Abstract:

In this paper, the main idea is to determine various lacunas in altars made in 8th century and represent means to decrease or elimination of destructions caused by lacks in plasters decorations. The first step is to investigate the principle shape of altars and their common decorations and patterns in order to achieve a comprehensive understanding about ancient altars.

The next step is expressing problems caused by lacunas in different parts of a relic and then aesthetic and originality discussions are executed. after examining different lacunas in paintings and their characteristics, lacks have been divided into two branches including: lack in altars' structure and infrastructure; or lack in decorations and patterns. in this way, all the lacunas in altars' structure would be divided into reconstructionable and non-reconstructionable lacks and lacunas in decorations would be divided into minor reconstructionable, major reconstructionable and non reconstructionable lacks.

After analyzing some of the past conservations of altars, solutions for reconstructing any kind of lacuna is discussed in this research. In order to conserve reconstructionable lacks, the surface of the plaster bed is assumed as main criterion and for non-reconstructionable lacunas the main criterion would be the surface equal to lining surface with same texture.

In case of minor reconstructionable lacunas, conservation is not preferred if the lacks would not damage adjacent parts of the relic. But we can use a different color for apparent conservation if more strength in lacunas is needed. For major reconstructionable lacks it is preferred not to conserve the decorations in details so that the original patterns would be more recognizable.

Other than that, it is recommended not to conserve the relic if at least some parts of decorations' bed are remained in case of non-reconstructionable lacunas. But if the damages have penetrated the lining or support layer, the surface of lining layer would be the reference of conservation. Finally using models with different materials in order to investigate the proper mortar for conservations resulted in choosing gypsum mortar without any adding ingredients. This paper is a result of field and library investigations as well as interviewing and modeling mortar samples.