The Presence of Metaphysical Symbolism in Architectural Formation of Armenia Early and Medieval Spiritual Sites

Armen SHATVORYAN
National University of Architecture & Construction of Armenia (NUACA)
E-mail: ashatar@gmail.com

Abstract
Through the analogy of the architectural environment with the special, meaningful proportions, astronomical regularities, etc., the work emphasises the importance of design approach in architecture where the metaphysical concepts and factors are reflected as signs of universal rules and creative solutions forming the space. In the chapter, particular attention is paid to one of the most famous and unique Armenian temple – Zvartnots, where the covered metaphysical meanings appear. Visual signs and ideas, carved in the stones of the facades of the churches and surfaces of the khachkars – the identifying cross stones of the Armenian culture were analysed as well. Correspondingly the complex methodology of architectural design is discussed, when metaphysical components are taken into account in order to achieve a better environment, and which can be applied to all branches of Architecture from micro- to macro-level. Summing up, the “true” definition of Architecture is addressed as one of the highest expression of human creative activity.

Keywords: metaphysical symbolism, meaningful architecture, analogy