Classical Tesselations and Three-Manifolds (Universitext)

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This unusual, richly illustrated book explores a relationship between classical tessellations and 3-manifolds. The space of positions of an euclidean, spherical or hyperbolic tessellation is a Seifert 3-manifold possessing one of three of Thurston's geometries. These manifolds are described in detail with an emphasis on their geometry. Classical tessellations for the spherical context are illustrated by colour photographs of minerals. A further set of colour plates depicts, for the first time, all 17 plane crystallographic groups in mosaics from the Alhambra of Granada (up till now it was thought only 13 could be found there). In his original and entertaining style and with numerous exercises and problems, the author introduces the reader to Seifert manifolds, classical tessellations, quaternions and rotations, orbifolds, 3-manifolds branched coverings etc. Graduate students will find in it a source of geometrical insight to low-dimensional topology. Researchers will find much that they already know clothed in a new garb - the framework of orbifolds - and will be able to use the text as a source of geometrical ideas for a low-dimensional topology seminar, for individual study projects for their students, or as the basis for a reading course. The account of spherical orbifolds will appeal to researchers in the foundations of crystallography.

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