

The effect of dome's shape in making a sacred space

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Abstract Domes as one of the most important architectural elements, have significant role in shaping the architectural monuments and town silhouette. The main goal of this paper is to find the effect of dome's shape in giving sacredness to the space underneath it. This architectural element is the most significant part in many religious monuments. From Mehrabehs and Chahartaqs to the mosques and tombs. In this paper, with the case study of these buildings we find that, in all of them the sacred element is located in the space under the dome. This sacred element in Mehrabeh is water; in Chahartaq is fire that the Zoroastrian people worshiped it as a symbol of God; in tomb is the person's grave, and in mosques is Mehrab as a symbol of paradise gate. With the centrality that this shape gives to the space below, the sacred element gets Metaphysical holiness and human being feel superior and excellence in this space. In addition to metaphorical aspect, dome's shape effects on the people who are in that space and makes special has many psychologicalclergy feeling on them. This paper at first, addresses to explain the historical roots of this hypothesis with psychology and architecture literature reviewing and matching them. Then it tries to expand the thread and to prove these hypotheses, during the interviews with experts and field studies such as questionnaire and statistical researches. This paper gives a better understanding of dome's psychological aspect and its effect on the space under. And it can create new ideas in buildings that they need to define a sacred, calm and centralized space. And also it helps to better use of this shape in these buildings.

Keywords Dome, Sacred space, Iranian architecture