



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Evidence of innovation in 12th-century mosque architecture: The combination of dome hall and eyvan

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Abstract

The typology of mosque architecture was deeply influenced by the changes that happened in Central and Western Iran during the Saljuq period (11th-12th century). Monumental dome halls were inserted into extant buildings, adding a vertical element to the hypostyle halls that had previously dominated mosque architecture. Besides, eyvans were also introduced as a significant element that changed the spatial organisation of the mosque. The example of Isfahan, with four eyvans built most certainly in the first half of the 12th century, is well known from the thorough study by E. Galdieri. This paper presents results from field research on other mosques in which eyvans were also introduced during this period, frequently supplementing large dome halls. In some cases, the dome hall and the eyvan belong to the same intervention. Did this development spread in a consistent manner? How can we relate the introduction of the eyvan in the Central Iranian mosque to other, older uses of this architectural form? The paper discusses evidence of extant remains, partly from archaeological investigation, and from written sources, together with some aspects of architectural typology and iconography.

Keywords

Islamic period, Iran, Mosque, Typology of Architecture

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