

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910794124803321
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Titolo	Gothic architecture and sexuality in the circle of Horace Walpole / / Matthew M. Reeve
Pubbl/distr/stampa	University Park, Pennsylvania : , : The Pennsylvania State University Press, , [2020] ©2020
ISBN	9780271086590 0-271-08657-2 0-271-08659-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (363 pages)
Disciplina	720.9421
Soggetti	Gothic revival (Architecture) - England Homosexuality and architecture - England - History - 18th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Preface: Medievalism, Modernity, and the History of Sexuality -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- 1. The New Medievalism CONSTRUCTING THE GOTHIC IN THE CIRCLE OF HORACE WALPOLE -- 2. Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill -- 3. Queer Family Romance in the Strawberry Hill Collection -- 4. Dicky Bateman and the Gothicization of Old Windsor -- 5. "The Spirit of Strawberry-Castle" DONNINGTON GROVE, THE VYNE, AND LEE PRIOR Y -- 6. From Strawberry Hill Gothic to the Gothic Revival -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Gothic Architecture and Sexuality in the Circle of Horace Walpole shows that the Gothic style in architecture and the decorative arts and the tradition of medievalist research associated with Horace Walpole (1717–1797) and his circle cannot be understood independently of their own homoerotic culture. Centered around Walpole's Gothic villa at Strawberry Hill in Twickenham, Walpole and his "Strawberry Committee" of male friends, designers, and dilettantes invigorated an extraordinary new mode of Gothic design and disseminated it in their own commissions at Old Windsor and Donnington Grove in Berkshire, Lee

Priory in Kent, the Vyne in Hampshire, and other sites. Matthew M. Reeve argues that the new “third sex” of homoerotically inclined men and the new “modern styles” that they promoted—including the Gothic style and chinoiserie—were interrelated movements that shaped English modernity. The Gothic style offered the possibility of an alternate aesthetic and gendered order, a queer reversal of the dominant Palladian style of the period. Many of the houses built by Walpole and his circle were understood by commentators to be manifestations of a new queer aesthetic, and in describing them they offered the earliest critiques of what would be called a “queer architecture.” Exposing the role of sexual coterie in the shaping of eighteenth-century English architecture, this book offers a profound and eloquent revision to our understanding of the origins of the Gothic Revival and to medievalism itself. It will be welcomed by architectural historians as well as scholars of medievalism and specialists in queer studies.
