



Cairo University

Faculty of Archaeology

Department of Greek Roman Archaeology

**The architecture of the apse and its artistic decorations in the Eastern churches until the end of the seventh century AD**

**"applied to the Egyptian and Syrian churches, an analytical artistic study"**

A Research Submitted to Complete the Requirements For Obtaining A Master's Degree in Greco-Roman Archeology From The Department Of Greco-Roman Archeology (Credit Hour System)

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# Abstract

The research deals with the architecture of the apse and its artistic decorations in Eastern churches until the end of the 7th century AD, as applied to Egyptian and Syrian churches. The research is divided into two parts: the first part includes an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, and appendices. The introduction presents the research's importance, reasons for choosing the topic, and previous studies

:Part one .1

The introduction: It discusses the naming of ancient Syria, its geographical divisions, and Christianity in Syria during the early Byzantine period, followed by architecture and art in Syria during this period

Chapter One: Firstly, it addresses the different names of the apse. Secondly, it discusses the architecture of the apse in Egypt and Syria in its various forms, highlighting the most important remaining examples, the architectural design of the apse, its various locations, and its main uses

Chapter Two: It covers a descriptive study of the decorative motifs of the apses in Egypt based on the arrangement of the scenes on the apse, whether composed of two scenes of Christ and the Virgin Mary, or a scene of one of them, or scenes of the cross, or distinctive scenes

Chapter Three: It presents a descriptive study of the decorative motifs of the apses in Syria regarding the ceilings and floors

Chapter Four: It focuses on an analytical study of the most crucial architectural and artistic elements that appeared in the apses

Then the conclusion, in which the main research findings are presented in a sequential format. Additionally, at the end of the research, there are four appendices: 1. Architectural and artistic terminology. 2. Names of the figures. 3. The crucial monasteries mentioned in the research. 4. Names and locations of the archaeological churches in Syria. Then a list of sources and references

.Part two: An index of illustrations .2