

Symbolism of dome in pre-Islamic and Islamic architecture of Iran

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Abstract Symbol unlike sign does not have a precise meaning. Meanings of a symbol are as various as the impressions that it provokes. Value and durability of a symbol depend on its reliability and innovation. When talking about symbol, one should know that finding the root of symbols does not mean to decrease the work of art to its primary basis but, it's reaching to its historical roots in order to follow the constant way of human thought. Some symbols are common in many cultures, sometimes these common symbols have a unit reason and this make studying them more important for finding the common innate of human beings, their common inspirational and understanding of the interaction between human's cultures. Dome is one of these symbols.

Keywords dome, Islamic architecture, pre-Islamic architecture, chartaqy, symbol