

# **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