

Dome symbolism in the architecture of the Soviet avant-garde in the 1920s-1930s.

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Abstract The objective of the paper: to define the symbolic nature which was given to domes by the architecture of the Soviet avant-garde. It had given to the dome a new significance focused on rationality of form, and also on its possibilities to enclose large open public spaces. The search for new constructive functions for domes had become one of most important tasks. However, avant-garde democratic ideas in architecture were not sufficient to satisfy the imperial ambitions of the authorities in early 1930s. It certainly needed symbols capable of expressing its power. They turned to the old classical forms to create a new "communist" religion using old religious symbolism to aid their cause. The dome had become one of those symbols, and the project of the Palace of Soviets in Moscow with its hall under a dome, was a corner stone on the tomb of the Soviet avant-

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