

Contents

Acknowledgements	7
Preface	9
Chapter 1 – Introduction: The Octagon in Late Antique Architecture	13
Chapter 2 – Octagonal Churches of the Fourth Century	19
Martyrium of St. Athenogoras of Sebaste, Pedachthoë (modern Bedohtun), Turkey	19
Funerary Chapel, Las Vegas de Pueblanueva, Spain.	20
Santa Maria delle Vigne, Pratica di Mare (ancient Lavinium), Italy.	23
The “Conventazzo”, Torrenova, Italy.	24
Constantine’s Octagons	26
Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Palestine	26
Great Church (Golden Church), Antioch, Turkey	31
Octagonal Church, Nazianzus (modern Bekarlar), Turkey	38
Octagonal Church, Nyssa (near modern Harmandali), Turkey	40
Chapter 3 – Octagonal Churches of the Early Fifth Century	47
Martyrium of St. Philip, Hierapolis (modern Pamukkale), Turkey	47
St. Paul, Philippi, Greece.	51
Octagonal Church, Sebastopolis (Sukhumi), Abkhazia	59
Octagonal Church, Skioessa Bozaitikon, near Patras, Greece	61
Memorial Church of the House of St. Peter, Capernaum (Tell Hum), Israel.	63
Chapter 4 – Octagonal Churches of the Later Fifth Century	67
Church of the Kathisma, between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, Palestine	67
Church of the Theotokos, Mt. Gerizim, Palestine	70
Octagonal Church, Mi’rayeh (Mir’aye) (modern Karratin as Saghirah?), Syria	73
Church No. 8, Binbirkilisse (Madensehri), Turkey	74
Octagonal Church, Sivasa (modern Gökçetoprak), Turkey	76
St. Symeon Stylites, Qal’at Sem’an, Syria.	78
Church of St. Symeon the Younger, Wondrous Mountain, near Antioch, Turkey	83
Octagonal Martyrium, Caesarea Maritima, Israel	85
Octagonal Martyrium, Homs (ancient Emesus), Syria.	88

Chapter 5 – The Early Sixth Century	91
Octagonal Church, Gadara (Umm-Qeis), Jordan	91
Octagonal Church, Gerasa (Jerash), Jordan	94
St. George, Izraa (Ezra, Zorah; ancient Zorava), Syria	95
Sant’Illario, Aquileia, Italy	98
St. Constantine, Polemana (modern Boleman), Turkey	101
Octagonal Church, Isaura Vetus (modern Zengibar Kalesi), Turkey	102
Octagonal Church, Arka (Arga) (modern Akçadag), Turkey	103
Chapter 6 – The Justinianic Octagonal Churches	107
Octagonal Church (St. Nestor?), Thessaloniki, Greece	107
SS. Sergius and Bacchus, Constantinopel (modern Istanbul), Turkey	110
St. Michael, Anapulus (modern Arnavutköy), near Constantinopel (modern Istanbul), Turkey	120
St. John the Baptist, Hebdoman (modern Bakirköy), near Constantinopel (modern Istanbul), Turkey	121
Church, Constantia (modern Viransehir), Turkey	124
Chapter 7 – The Church of San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy	129
History	129
Plan	131
The Structural design and Construction of the church	134
Exterior	136
Interior	138
Decoration	140
Metrology	144
Chapter 8 – Observations and Conclusions	149
Function	149
Architectural Forms and variations	150
Size, Dimensions, and Planning	151
Elevations and Coverings	153
Focal Points	154
Form and Symbolism	156
The Church of San Vitale in Context – Conclusion	158
Bibliography	161
Primary Sources	161
Secondary Sources	164
Plates	