

**TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE PRESERVATION  
OF THE POST-BYZANTINE MONUMENTS OF CAPPADOCIA**

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Cappadocia is worldwide known for its Byzantine monuments. However its Post-Byzantine monuments, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, are also equally interesting. These are the churches built by the Greeks and left behind when they were forced to leave in the 1924 population exchange between Greece and Turkey.

These monuments possess a wealth of architectural features and artistic elements unique in Asia Minor. Their architectural style is an interesting and fascinating mixture of Western and Oriental elements that express the position of Cappadocia on a cross road. Most of them are three-aisled basilicas with an open arcaded portico. Their exquisite construction reveals the survival of Early-Christian building techniques. They are built with a thick volcanic stone masonry, whose both sides are riveted with well-dressed stone masonry, and are reinforced with iron beams. An important feature is the wide use of the pointed arch, also for cross-vaults and barrel vaults. These churches are endangered by abandonment and inappropriate use. They should be preserved, restored and made accessible to visitors. To this purpose the following process should be followed. Location of the churches and documentation (detailed photographing, 3D scanning and visualization, surveying and drawing). Documentation of the frescoes, analysis and interpretation. Study of the architectural typology and morphology and comparison to the Greek religious architecture of the same era.

For their restoration needed are: Complete architectural drawings. Documentation of the load bearing structural elements and their condition. Study of the composition of the materials (stone, mortar and iron). Geological and geotechnical study of the ground. The seismicity of the region. Simulation of each monument in order that the stresses and the deformations under different conditions can be calculated.

These process will demonstrate the artistic and historic value of these monuments and help their restoration.

References:

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