

DEBATE

Zurab Kiknadze

Audiatur et altera pars

The article discusses church architecture at the time when Christianity was being established in Georgia. It reconsiders the widely shared opinion that small-size non-professional basilica-type churches were built in Georgia for 150-200 years since the spread of Christianity. The author argues that basilicas were incompatible with Georgian psychology, while the opinion about the small size of early churches (a commonly cited example is a 4 square meter structure identified as a church) must have been based on an erroneous interpretation of a historical chronicle. The same question had been previously explored by Zurab Kiknadze and Tengiz Mirzashvili in articles published in the 1980s. This position was strengthened by recent archeological findings in Kakheti. Specifically, two large basilicas unearthed in the Nekresi settlement closely resemble Roman and early Byzantine church planning. Considering a number of structural details, they were dated to the 4th-5th centuries.

Gigi Tevzadze

Apologia Chubinashvilis

The author associates Giorgi Chubinashvili's (1885-1973) theory on the idiosyncrasy of Georgian architecture with survival strategies Georgian researchers were compelled to adopt under the post-1923 Soviet purges. Historical revisionism was part of the Soviet 'nationalist' agenda promoting the idea of Soviet peoples' singularity, autochthony, autonomy and superiority. The author argues that some Georgian researchers' theories on the autochthony of Georgian history and culture were attuned to the dominant Soviet agenda in an attempt to acquire immunity against the fatal dangers of totalitarianism.