The Dome in the Georgian Christian Architecture
(The Artistic Expression and Symbolic Semantics of the Dome of the Holy Cross Church in Mtskheta)

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Abstract
On the example of the Holy Cross Church (Georgian: Jvari) at Mtskheta (586-604), the paper intends to demonstrate some of the characteristics of the cruciform-domed churches in Georgian architecture of the early Christian period. It further intends to illustrate that the symbolic and image-bearing meaning of the dome of Jvari expresses the formative idea of the Georgian cultural identity. It can concisely be formulated as an inner dynamism simultaneous with the external immobility.

Keywords cultural identity, cruciform-domed type, Christianity