

# Andalusi Art

## Andalusian Art and culture



# As we know,

For a significant part of the Middle Ages the Iberian Peninsula (modern day Spain and Portugal) was ruled by the Islamic Empire. Muslims first arrived in 711 AD and ruled portions of the region until 1492.

# The Impact of Islam on the Art

Islamic art was closely linked to religion.

Because the Koran prohibited the use of human figures and bodies, architecture developed more than drawings and paintings.

Artists were creative, cultivating various arts and objects by making dishes and jugs for example, out of metals, glass and ivory. Pottery and mosaics were designed with a huge range of shapes and colours.

# Examples in Andalucía



# The Great Mosque of Cordoba





# The Giralda in Sevilla



# The Alhambra in Granada



# Islamic Art was Characterised by Certain Features

These created a big impact on what we see today.

- Mosques are the most important buildings from this period, but fortresses, palaces, souks, public baths and schools (madrassas) were also built.
- Simple building materials were used - brick and wood.
- Vaults and domes were richly decorated
- Pillars and columns were used as supports and there was a profusion of arches
- The decoration of the external walls was austere in contrast to the rich and varied decoration of interiors based on marble, tiles, plaster and wood.
- Many of the buildings, particularly palaces, had beautiful gardens, where the vegetation and water combined to create a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere, integrating architecture and nature.

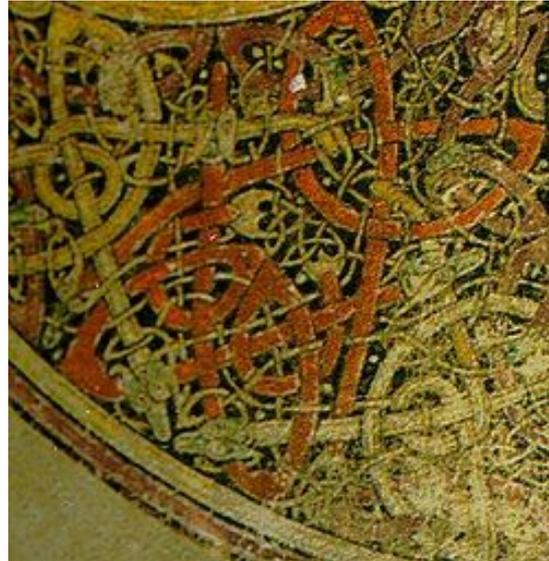
# Different Styles - The Arabesque

The **arabesque** is a form of artistic decoration consisting of "surface decorations based on rhythmic linear patterns of scrolling and interlacing foliage, tendrils" or plain lines, often combined with other elements.



# Different Styles - The Interlace

In the visual arts, interlace is a decorative element found in medieval art. In interlace, bands or portions of other motifs are looped, braided, and knotted in complex geometric patterns, often to fill a space.



# Different Styles - The Calligraphy

Islamic calligraphy is the artistic practice of handwriting and calligraphy, in the languages which use Arabic alphabet or the alphabets derived from it.



# Different Styles of Arches

The Horseshoe - The horseshoe arch became a popular feature in Islamic structures. Some suggest the Muslims acquired this from the Visigoths in Spain but they may have obtained it from Syria and Persia where the horseshoe arch had been in use by the Byzantines. In Moorish architecture, the curvature of the horseshoe arch is much more accentuated.



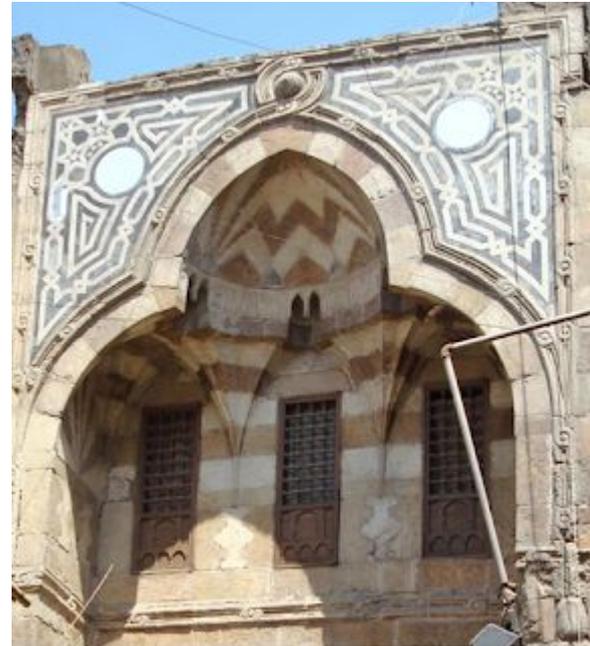
# Different Styles of Arches

The Buttress - A buttress is an architectural structure built against or projecting from a wall which serves to support or reinforce the wall.<sup>[1]</sup> Buttresses are fairly common on more ancient buildings, as a means of providing support to act against the lateral (sideways) forces arising out of the roof structures that lack adequate bracing.



# Different Styles of Arches

The Trilobed - An arch with three combined shapes within it.



# Different Styles of Arches

The Interlaced - Also common are paired arches separated by a column, as well as interlaced and poly-lobed arches.

