

# The Symbolism of Byzantine Churches in Albania (VII - XV)

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**Abstract.** Albania history shows that its inhabitants have always resist the invaders, not to be assimilated by the ethnic and cultural perspective. In every historical epoch that we have to prove the identical, although were called by another name.

Part of the Byzantine Empire had become after 395, when the Roman Empire was time split between East (Constantinople) and West (Rome).

Byzantine civilization characterized by the symbiosis between state structures of Roman, Hellenistic culture and Christian religion. Albania has been identified as one of the Mediterranean countries, where Christianity penetrated early in the first century.

Due to its geographical position, Albania was focused on Eastern Christianity, as in terms of church organization as well as the construction of places of worship. In accordance with the historical, economic, political and social, in medieval ecclesiastical architecture in Albania, there are two periods: (1) VII - XII and (2); XII - XV, up to the full occupation of the country by the Ottomans.

1 - Architectural types common in this period are two: a nave churches and basilicas. At the end of this period the XI-XII century, begins to enter the still primitive and traditions without leaving the basilica, the type of cross-shaped church with a cupola.

2 - In the second period (XIII - XV), in which realized the unity of the Albanian population and its extension coincides generally with the territories inhabited by them today, have differences in the construction of northern Albania, southern and middle. This happened due to the strong influence of western architecture, the intervention of Western countries and the Catholic Church.

Influences direct reports to Constantinople, are made up of the site plan types, materials, techniques, forms and symbols. As special features of our monuments, are building outside the walls, containing beautification, drums feature, simply type the site plan.

In all Byzantine architectural realm, research shows that the picturesque, was among the basic principles for the formulation of spatial architectural interior and exterior.

Although the Byzantine Empire tried to form a universal culture, imposing elements, principles, structure, medieval ecclesiastical architecture back in Albania, knew how to stay rhythms of time but also to distinguish its local character.