Contents

List of figures vii
List of colour plates xix
Preface and acknowledgements xxii
Note to the reader xxv
List of abbreviations xxvi

Introduction 1

From Isis to Mary: The *Arx* and its surroundings from Antiquity to the Middle Ages 8

1 Before the Franciscans: The previous churches on the site 22
Cunctarum prima quae fuit orbe sita: Literary, documentary and epigraphic evidence from the earliest times to the thirteenth century 22
From S. Maria in Capitolio to S. Maria in Aracoeli: The title 35
Archaeological evidence from the earliest times to the thirteenth century 39
The previous churches and their relationship with the Franciscan building 40
Early medieval church furniture 67
The obelisk 82
The cloisters 83
Conclusion 88

2 The Franciscan 'appropriation' of the *Arx* 90
Franciscan foundations in thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Europe 90
The Franciscans in Rome and their new headquarters 96
The *ara coeli* 116
The monument and its 'meaning' 116
The ara coeli 'confessio': Art for the Benedictines or the Franciscans? 127
New and old cults before the construction of the new church 141

3 The new Franciscan church: Between tradition and innovation 146
An architectural analysis of the medieval building 146
Nave and aisles 146

Bolgia, Claudia
Reclaiming the Roman capitol
digitalisiert durch:
IDS Basel Bern

Transept 159
Chapel L9 164
Original main chapel 177
Façade 198
The decoration of the apse and the Franciscan promotion of the legend of Augustus from Rome to Finland 210
Marble workshop: Window tracery 222
Transmission and reception of formal ideas: Artistic exchanges between Rome and England in the thirteenth century 240
The *magister principalis* and the builders 257
The deployment of *spolia* and Franciscan ideas 259
New and old cults in the new Franciscan church: Paths for faithful and pilgrims 283

4 The 'extended' space of the Franciscan church: S. Maria in Aracoeli as a lived social and political place 290
The 'extended' space of the church exterior 291
The original side entrance and the guardianship of the minors 291
Preaching, politics and religious tribunals 305
The 'extended' space of the church interior 309
Inner appearance and family chapels 309
Burying in the Franciscan church 331
Between 'public' and 'private' in the Rome of the popular regimes: Francesco Felici's icon tabernacle and family chapel 348
Beyond Rome: The legend of Augustus and the Aracoeli icon in fourteenth- and early fifteenth-century Siena 388

Conclusions 394
Appendix: Chart of intercolumniations 400

Bibliography 401
Index 440