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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Ilkhanid Summer Palace at Takht-e Soleyman (Iran) and its Tile Decoration - Mongol-Persian Encounters

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Abstract

After the fall of the Abbasid Caliphate and the destruction wrought by Genghis Khan and his heirs, the summer palace built by Abaqa Khan from 1270 on the ruins of a royal Sassanian Fire Temple at Takht-e Soleyman marked the beginning of a new era. The remains of the tiles that once adorned this unique monument are emblematic of the transcultural diversity of the period, illustrating like no other the fusion of classical Iranian and Sino-Mongolian traditions. Using architecture and tiles as the primary material sources, as well as historical, art historical, and archaeometric approaches, an international group of experts explores questions such as why such an elaborately decorated monument was commissioned in such a remote location and to whom the visual information was directed. Typological and analytical studies are examining stylistic and technological aspects, with the aim of identifying the workshops where the high quality lustre and lajvardina tiles were produced, and to obtain information on the provenance of tiles held by international institutions. We will present current results of this research, focusing on stylistic aspects of different types of tiles and their recontextualisation in the Western Eyvan.

Keywords

Takht-e Soleyman, Iran, Ilkhanid Palace, Tiles, Recontextualisation

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