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Nota di contenuto	Toward an architectural history of the Aurelian wall, from its beginnings through the ninth century -- Planning, building, rebuilding, and maintenance : the logistical dynamics of a (nearly) interminable project -- Motives, meaning, and context : the Aurelian wall and the

late Roman state -- The city, the suburbs, and the wall : the rise of a topographical institution -- Sacred geography, interrupted -- The wall and the "Republic of St. Peter" -- Appendix A: Numerical data -- Appendix B: The fourth century revisited : the problem of Maxentius -- Appendix C: The post-Honorian additions to the Porta Appia and other fifth- and sixth-century construction -- Appendix D: The Aurelian wall and the refashioning of the western tip of the Campus Martius -- Appendix E: The Pons Agrippae and the Pons Aureli : a tale of two bridges.

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Sommario/riassunto

This book explores the relationship between the city of Rome and the Aurelian Wall during the six centuries following its construction in the 270s AD, a period when the city changed and contracted almost beyond recognition, as it evolved from imperial capital into the spiritual center of Western Christendom. The Wall became the single most prominent feature in the urban landscape, a dominating presence which came bodily to incarnate the political, legal, administrative, and religious boundaries of urbs Roma, even as it reshaped both the physical contours of the city as a whole and the mental geographies of 'Rome' that prevailed at home and throughout the known world. With the passage of time, the circuit took on a life of its own as the embodiment of Rome's past greatness, a cultural and architectural legacy that dwarfed the quotidian realities of the post-imperial city as much as it shaped them.

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