Jens Kröger. “Sasanian Stucco”

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Jens Kröger. "Sasanian Stucco" in Jacqueline Dentzer-Feydy, Anne-Marie Guimier-Sorbets, Christiane Delplace (eds.). *Syria. Supplément V: Stucs d'Orient*, 2019, 337-49.

- 1 This overview of Sasanian stuccoes includes sites divided chronologically – without losing sight of the regional premises. The iconographic repertoire found in the sites hitherto found had been then catalogued in ornamental, plant, figural, animal, and monograms. Noteworthy is the paragraph on the transmission of the Sasanian iconographic and architectural decorations. Although just a few motifs influenced Byzantine decorative language, several were transmitted into the formative phase of Islamic art.
- 2 This survey on the use of stuccoes underlined that they were restricted to courtyards, iwans, and three-aisled halls with columns. Scholars still debate the reasons why stuccoes decorated only certain parts of the buildings. Kröger hypothesized that those spaces were temples sheltering images, decorated with allusions to religious matters and Sasanian kingship. It seems probable that these 'image temples' were reserved for the royal family and also the aristocracy – possibly connected for the 'rituals for the soul of the dead were performed'.

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