

of the arch — which resulted in canopied structures and, ultimately, the dome — hailed as the principal defining characteristic of Byzantine architecture. In this perspective, Bogdanović's comprehensive discussion of the canopy as a key domical structure-carrier of ideas becomes even more pivotal.

Finally, I would note that the book is equipped with invaluable appendices and tables and excellent photographs that illustrate canopies and their contexts most eloquently.

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*La villa e la pieve. Storia e trasformazioni di S. Giovanni in Ottavo di Brisighella tra l'età romana e il Medioevo.* (Documenti ed Evidenze di Archeologia 5). Edited by Chiara Guarnieri. 21 × 30 cm. 160 pp, 157 colour and b&w pls and figs, 1 table. Bologna: Ante Quem & Soprintendenza Archeologica dell'Emilia-Romagna, 2016. ISBN 978-88-7849-112-0. Price: €24.00 pb.

This is an excellent, compact and highly informative analysis of a very distinctive church with a noteworthy context, architectural evolution and history of restoration. The earliest documentary reference is of AD 909 which cites the *Plebs Sancti Johannis qui vocatur in Octavo* — the latter name a reference to the site's presence at the eighth mile on the Roman road linking Florence and Faenza, a connection handily re-inforced by the reuse as a column in the church nave of a massive 2.19 m high milestone of AD 375–8. Indeed, excavations by the local parish priest in the 1950s and 1960s (notably clearing the crypt which had been infilled in the 16th century) helped identify an underlying villa (or possible road station) whose remaining finds (redisplayed in rooms leading to the crypt — see Section 5) include at least ten substantial (1.4 m diameter) *dolia*, plus wine amphorae spanning the 1st to 4th centuries AD (see Section 2). While a few elements of the first church have been traced (marked also by some sculpted fittings of 9th- to 10th-century date — see Section 3.3), the main church fabric belongs to c AD 1100. The monograph contributors offer attentive reading of this and its stonework (Sections 3.1 and 4.3); there was also laser mapping of the crypt (3.2). Most revealing are the spoliated materials, which, besides the noted milestone and fragments of Roman epitaphs (Section 4.1), include a collection of reused columns and capitals, of date range 1st century BC to early 6th century AD (4.2). Despite their slightly uneven mix, the spolia is viewed for its quantity and quality as one of the most important examples of reuse for the whole region (pp 133–4); the claim is for materials from demolished/ruinous monuments from early medieval Ravenna, the former late Roman-period and Byzantine capital, giving thereby extra prominence to this Romanesque church at Brisighella.

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*Nonantola 5. Una comunità all'ombra dell'abate. I risultati degli scavi di piazza Liberazione (2015).* (Insegnamento di Archeologia Medievale — Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia). Edited by Mauro Librenti & Alessandra Cianciosi. 21 × 29 cm. 102 pp, 120 colour and b&w pls and figs, 23 tables. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2017. ISBN 978-88-7814-827-7. Price: €25.00 pb.

This latest Nonantola volume adds an important new layer to the studies undertaken on the medieval abbey, its habitat and its territory in a collaborative project between the Comune di Nonantola (in the province of Modena) and archaeologists from the University of Venice since 2001. While a sixth volume is in preparation, focussed on investigations within the abbey itself, this present publication is a compact but detailed and well-presented analysis of the evidence from excavations undertaken across c 1000 square metres in the habitat's Piazza Liberazione in conjunction with repaving and services work here. In relation