

# BEŞALMA VILLAGE CHURCH - Digital reconstruction

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Located in southern Moldova, Beşalma, predominantly inhabited by Gagauz Turks, has a truly stunning local church which dominates the village's center with its shiny metal-covered domes. The church is a fine example of Muscovy Baroque, a style that gained a lot of ground in the religious architecture present in the villages founded by Gagauz Turks and Bulgarians in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The style is known for being a blend of traditional Russian architecture with elements of the Baroque that came from the West. Unlike Petrine Baroque, which emphasizes more the baroque volumes, ornaments and patterns, being much less "playful" than its Muscovy counterpart, which has a richer range of aesthetic motives.

The present model recreates in detail the church from the village center, carefully putting in display details that are linked to the distinctive plastering and exterior painting. The church has an almost cross-like layout, the main entrance is situated below the bell tower. The bell tower has a tent-like roof, while the *Pantokrator's Tower* has an onion-style dome with golden metal covering.

The dominant color is a kind of deep blue, and all the frames are painted in white. The contrast between the two creates a truly charming visual effect that highlights the elegance of the church volumes.

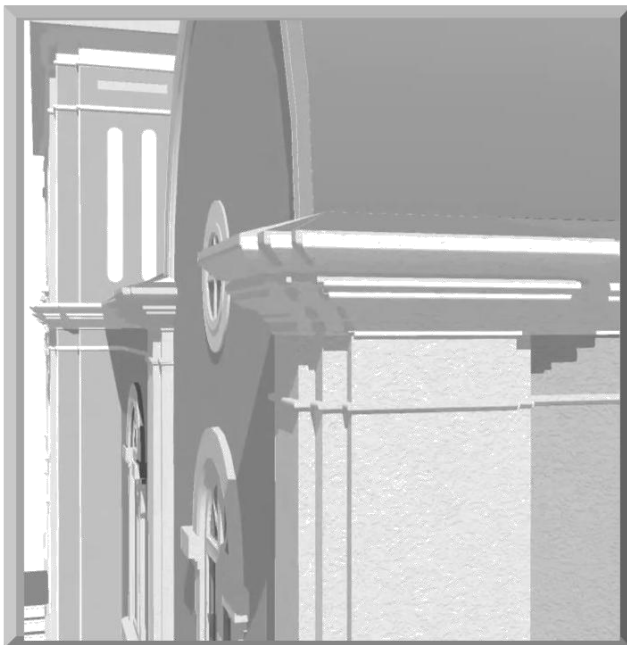


Fig.1. View of corner ornaments



Fig.2. Lateral entrance and corner ornaments

