

## **Donors and Politics after 1291 – The Development of Hybrid Ecclesiastical Architecture in Fourteenth-Century Famagusta**

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In the fourteenth century, Cypriot ecclesiastical architecture developed a significant hybridity as churches of different rites (Latin, Greek Orthodox, and Eastern) and of different purposes (cathedral, parish church, monastery, pilgrimage church, and royal church) shared the same building type (east section, ground plan, and to some extent even the same elevation) combining features specific to Cypriot Gothic and Syrian crusader architecture. The erection of such churches (e.g. S. Nicolas, SS Peter and Paul, S. George of the Greeks, and the so-called Nestorian church in Famagusta, the Franciscan church of Paphos and the royal church at Agios Sozomenos) dates to a period that coincided with the decisive development and expansion of Famagusta into the most important harbour city of Cyprus. Indeed, the influx of refugees from Syria and Palestine to the island after the fall of Akko seems to have entailed not only the rapid growth of Famagusta but also the enrichment of architectural forms and styles during the then starting building boom. While refugee groups might be expected to have chosen the Cypriot building style, which alluded to mainland architecture for the re-establishment of their lost churches, interestingly it occurred significantly at construction projects in which (arch)bishops and kings participated.

This paper will investigate the groups and individuals, and their motives that influenced the emergence and development of this special kind of hybrid ecclesiastical architecture, and the special role fourteenth century Famagusta played in this context.