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This masterful history of the monumental architecture of Alexandria, as well as the rest of Egypt, encompasses an entire millennium - from the city's founding by Alexander the Great in 33I BC to the years just after the Islamic conquest of AD 642. Long considered lost beyond recall, the architecture of ancient Alexandria has until now remained mysterious. But here Judith McKenzie shows that is indeed possible to reconstruct the city and many of its buildings by means of meticulous exploration of archaeological remains, written sources, and an array of other fragmentary evidence.

The book approaches its subject at the macro and the micro-level: from city-planning, building types, and designs to archectural style. It addresses the interaction between the imported Greek and native Egyptian traditions; the relations between the architecture of Alexandria and the other cities and towns of Egypt as well as the wider Mediterranean world; and Alexandria's previously unrecognized role as a major source of architectural innovation and artistic influence into the Late Antique and early Islamic periods. Lavishly illustrated with new plans of the city in the Ptolemaic, Roman, and Byzantine periods; original reconstruction drawings; and photograps, the book brings to life the ancient city and uncovers the true extent of its architectural legacy in the Mediterranean world.

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