

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE MODEL for my treatment of the urban environment as a subject of art historical inquiry is Wolfgang Braunfels's *Mittelalterliche Stadtbaukunst in der Toskana*. Like Braunfels, I embrace the ideas that officials in charge of the physical fabric of late medieval Italian cities pursued aesthetic as well as practical goals and that the environments they created were intended to serve political interests or, as Braunfels might have put it, represent cultural values. Braunfels himself did not give much significance to the new towns but fortunately a predecessor, Maina Richter, did. Her article, "Die 'Terra murata' im Florentinischen Gebiet," anticipates my work in relating the towns to Florentine territorial policy and her extensive archival research was the point of departure for my own. In his *Arte e urbanistica in Toscana, 1000 - 1315*, Enrico Guidoni defined a new way of looking at town plans to which my own geometric interpretation is indebted. If I have succeeded in advancing the discussion of new towns and medieval urbanism, much of the credit belongs to James Ackerman who both as teacher and colleague has supported this project and encouraged its approach.

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FLORENTINE NEW TOWNS

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