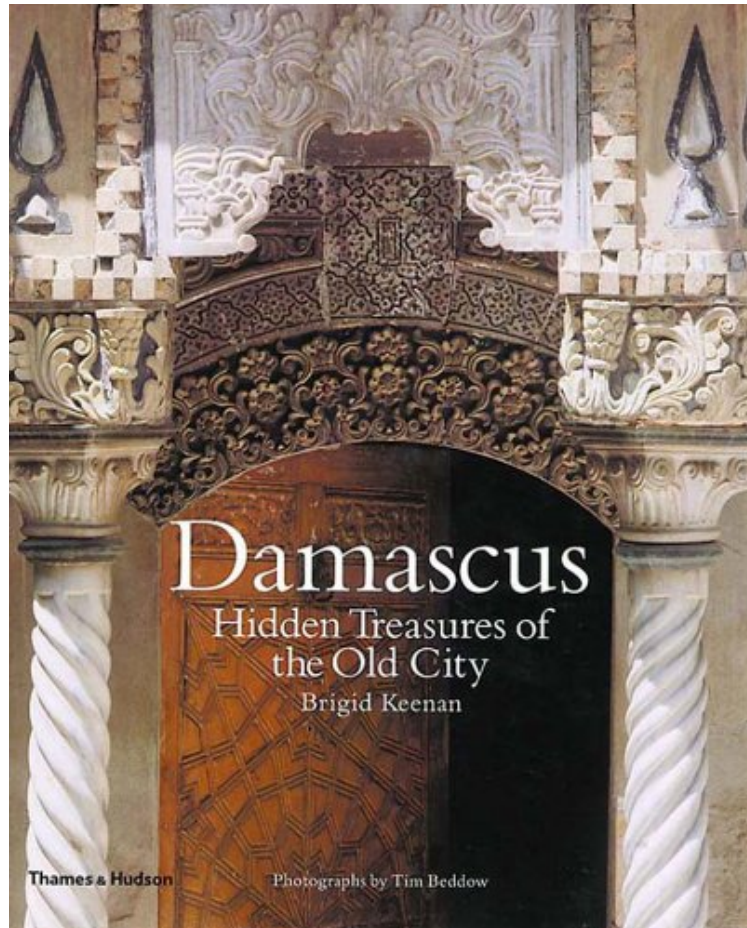


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## Damascus: Hidden Treasures of the Old City

*Brigid Keenan*

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Damascus, reputed to be the oldest continually inhabited city on earth, has enjoyed eras of immense power, and great cultural and artistic achievement. Alongside some of the most magnificent architecture in the Islamic world, such as the Umayyad Mosque, the city can also boast a heritage of fairytale palaces and sumptuous private houses now threatened by neglect. This book sets out to record these architectural gems and to raise the awareness of the outside world to the plight of the Old City of Damascus before it is too late. The authors were given unprecedented access to the "hidden" city in order to complete the task. The text describes Damascus through the ages, gives an account of daily life and concludes with descriptions of the houses and the people who built and lived in them.

From Library Journal  
Damascus, considered by some scholars to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, was at times a renowned and wealthy capital and at times an occupied city. Each era brought changes in architecture, resulting in a city filled with magnificent palaces and luxurious homes. In 1979, UNESCO designated the Old City of Damascus a World Heritage site. However, the beauty is fading rapidly, and many buildings are in dire need of restoration. Keenan, a freelance journalist and longtime resident of Damascus, combined forces with photographer Beddow to provide this visual record of the ancient town and plead for the preservation of the heart of the city. They explore both public buildings and rarely seen private houses. Beddow's photographs are an eloquent homage to the varying architectural styles of old Damascus, and Keenan's accompanying text explores the history of Damascus as a city as well as the individual histories of its mosques, palaces, and private homes. Recommended for both academic and public libraries with either Middle Eastern or architecture collections. -Mary Morgan Smith, Northland P.L., Pittsburgh Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. Beddow's photographs are an eloquent homage to the varying architectural styles of old Damascus. -- Library Journal  
About the Author  
Brigid Keenan is a freelance journalist who lived in Damascus for over five years. Tim Beddow is the photographer for Safari Style, also published by Thames Hudson.