

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910971325803321
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Titolo	Cities and the shaping of memory in the ancient Near East / / Omur Harmansah, Brown University
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-23688-6 1-107-30165-3 1-107-53374-0 1-107-31449-6 1-107-30581-0 1-139-22721-1 1-107-30894-1 1-107-30674-4 1-299-25732-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xix, 351 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	SOC003000
Disciplina	307.760956
Soggetti	Cities and towns - Middle East - History Collective memory - Middle East
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Landscapes of change: cities, politics, and memory -- 3. The land of Assur: the making of Assyrian landscapes -- 4. City and the festival: monuments, urban space, and spatial narratives -- 5. Upright stones and building stories: architectural technologies and the poetics of urban space -- 6. Cities, place, and desire.
Sommario/riassunto	This book investigates the founding and building of cities in the ancient Near East. The creation of new cities was imagined as an ideological project or a divine intervention in the political narratives and mythologies of Near Eastern cultures, often masking the complex processes behind the social production of urban space. During the Early Iron Age (c.1200–850 BCE), Assyrian and Syro-Hittite rulers developed a highly performative official discourse that revolved around constructing cities, cultivating landscapes, building watercourses,

erecting monuments and initiating public festivals. This volume combs through archaeological, epigraphic, visual, architectural and environmental evidence to tell the story of a region from the perspective of its spatial practices, landscape history and architectural technologies. It argues that the cultural processes of the making of urban spaces shape collective memory and identity as well as sites of political performance and state spectacle.

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