

'THE ALHAMBRA OF GRANADA, ART AND ARCHITECTURE'

A photographic look at one of the most influential monumental arrangements in the world

Dos de Arte Ediciones, a publishing house specialized in art and architecture, presents the book 'The Alhambra of Granada, art and architecture', a high quality photographic perspective of the great Granadan palace, the most visited monument in Spain and one of the most important arrangements in world architectonic heritage. The book, in a deluxe, hardback edition, bilingual (Spanish and English) and with a comfortable and manageable format, includes more than 120 photos on its 72 pages.

The Alhambra is a palace-fortress of Arabic origin situated on one of the hills that surrounded the old part of Granada. It was built between the 13th and 15th century by different Nasrid kings, from the last Muslim dynasty that reigned on the Iberian peninsula, and was enlarged later on with the Renaissance contributions of Charles V, in the 16th century. Its architecture is the culmination of Andalusian art, especially the construction, in the 14th century, of the Comares Tower and the Lion Courtyard, and the influence of Mudejar art is also considered as fundamental, a genuinely Spanish style that combined Christian and Muslim styles in reconquered Spain.

The book includes an exceptional selection of photographs comprising of more than 120 images reproduced in different sizes on the exterior and interior of the Nasrid palace, from the general panoramas that place the Alhambra in the magnificent setting of the neighbouring peaks of the Sierra Nevada to the most subtle ornamental close-ups of tilework and stuccowork that characterize Andalusian art.

In order to place the reader in the context of the construction of the palace, the book starts with a brief, bilingual introduction which explains the etymology of the name 'Alhambra' and the history of the monumental arrangement from its conception up to the construction of the Palace of Charles V.

The chapters that follow are dedicated to different parts of the palace: the Alcazaba or military fortress, which gives a feel of great sobriety to the exterior of the arrangement, the doorways that lead into the enclosure; the Nasrid Palaces, where the refinement of the wall decoration reaches extraordinary heights; the Partal or Palace of the Portico, where some of the oldest elements of the Alhambra are stored; and the Palace of Charles V, constructed by the emperor in Renaissance style three decades after his predecessors, the Catholic Monarchs, would complete the Christian Conquest with the Siege of Granada. Each one of these chapters possesses a concise introduction with the basic information on the mentioned zones. All the texts and epigraphs that appear in the book are bilingual, in Spanish-English.

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