

Baze Hour

The Most Ancient Fire Temple of Iran

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Abstract Baze Hour is the most ancient fire temple of Iran which was built during the Parthian Empire which ruled Iran from 249 B.C. – 226 A.D. The plan of this fire temple is a square, and its ceiling is a dome supported by four arched pillars. This building is located north-east of Iran, 45 km south-east of Mashhad, the center of Khurasan province. From a structural point of view, it seems primary and elementary in technique. There are not any fil-pushes or squinches which are required to change the square plan to a circular one, but rather there are five or six wooden beams which change the square plan to a circle. These beams transfer the weight of the dome to the stone pillars in the four corners. The walls under this dome are very thick, and the platforms are not equal. Evidence shows that there are, yet, a lot of mysteries about this fire temple.

Keywords Dome, Fire temple, Square plan.