

The image features a complex, symmetrical paper cut design on a dark, textured background. The design is composed of several key elements: a central circle with a dark interior; four starburst motifs, each with multiple sharp points and a small floral center, arranged in a cross pattern; and a series of floral and scrollwork elements. The floral motifs include large, multi-petaled flowers and smaller buds, all rendered in a light, off-white color. The scrollwork consists of elegant, swirling lines that frame the central composition. The overall aesthetic is reminiscent of traditional paper art or decorative bookbinding.

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Cover image: Francis Skidmore, Hereford screen, spandrel, photograph. Victoria & Albert Museum (E.430:4-2006) . Digital image courtesy of Victoria & Albert Museum

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Contents

The Medieval Choir Screen in Sacred Space:

The Dynamic Interiors of Vezzolano and Breisach, Jacqueline E. Jung



The Medieval Choir Screen in Sacred Space: The Dynamic Interiors of Vezzolano and Breisach

Jacqueline E. Jung

Abstract

In their later medieval heyday, choir screens were pivotal centerpieces and focalisers of their sacred environments. Embellished with figural imagery; outfitted with platforms, pulpits, and altars; and rendered visually porous by the presence of large doors and windows, screens at once defined liturgical zones and provided a unifying bridge between them. This presentation offers an analysis of two extant screens: the early thirteenth-century structure in the abbey church of St Maria in Vezzolano, and the late fifteenth-century example in the church of St Stephen in Breisach. Though very different in format and decoration, both screens act as mediators – physical, visual, and conceptual – between the functional spaces and pictorial programmes in the apses (eastern ends) and exterior thresholds (western ends) of their respective churches. This presentation seeks to reveal the dynamic, mutually reinforcing relations among choir screens, the spaces they inhabited, and the liturgical objects that animated those zones.

Authors

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[Watch Video](#)

Figure 1.

Jacqueline E. Jung, *The Medieval Choir Screen in Sacred Space: The Dynamic Interiors of Vezzolano and Breisach*, video essay, 2017. Digital image courtesy of Recorded and produced by Jude Breidenbach / Yale Broadcast Studios

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