

REFERENCE CITED

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Paul G. Bahn
Hull, England

Space and Spatial Analysis in Archaeology. *Elizabeth C. Robertson, Jeffrey D. Seibert, Deepika C. Fernandez, and Marc U. Zender, eds.* Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006, 430 pp., \$60.00, paper.

As has become familiar to those of us who have consulted proceedings of the Chacmool conference held annually at the University of Calgary, this volume is a large and dense edited volume with 37 contributions on the topic of space and spatial analysis in archaeology, based on papers that were given at the conference in 2001. The title alone does not really give readers a good sense of what is included in the book—I had initially thought that the book would be focused on statistical methods of spatial analysis, space syntax, and spatial modeling. Instead, the chapters more often employ what might be considered postprocessual, phenomenological, and practice-based approaches to space and spatial analysis, which emphasize the experience of space and culture-specific practices and ideological principles guiding the construction, modification, and perception of space and the activities performed within them. Many of the chapters focus on the meaningful constitution of social and cultural spaces, tracking human settlement and movement across and within defined spaces. The scales of analysis range from ephemeral traces of humans to specific buildings, small villages, large-scale regions, and beyond. Some contributions are more theoretical and some are data-driven, with good case studies showcasing the theoretically sophisticated and methodologically variable ways that researchers are now thinking about space and undertaking spatial analysis. The studies are global, including the Old and New Worlds, with representation from the distant past—all the way back to early hominids—to the more recent past and even the present. Thirty percent of the chapters (15 of 37) are focused on Mesoamerica, with studies of the ancient Maya dominating.

The widely varied content lends to tangible unevenness in the volume, as do the varying levels of theoretical sophistication. I felt like an observer of the very different archaeological practices of researchers working in different parts of the world. Some authors interpret the meaning of “spatial analysis” quite differently, and I found myself thinking about what a challenge it must have been selecting speakers for the conference. Bringing the papers together and organizing them into coherent sections for publication was accomplished by starting with more theoretical contributions, including interesting work by Owoc on the meaning of microscale depositional sequences in the British Bronze Age and Holmberg and

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colleagues' multi-sited landscape analysis, which attempts to connect spatial phenomena and meanings of landscape over the long term. Later sections are grouped by scale of analysis. Several papers focus on intrasite spatial organization or specific architectural complexes, while later sections address the topics of landscape.

As is typical of edited volumes with work from all over the world and wide-ranging time periods, I was often confronted with material from outside my area of specialty. A few of these were quite impressive because of ideas presented, a new methodological tool, or an interesting case study. Haynes's account of Clovis migration from Alberta to Montana is an excellent contribution that used archaeological data to posit a rapid migration of Clovis hunters by producing a hypothetical travel narrative, giving an excellent and vivid description of the newly post-glacial landscape of North America. Alan Maca's study of indigenous Maya site boundaries is also particularly compelling. Maca argues that the city of Copán itself might have been laid out in an image of a god-like *Bakab* with arced *sabes* (roads) representing the arms and the site acropolis forming the body, showing that site boundaries were enacted on a daily basis and were "in process," rather than static phenomena. A strong methodological contribution was Barker and colleagues' landscape survey on Nabadaen, Roman, and Byzantine period Jordan, which incorporates sophisticated settlement survey, and geoarchaeological and GIS techniques. The section on transit and roadways is also strong with contributions that urge readers to consider the cultural landscapes of roadways and the movements of people and goods between sites, rather than (only) the sites they connect. These papers demonstrate an integration and coherence with one another that some of the other sections lack.

Most researchers will find worthwhile information, interesting ideas, and relevant case studies in this edited volume, although most will likely not read the book cover to cover. The advantage here is that the contributions have been assembled together in one volume. For anyone interested in thinking about landscape studies and methods of spatial analysis, this would be a good collection to look through for new ideas and comparative material and to add to your university's library collection.

Stacie M. King
Indiana University

Palaces and Power in the Americas: From Peru to the Northwest Coast. Jessica Joyce Christie and Patricia Joan Sarro, eds. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2006, 432 pp., 126 figures and 6 tables. \$50.00, cloth.

Palaces and Power in the Americas examines relationships between political power and the sometimes-ambiguous palace complexes where residence took place alongside governing and administration. In the book's introduction, Christie identifies the palace as a cross-cultural institution to be evaluated in an effort to understand how political power was expressed in ancient societies. Throughout,

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