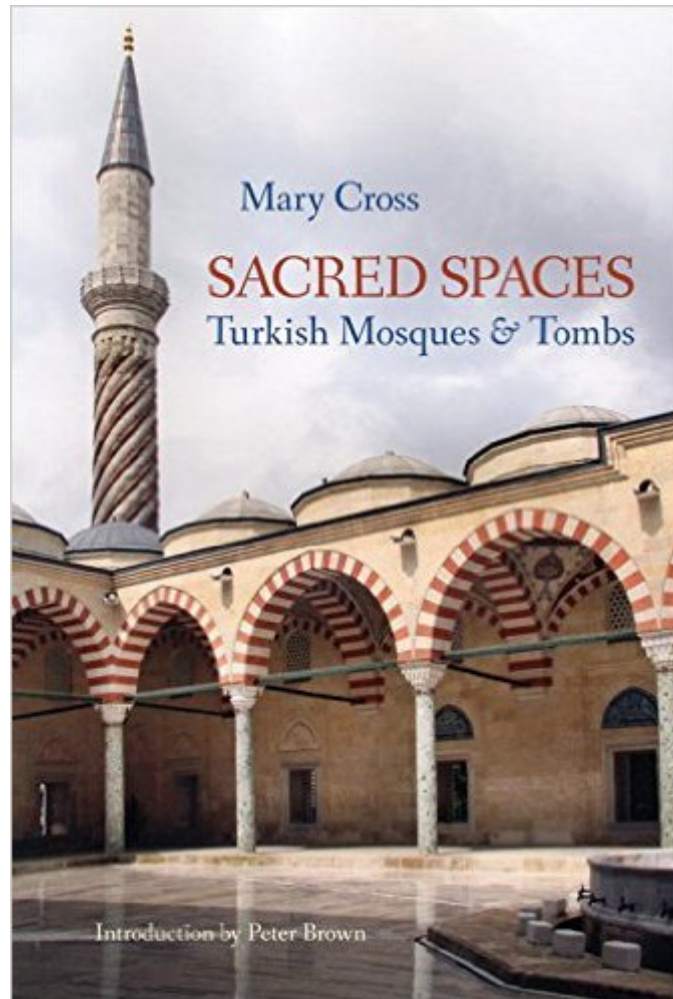


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# Sacred Spaces: Turkish Mosques & Tombs



## Synopsis

Stunning photographs celebrate the great mosques and tombs of the Ottoman period in Turkey. Over twenty mosques and tombs built from the fifteenth to the early seventeenth centuries in Istanbul, Bursa and Edirne. They are the products of a bold, daring, and refined civilization at the height of its power.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sacred Spaces is a feast for eyes and souls. Mary Cross has captured wonderfully the combination of massive solidity and ethereal lightness of the Turkish mosque and earlier Byzantine church traditions. The plates of the Eski Mosque in Edirne, the Rustem Mosque in Istanbul and the Green Mosque in Bursa epitomize that brilliant blending of unlikes through the arches, vaults, domes, mosaics and calligraphy that delight without overwhelming. Mary Cross's photographs conjure up the same sense of calm and dignity that would a visit to the spaces themselves. John Waterbury, President Emeritus, the American University of Beirut

Mary Cross's gorgeous photographs of monuments in the historic cities of Turkey are the warmest I have ever seenâ the perspectives in both close-ups and panoramas catch the spirit of the buildings, the colors are perfectly true, and the occasional human subject seems to belong right there. The texts that accompany each image are wonderful reading, with bits of poetry, quotes from contemporaries, and personal stories of the individuals for or by whom the mosques and tombs

were made.

Mary Cross is best known for her stunning photography books of people and landscape in Egypt and Morocco; here she turns her talents to architectural photography with impressive results. The photographs, mostly of Ottoman religious architecture, capture the sense of space of these magnificent buildings and their exquisite tile decoration. The text is admirably clear for the non-specialist.

What is the secret to great photography? In Mary Cross we see that it is the passion for the subject and a unique eye for beauty. Mary researches the topic, talks to experts and practically falls in love with the subject before taking the first picture. This is not a book of random pictures, it is a presentation of a subject so that we can understand in pictures and in words what the Turkish Mosques and Tombs really look like. Most of us will never see these structures in person, and even if we did, we would not see them the same way that they are presented in this book. It takes more than casual observation to catch the colors, textures and beauty that Mary Cross captured with her camera.

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