

The symbolism of domes in wooden sacred architecture of south-east Poland.

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Abstract

A dome, as an architectural archetype and original building structure, has its specific philosophical, religious, psychological and social connotations.

On the basis of the works of Jacob Burckhardt, it can be said that the dome belongs to the group of basic “primeval images”, i.e. patterns and symbols preserved in human consciousness as a form which organizes the space related to specific character of a location.

In sacral wooden architecture of South-Eastern Poland, the archetype of a “classical” dome has become a motif for numerous and at the same time unusual transformations, which provide Orthodox and Catholic churches with special significance and rank.

In particular, wooden domes topping the central part of Orthodox churches are not only an example of unique regional building trade and creativity in adaptation of the universal archetype to the capability of a local carpenter’s shop, but they are also a meaningful element of cultural landscape of South-Eastern Poland.

The author of the paper discusses various types of wooden domes and their building structures as carriers of symbolic content.

Keywords

domes, wooden architecture, regional building)