

## **Entanglement and Convergence: the Shaping of a Mongol Architectural Narrative**

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This talk seeks to articulate what defines a monument of the Mongol period (ca. 1271-ca. 1368). If one word describes architecture across the vast empire during this century, it is entanglement, defined for this talk as a building that cannot be fully understood without considering buildings beyond it. The entanglement includes reconstruction of older buildings, new buildings constructed on older ones, use of older parts in new buildings, composite buildings in which different building types are juxtaposed, and buildings that express more than one ideology, possibly even conflicting ones. Sometimes, however, convergence, or the coming together of two different traditions into one, occurs.

The talk will focus on four types of architecture that exhibit either convergence or entanglement: the observatory, in both China and Iran; freestanding mausoleums in north China, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang; the reuse of ruins of a palace in Transbaikal in a later church; and rock-carved architecture in Inner Mongolia and northwestern Iran.

In the conclusion, I shall emphasize that the majority of convergence or entanglement involves religious construction, and that the opportunity for the practice of so many faith in and around China render the Mongol period an extraordinary opportunity for convergence and entanglement.