



[Fig. 10. Atrium of Church in Curahuara de Carnagas (Bolivia), 16th, decoration 1608 and 1722, (2005, photo. Ewa Kubiak)]

However, atrium was often integrated with so called ‘capilla abierta’ – i.e. open chapel. It is an architectural form characteristic of Latin America – a small building usually consisting of an oblong or square chancel and a transverse nave open by a portico or arcades in the direction of atrium that served as the church’s nave⁴⁴.

Sometimes the church’s facade included a kind of open chapel – it was a balcony or a loggia opening to an atrium. Peruvian churches in Urcos, Cuzco (La Merced, San Jerónimo) and Ayacucho (Santo Domingo, La Merced) may serve as examples here⁴⁵. Leszek Zawisza made an attempt to compare the functional aspects of church and atrium complex to European solutions. A Francis-

⁴⁴ This solution is typical for Mexico and the territories of New Spain – it may be found in a former sacred complex in Ciudad de Mexico – San José de los Naturales, as well as Santa María Magdalena in Jihuico and San Juan Atzolcintla – both near Metztitlán in the State of Hidalgo or in an establishment in Tzintzuntzan in Michoacán State; (ARTIGA 1985); Drawings – ‘capillas abiertas aisladas tipo I y tipo II’.

⁴⁵ MESA, GISBERT 1985: 150.