

Conservation of dome mosaics of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul

Ayşe Gulcin Kucukkaya, Sazuman Sazak

Abstract It can not be seen any other diverted building that conserves the original name. The importance of Hagia Sophia (Turkish; Ayasofya) was political and religious during the Ottoman Empire era. It was conserved and used willingly for many years by Ottoman Turks. Sultan Mohammed the conqueror designed a booklet (Waqfie) which has got the richest incomes for the management of the building. According to these original financial documents, incomes will be used not only for the maintenance of the old building which needs consolidation and restoration but also afford for the new constructions to support.

Hagia Sophia was beautifully decorated with mosaics within the centuries during Byzantine period. In this paper, mosaic decoration will be investigated on the conservation and tourism point of view.

Keywords conservation, Hagia Sophia, mosaics, dome, Constantinople, Istanbul