Record Nr. UNINA9910459717603321 Autore Porter Bernard **Titolo** Battle of the styles: society, culture and the design of the new Foreign Office, 1855-1861 / / Bernard Porter Pubbl/distr/stampa London, [England]:,: Continuum,, 2011 ©2011 **ISBN** 1-283-27209-1 9786613272096 1-4411-6872-9 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (257 p.) Disciplina 720.9421 Soggetti Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Monografia Livello bibliografico Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto CONTENTS; Illustrations; Preface; 1 The Battle Joined; 2 A Hybrid Society: 3 Early Skirmishes: 4 A Grand and National Work: 5 Worthy of our Imperial City; 6 The Lamp of Morality; 7 An Architecture for our Age; 8 Not the Most Interesting Public Question of the Day; 9 A Change for the Worse Sommario/riassunto The present-day Foreign Office in Whitehall is an imposing building whose genesis is bizarre. In 1857 a competition was held to pick an architect, which provoked a huge row between the rival 'Classical' and 'Gothic' schools, which a 'Goth' (George Gilbert Scott) won - but was then forced to re-design in Classical. The circumstances surrounding this fiasco furnish the starting-point for this book; which then goes on to analyse the debate that preceded this decision, for the light it sheds on the complex nature of British culture and society then. Among issues raise were contemporary and conflic