Abstract

The evangelization of Nueva España begun in 1524, when twelve Franciscan monks led by Martín de Valencia arrived to Yucatán. All of them were wise and experienced. However, their knowledge was not enough to accomplish their mission. To reach their purposes, they had to learn the essential pre-Hispanic cultural habits and apply them to the evangelization process. This lead to a syncretism which influenced all human activities. For example, in architecture, the most important result was the way they built convents in Nueva España during the sixteenth century, which gave a new meaning to spaces and became the very axis that ruled the life in the new rising countries. This is a synopsis of the evangelization process in the northern zone of Yucatán peninsula, presented through the consideration and analysis of the Franciscan convents architecture.

Keywords

architecture in Yucatán, Dzidzantún, evangelization in Yucatán, mural painting, religious syncretism.