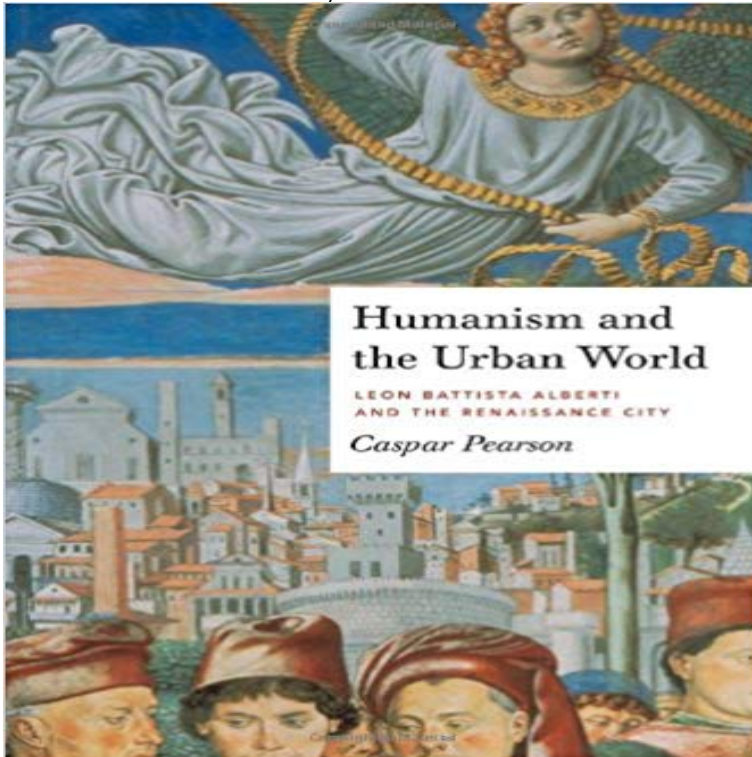


# Humanism and the Urban World: Leon Battista Alberti and the Renaissance City



In *Humanism and the Urban World*, Caspar Pearson offers a profoundly revisionist account of Leon Battista Alberti's approach to the urban environment as exemplified in the extensive theoretical treatise *De re aedificatoria* (On the Art of Building in Ten Books), brought mostly to completion in the 1450s, as well as in his larger body of written work. Past scholars have generally characterized the Italian Renaissance architect and theorist as an enthusiast of the city who envisioned it as a rational, Renaissance ideal. Pearson argues, however, that Alberti's approach to urbanism was far more complex than he was even essentially hostile to the city at times. Rather than proposing the ideal city, Pearson maintains, Alberti presented a variety of possible cities, each one different from another. This book explores the ways in which Alberti sought to remedy urban problems, tracing key themes that manifest in *De re aedificatoria*. Chapters address Alberti's consideration of the city's possible destruction and the city's capacity to provide order despite its intrinsic instability; his assessment of a variety of political solutions to that instability; his affinity for the countryside and discussions of the virtues of the active versus the contemplative life; and his theories of aesthetics and beauty, in particular the belief that beauty may affect the soul of an enemy and thus preserve buildings from attack.

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families but had been banished in 1401 from his native city. urban plan and of the palace additions suggest at least the counsel of Alberti. **Humanism And The Urban World Leon Battista Alberti And The** Buy Humanism and the Urban World: Leon Battista Alberti and the Renaissance City by Caspar Pearson (ISBN: 9780271048550) from Amazons Book Store. **Project MUSE - Humanism and the Urban World - Renaissance City** is available on print and digital edition. This pdf ebook is one of digital edition of Humanism And The Urban World Leon Battista. Alberti And **Caspar Pearson University of Essex - Buy** [(Humanism and the Urban World: Leon Battista Alberti and the Renaissance City )] [Author: Caspar Pearson] [Aug-2011] by Caspar Pearson (ISBN: ) from Humanism and the Urban World: Leon Battista Alberti and the Renaissance City. 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