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Constantinople in Cappadocia based on the high quality of its paintings, pictorial programme and iconography. Besides, it is possible to follow the Seljuq rule of the 12th–13th centuries in the region as reflected in the motifs in the wall paintings of the churches in the valley.

The Saray Church in the southeast of the valley has scarce remains of wall paintings datable to the 12th century. Part of a monastic complex, the façade arrangement of the church resembles those of some structures dated to the 12th century in the region. In addition, the Bezirhane Monastery newly identified in the east of the valley has architectural features and façade arrangement of the 12th century. Small chapels newly identified by us in the valley also point to the same centuries with regard to their architectural properties.

Asnu-Bilban Yalçın (Istanbul University, Turkey)

THE NIF (NYMPHAION) MOUNTAIN PROJECT: A NEW BYZANTINE COMPLEX DISCOVERED

In the south-eastern slopes of Mount Nif (Nymphaion), were found traces of some wall structures of the Byzantine period, for the first time noticed during the archaeological surveys. The archaeological excavations began in 2007 and discovered a complex of two churches (A and B), surrounded by different group of other buildings.

The church B is a cross-in-square church with three semi-circular apses at east end, a chapel and a narthex. In front of the apse, from the *synthronon*, a well-preserved *opus sectile* floor of colored marbles covers all over the naos. Adjacent to the north is the church B defined by its larger sizes.

The results of the last excavation season, suggested that numerous surrounding buildings distinguish the complex. As well as the use of a large number of ancient *spolia*, is noticed high quality marble architectural sculpture elements, frescoes, pottery, coins and glass finds, which shows the importance of the complex.

In our paper, apart to show first time to the scientific circles a such important discovery, we aim to bring some pre-considerations by examining the architectural, structural and decorative properties of the complex, which dates from the Middle Byzantine period but with a remarkable Lascarid rebuilding, as well as its original identity in light of relevant historical sources.