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The architecture of the four-īwān building tradition as a representation of paradise and dynastic power aspirations

Paskaleva, E.G.

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The dissertation analyses how architecture represents sacred realities. The main focus is on the architecture of the Tīmūrīds as an instrument to legitimize extreme and universal power. The four-*īwān* plan is examined as a dynastic architectural tool marking the centre of the world, from which power spreads along the cardinal points to all corners of the macrosomos. Examples of Tīmūrīd mosques, madrasas and tombs are used to illustrate this approach. For the first time, the four-*īwān* plan has been discussed in terms of the hierophanic and architectural palimpsest.

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