

## Natural Light in Medieval Churches

# East Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages, 450–1450

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# Natural Light in Medieval Churches

*Edited by*

Vladimir Ivanovici  
Alice Isabella Sullivan



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Cover illustration: Detail from *Descent into Hell* scene with sunlight on the face of Adam. Interior mural, north wall of naos, Church of the Holy Cross, built 1487, Pătrăuți, Moldavia (modern Romania). Source: Gabriel-Dinu Herea.

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A two-day international workshop titled “Licht aus dem Osten? Natural Light in Medieval Churches Between Byzantium and the West,” which took place 26–27 November 2020, sits at the foundation of this volume. The aim of the workshop was to share new research and discuss how natural light was deployed to underscore theological, ideological, and symbolic statements in medieval churches from across Europe and the Mediterranean area. We thank the workshop participants for their thoughtful presentations and the stimulating discussion.

This project expands on the ongoing efforts of Fr. Gabriel-Dinu Herea, whose observations of the ‘dance’ of sunlight inside the fifteenth-century church of the Holy Cross in Pătrăuți, Romania, led to the realization that in this less-explored area of the late medieval world, Western and Byzantine models of deploying sunlight were combined in innovative ways, thus opening a new chapter in the study of light in medieval sacred spaces. The image on the cover of this volume offers a compelling detail of the observed light effects captured on one of the murals inside the church during Herea’s tireless work.

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