Tradizioni costruttive nell'alto e medio Adriatico (secoli VII–XI). Eredità e innovazione nell'alto Medioevo. (Contributi di Archeologia Medievale. Premio Ottone d'Assia e Riccardo Francovich, 13). By Serena Zanetto. 21 x 29 cm. 371 pp, 15 colour and 317 b&w pls and figs, 1 table. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2017. ISBN 978-88-7814-802-4 (ISSN 2035-5424). Price: €52.00 pb.

The 'Premio Ottone d'Assia e Riccardo Francovich' is awarded annually to exceptional theses on medieval themes, and this work, deriving from a 2016 University of Padua doctorate, merits the prize (and publication) based on extensive, detailed and critical reading of building (mainly church) architecture (plans, styles, materials, mortars, etc) across a series of key early medieval sites in the northern and central eastern Adriatic. In Part II, 15 complexes are assessed from Italian Aquileia, Torcello and Venice, to five Istrian centres including Parenzo, and to Nona, Zara/Zadar and Split in Dalmatia (the volume lacks an introductory map for all these). Notably, Zanetto mixes critical reappraisal of old architectural studies with new fabric and plan analyses to show problems with 'established' chronologies, but also to reveal unsuspected early medieval phases, such as in the crypt of St Mark's in Venice, and adaptations of older structures, as at Zadar. Parts III to VII widen out to look at multiple other structures to discuss planning, plans, wall techniques and structural components, while VIII compactly and effectively summarises regional trends and possible workshops and master craftsmen.