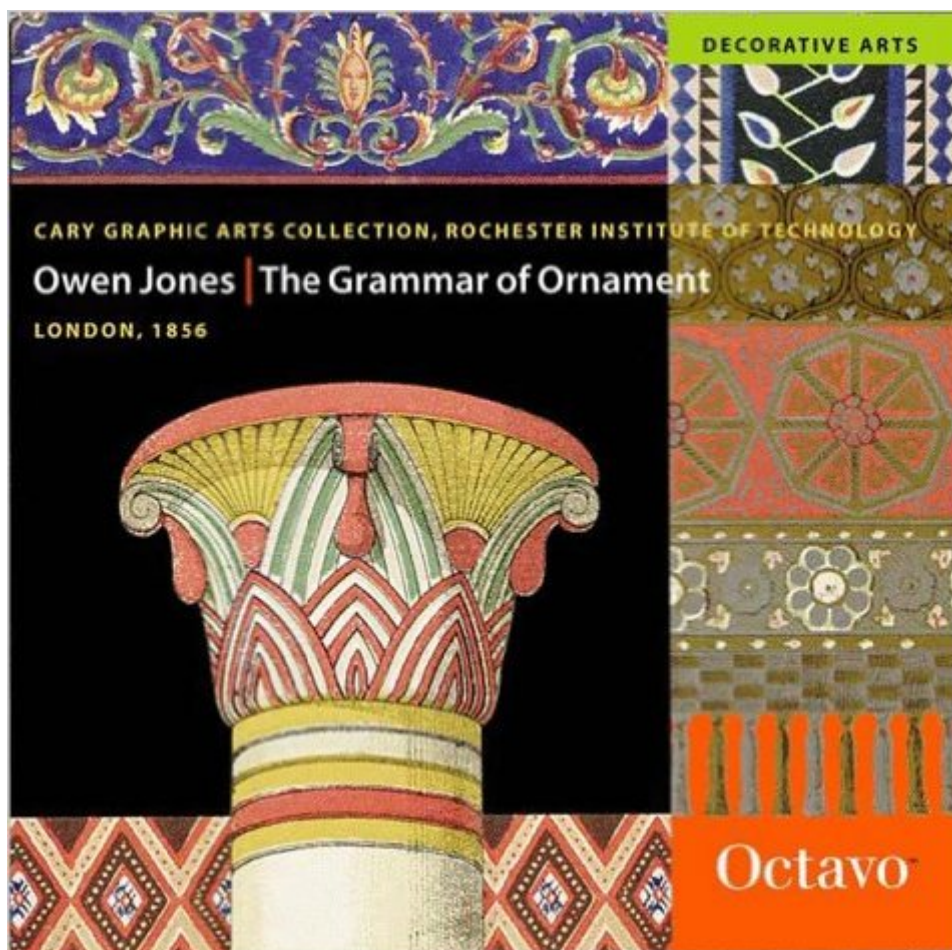


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The Grammar Of Ornament



Synopsis

The Grammar of Ornament is by any standards a remarkable book. When it was first published in 1856, it was the first time that so many illustrations of ornament, of many periods and from many countries, had ever been shown in color in one work. It was the concept of Owen Jones (1808–74), a young Welsh architect, who at the age of twenty-three went on his grand tour to visit Turkey, Egypt, Sicily, and Spain. In Granada he became fascinated by the Alhambra Palace, in which at that time visitors could actually choose their own suites of room and take up residence. Jones made detailed drawings of the Palace, and in August 1834, he returned to England carrying not only his drawings, but also an enormous number of casts: "To ensure perfect accuracy, an impression of every ornament throughout the palace was taken, either in plaster or with unsized paper, the low relief of the ornaments of the Alhambra rendering them peculiarly susceptible of this process." Jones’ aim was not to produce general artistic views, but to provide scientific accuracy in making an exact and detailed record of ornaments and colored decorations consisting largely of flat bright colors in geometric patterns. He could not find any printer in London able to meet his requirements; with the help of lithographic printers Day and Haghe he set up his own lithographic press and trained his own workmen at his own expense, having to sell part of the Welsh estate left him by his father to pay the costs of printing. Jones’ first book, Plans, Details, and Sections of the Alhambra, was the first of many projects leading toward his magnum opus, The Grammar of Ornament. Commentary by Ruari McLean.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Be warned that there are no illustrations whatsoever in the paperback edition of this book published by General Books. There's really no point to this book without the illustrations. The item description is not clear at all and does not specify that there are no color plates in the paperback. The item description is for a digital version of the book and the "look inside" is for a full color edition. These need to be listed as separate items to avoid confusion.

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The Grammar of Ornament by Owen Jones is a highly regarded design classic, first published in 1856 and just as relevant today. The DK edition is a pleasure to examine (although you may need reading glasses to see the six-point type for some captions). The small format fits well in the hand and has a nice heft (504 pages at 1.3 inches thick). The paper is superb and the colored inks for the thousands of engravings brilliant and crisp. If you need a version that lays flat on your drawing table or a scanner bed, however, this one has some drawbacks. The images are very tight to the inner margins, and the glued binding difficult to keep open without breaking the back. That aside, the DK edition is beautiful and a great buy.

I WILL REPEAT A REVIEW, LIKE IT WAS MINE: Before purchasing I would have wanted to know that: This was an OCR scan copy and that the OCR is full of garbage pages. This doesn't contain any of the COLOUR prints for which this book is so well known. This doesn't contain ANY prints at all - and is consequently utterly devoid of purpose. THANKS !

This book was first published in 1856 and is a design classic! Owen Jones was born in 1809 and is a key figure in the history of British design. He was an architect and designer who taught in London during the 1850s. He traveled in Europe and the Near East, where he helped to bring back ideas to improve the quality of Western design. This collection is a result of his comprehensive analysis of patterns. The sumptuous illustrations are presented in these sections: Ornament of Savage Tribes, Egyptian Ornament, Assyrian and Persian Ornament, Greek Ornament, Pompeian

OrnamentRoman OrnamentByzantine OrnamentArabian OrnamentTurkish OrnamentMoresque Ornament from the AlhambraPersian OrnamentIndian OrnamentHindoo OrnamentChinese OrnamentCeltic OrnamentMediaeval OrnamentRenaissance OrnamentElizabethan OrnamentItalian OrnamentLeaves and Flowers from NatureThe original Preface to Owen Jones's original folio edition has been preserved and included. The general principles in the arrangement of form and color are listed so you can see which are advocated throughout this book.If you are interested in reading about over 2,350 classic patterns (color engravings representing a vast range of ornamental styles), this is the book for you! More than likely, you will gravitate to one form of the other and concentrate your reading efforts on those sections.The actual pictures are all numbered and the mediaeval section is especially beautiful.Iain Zaczek has contributed to the commentaries in this work. He is an art historian and has written on a wide variety of subjects. He is also the author of The Essential William Morris, The essential Art Deco, and the Art of Illuminated Manuscripts.~The Rebecca Review

The description of this volume is entirely misleading. Don't buy it. There is neither a disc not color images as they promise.

Don't trust the photos.Like JamesB Said:This was an OCR scan copy and that the OCR is full of garbage pages.This doesn't contain any of the COLOUR prints for which this book is so well known.This doesn't contain ANY prints at all - and is consequently utterly devoid of purpose.A total waste of money

This is apparently a photographic reproduction of the original. The quality of the reproduction is so poor that the text is often illegible. The figures are not in color and do not reflect the importance of those in the original - which I have read.

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