

Medieval domes in Armenia

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Abstract

Architecture in medieval Armenia is found on experiences of different kinds of constructions and especially in cupolas. This process had started and become the main in religious buildings and especially from the establishment of Christianity in the country. Being close to Near East culture and architecture that had huge potential for constructing structures with special methods and images, stone masters in Armenia experienced with various types and sizes of cupolas. This was connected with opportunities of main building material in district – the stone. Symbolizing sky inside and images of mountains outside the cupolas had different constructive and decorative ideas. Many of these domes are damaged in our days. On the contrary some of buildings stand till now demonstrating their functional realities and optimal characteristics. Scientific and engineering investigations study many interesting facts of possibilities and surviving principles of domed structures.

Keywords: medieval, cupola, construction, Armenia