



## Painting Architecture *Jiehua in Yuan China, 1271–1368* (圖繪建築：元代界畫 · 1271–1368)

Leqi Yu

**Chinese Art | Chinese History | Chinese Painting | Chinese Architecture**

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“Architecture has been a subject of Chinese painting for two millennia, but has remained elusive. *Painting Architecture* explains the reasons as well as why the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are pivotal. The book also translates the vast writings on architectural painting, places the paintings in historical context, and assesses the relation between the paintings and actual buildings. The superior scholarship and original interpretation ensure that paintings of architecture will be part of future discourse about Chinese painting.”

—Nancy Steinhardt, professor, University of Pennsylvania

“Focusing on the development of *jiehua* in the fourteenth century when the Mongols ruled China, Yu’s book raises issues beyond the field of painting history, including architectural history, aesthetics, and social-historical studies. It is a long-awaited contribution to a rarely studied painting genre and an admirable accomplishment of multidisciplinary research on Chinese art.”

—Qianshen Bai, associate professor emeritus, Boston University

In *Painting Architecture: Jiehua in Yuan China, 1271–1368*, Leqi Yu has conducted comprehensive research on jiehua or ruled-line painting, a unique painting genre in fourteenth-century China. This genre relies on tools such as rulers to represent architectural details and structures accurately. Such technical consideration and mechanical perfection linked this painting category with the builder’s art, which led to Chinese elites’ belittlement and won Mongol patrons’ admiration. Yu suggests that painters in the Yuan dynasty made new efforts towards a unique modular system and an unsurpassable plain-drawing tradition. She argues that these two strategies made architectural paintings in the Yuan dynasty entirely different from their predecessors, as well as making the art form extremely difficult for subsequent painters to imitate.

Leqi Yu received her MA in the history of art from Williams College and her PhD in East Asian languages and civilizations from the University of Pennsylvania. She has held a Smithsonian Institution history of art postdoctoral fellowship at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and a postdoctoral fellowship at Renmin University of China.