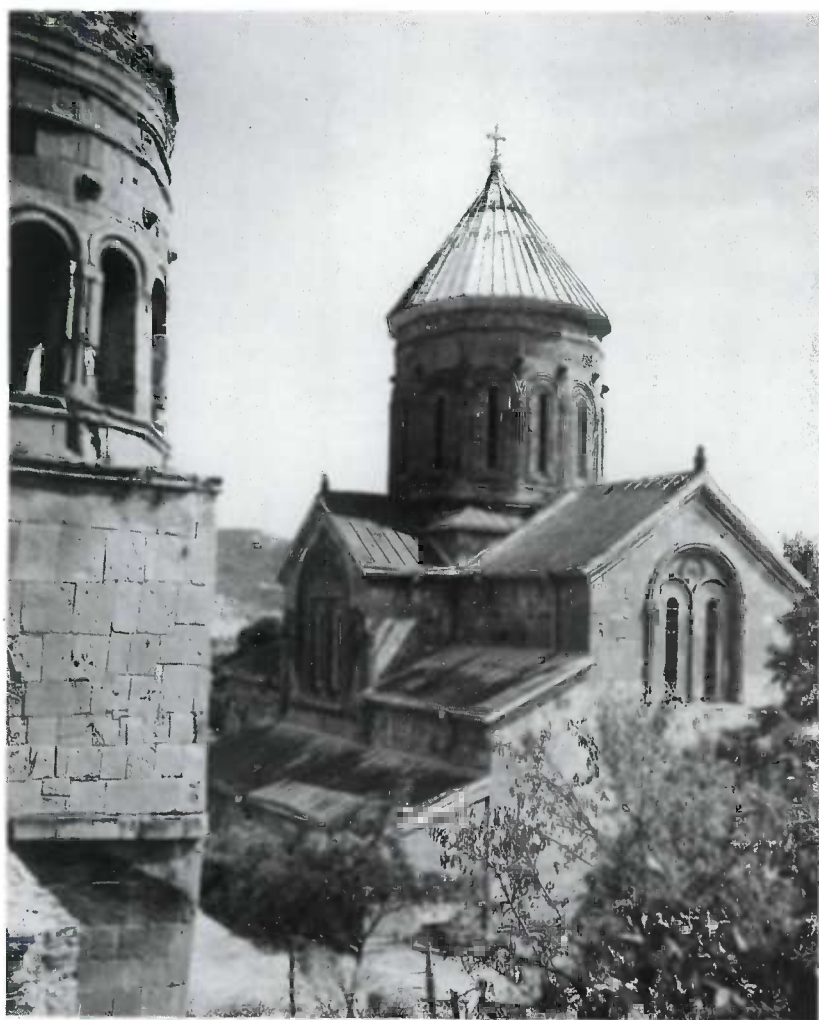


# Georgian Architecture

A documented photo-archival collection on microfiche with 47,000 photographs for the study of Early and Late Medieval Christian Architectural Arts of Georgia and its historical area of settlement.



Editor: Gundolf Bruchhaus, University of Technology, Aachen, in cooperation with the  
Institute of Georgian Art History, Academy of Sciences of Georgia, Tbilisi

# Georgian Architecture

## Introduction

Of particular importance in the architectural history of Christianity is without doubt the area south of the Caucasus centred on Georgia and Armenia within their present political borders together with the historical area of settlement of the two peoples extending far into North-Eastern Turkey. The reasons for this lie not only in the central geopolitical position the region occupies at the crossroads of the most important trade routes which linked Asia and the Near East to Europe, but also in the early Christianization of the country.

When about the year 330 St. Nino converted Mirian, the king of Georgia, Christianity immediately became the official religion. It remained the unifying bond of the nation for many centuries. The history of the country was marked by numerous terrible wars, partitions, and periods of foreign rule under the Romans, the Byzantines, the Persians, the Arabs, the Mongols and the Turks. Though the foreign rulers did not succeed in imprinting their cultural stamp on the country during the time of their respective occupations, the history of Georgia is nevertheless characterized by continual interaction with foreign cultural influences, while at the same time the country sought to maintain and further develop its national architectural tradition. This situation produced the unified artistic phenomenon which has come down to us as Georgian Christian architecture and which reached its apogees in periods of relative calm, particularly between the 11th and the 13th century (Golden age).

The external conditions outlined above, to which must also be added the general availability of rubble and hewn stone as favoured building materials, were not of course restricted to Georgia alone. The most important phases in the development of Christian architecture in Armenia and Byzantium offer many parallels to that of Georgia. Nonetheless, it is the case that some national characteristics of Georgian architecture are immediately apparent even to the layman. It is the task of scholarship to define these specific features and to classify them within the

system of architectural genealogy. Before this can be done, however, detailed knowledge of the whole inventory of monuments is required and the material must be made available in the form of photographs, groundplans and sectional drawings.

Together with its predecessor, the microfiche inventory of *Armenian Architecture* (IDC Leiden), the present publication *Georgian Architecture* meets these fundamental requirements of science. As Professor Cyril Mango states in his preface to the first volume, the result of the work on this project will provide, "... an exhaustive archive, arranged geographically, which at long last places the study of the most notable achievements of medieval Caucasian art on a new and more scientific basis".

G. Bruchhaus



Dmanisi church; 1213-1222; detail of the west facade of the portico; photo: Institute Chubinashvili.

Cover illustration:  
Mtskheta (Mtskhetha), Samtavro church; first half of the 11th century; view from the North-West; photo: Institute Chubinashvili.

## The project

The microfiche publication *Georgian Architecture* marks the culmination of a process of documentation begun in the nineteenth century by individual researchers and carried on later, first by private and then by state-run institutions. Today the project lies in the hands of the Institute of Georgian Art History, a division of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia, Tbilisi. There has been close cooperation on the project with the following international and national institutions:

- Polytecnico di Milano (Prof. A. Alpago-Novello)
- Institut für Kunstgeschichte der Rheinisch-Westfälischen-Technischen Hochschule (University of Technology), Aachen
- Research on Armenian Architecture, Aachen
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York (Prof. V.L. Parsegian)
- Department of History, Ethnography and Archaeology and Archaeological Centre, Tbilisi
- Department of Manuscripts, Tbilisi
- Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments, Tbilisi

## The collection

The collection will be organized geographically. Each volume will contain approximately 6,000 photographs, including plans, sectional drawings, a short account of the building's history and architectural features as well as a bibliography for each monument. A map indicates the location of each site.

### Volume 1

- Šida Kartli (central area) (map: 1a)

### Volume 2

- Šida Kartli (highlands) (map: 1b)
- Xevsureti (map: 2)
- Xevi (map: 3)
- Mtiuleti (map: 4)
- Pšavi (map: 5)

### Volume 3

- Kakheti (map: 6)

### Volume 4

- Kakheti (map: 6)
- Kvemo Kartli (map: 7)

### Volume 5

- Rača (map: 8)
- Lečxumi (map: 9)
- Svaneti (map: 10)
- Imereti (map: 11)

### Volume 6

- Samegrelo (map: 12)
- Guria (map: 13)
- Apxazeti (map: 14)
- Ačara (map: 15)

### Volume 7

- Samecxe Javaxeti (map: 16)
- Trialeti (map: 17)

### Volume 8

- Monuments beyond the present boundaries of Georgia



Xevsureti, village of Šatili; general view; photo: Institute Chubinashvili.

## Introductory guide

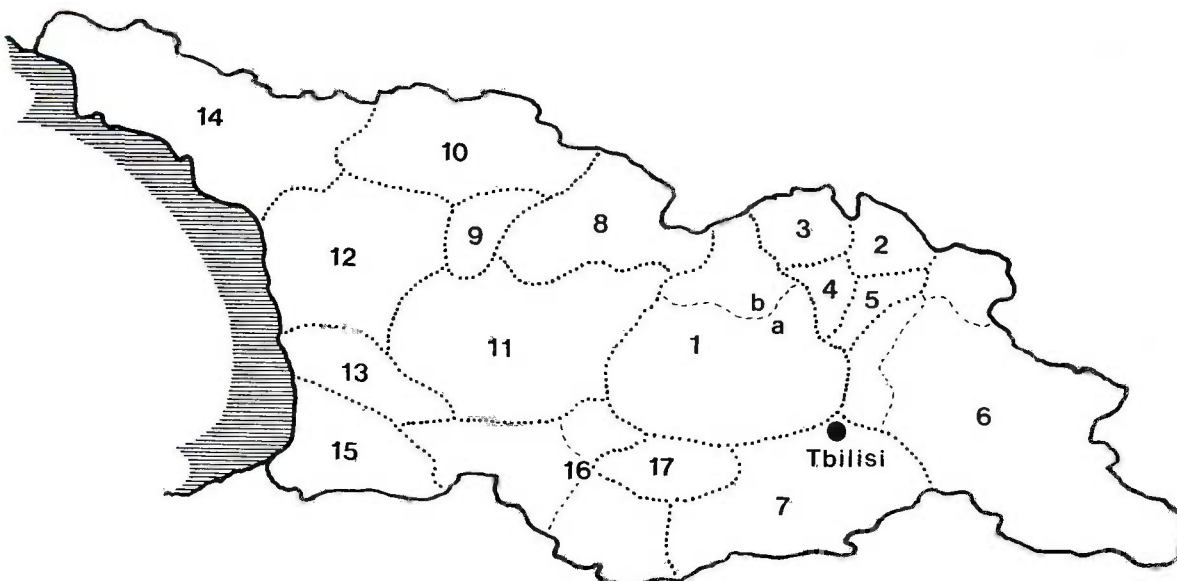
The microfiche archive is accompanied by a printed introductory guide with the following contents:

- Foreword by Cyril Mango
- History of the project
- Introduction to Georgian geography, history, language, script and architecture
- Transliteration systems
- Monument code number system
- Extensive specialized bibliography

## Finding aids

Printed table of contents for each volume.

Printed integrated alphabetical, geographical, and chronological index to the complete collection.



Scope	c. 6,000 photographs per volume
Number of fiche	c. 120 per volume
Size of fiche	105 x 148 mm
Film type	Positive silver halide
Reduction ratio	1 : 18
External finding aids	A printed table of contents for each volume, and a printed integrated alphabetical, geographical and chronological index.
Storage	The introductory guide, the tables of contents, and the microfiche are supplied in sturdy plastic binders with dust cover.
Order number	GA-1

**The complete collection will consist of 8 volumes.**



Uphlistsikhe: site of the ancient town hewn in the rock, three church basilica, view from the hall with two pillars (from the South-West). Fixation Laboratory of Art Monuments, Tbilisi.