

Sacred precincts: Non-Muslim sites in islamic societies

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Sacred architecture offers valuable insights into the priorities and prerogatives of the world's great religions, while revealing cultural and political attitudes within and between those faiths. Of particular interest in the current global political climate are the relationships between architectural forms associated with Islam and those of non-Muslim communities. Whether constructed by non-Muslims in a predominantly Muslim society or preserved in their original forms and/or functions after the arrival of Islam, it is in the structures and spaces of non-Muslims that one may find some of the most potent articulations of cultural identity.

This panel invites papers which examine structures and spaces created by and for non-Muslims in predominantly Muslim societies from the emergence of Islam in the 7th century to the present day. Papers may focus on a single monument, a building type, a particular city or region, a faith other than Islam, or any other topic relevant to the historical presence of non-Muslim sacred architecture in Islamic cultures. The papers could clarify how the new architecture responded to the contextual issues and traditions or how the new context influenced a historically established design. The papers in this panel could also discuss the pre-existing monuments preserved after the arrival of Islam (e.g., medieval structures in Islamic Spain; Christian churches in Jerusalem, and synagogues in Isfahan); religious monuments constructed in an area under the political or religious control of Muslims, such as those built by Hindu and Sikh populations in Sultanate and Mughal South Asia; and monuments constructed by non-Muslims who arrived from elsewhere in regions under Muslim control (e.g., Sephardic Jews, Armenians, Dutch, and Portuguese). Especially welcome are papers that deploy new methodological, theoretical, and comparative approaches to the analysis of such structures.

Session chairs: Mohammad Gharipour, College of Architecture and Planning, Montebello Complex, Morgan State University; mohammad@gatech.edu; and Stephen Caffey, Department of Architecture, Texas A&M University; scaffey@arch.tamu.edu

All abstracts should be submitted online by June 1, 2011. For more information, please visit the website of the Society of Architectural Historians: www.sah.org/2012

Reference:

CFP: Sacred precincts: Non-Muslim sites in islamic societies. In: ArtHist.net, Apr 25, 2011 (accessed Jul

12, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/1256>>.