
The Role of the Patron

The Church of the Virgin *Kosmosoteira* in Pherrai

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Albeit its exterior design that closely parallels the contemporaneous metropolitan architectural style, the plan and the structural scheme of the church of the Virgin *Kosmosoteira* in Pherrai (c. 1152) diverge from all known Constantinopolitan examples. Bearing in mind the high rank of its *ktetor*, the *sebastokrator* Isaac Komnenos, his reputation of a refined patron of arts, as well as the grandiosity of the project, this paper examines the architectural features of the church as a result of the donor's deliberate choices to add to the spiritual *mise-en-scène* of his resting place.

