
The Role of the Patron

The Church of the Virgin *Kosmosoteira* in Pherrai

Marina Mihaljević
State University of Novi Pazar

TS

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.

