



# History of Islamic Architecture

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1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

# Early Islamic Architecture

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INTRODUCTION

CHRONOLOGY



# Introduction

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- Early Islamic architecture refers to the architectural styles and designs that developed in the early centuries of Islam, primarily from the 7th to the 12th centuries CE.
- This architecture was heavily influenced by the cultural and architectural traditions of the regions where Islam spread.



# Introduction

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Early Islamic architecture changed over time, and it was shaped by :

- ✓ The expansion(growth) of the Islamic empire .
- ✓ And the combination of various cultural elements from ruled regions.



# Introduction

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➤ This diversity is reflected in the rich architectural heritage of the Islamic world, from the decorative palaces of the Abbasid Caliphate to the stunning mosques of Andalusia.



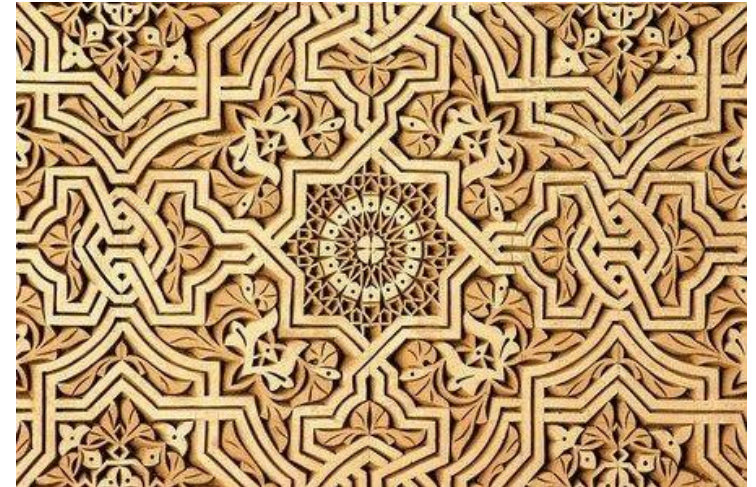
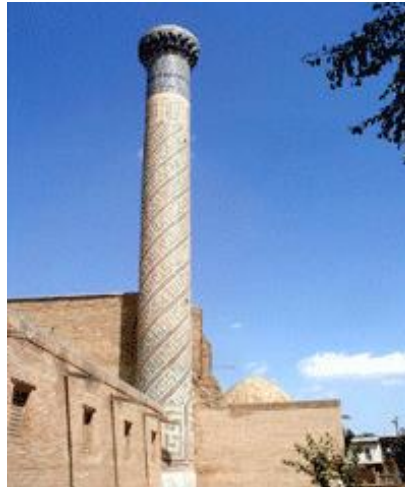
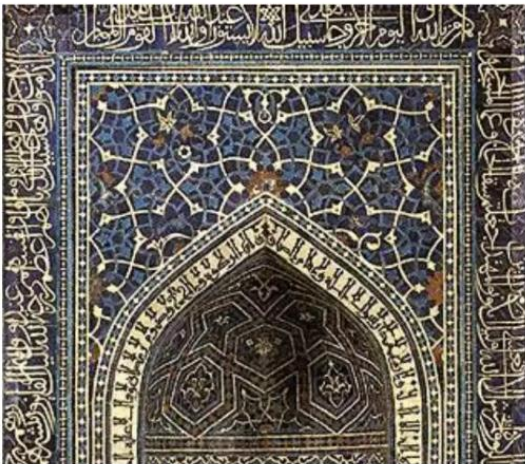
Palaces of the Abbasid Caliphate



Mosques of Andalusia.

# Introduction

- it developed distinct characteristics in the form of buildings, and the decoration of surfaces with Islamic calligraphy and geometric and interlace patterned ornament.
- New architectural elements like cylindrical minarets, pointed arch, muqarnas, arabesque, multifoil were invented.



# Introduction

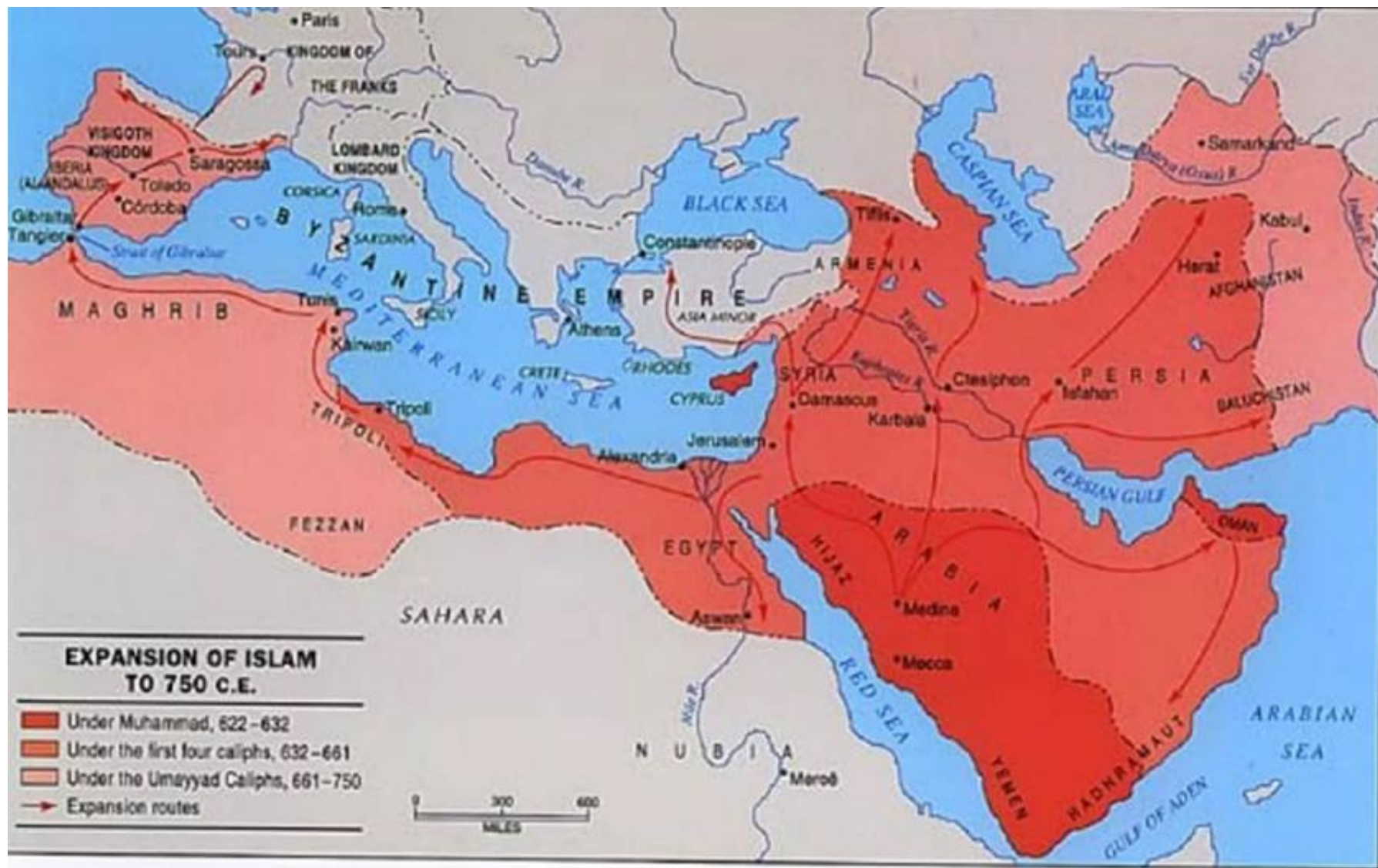
- The principal Islamic architectural types for large or public buildings are: the **Mosque**, the **Tomb**, the **Palace** and the **Fort**.
- From these four types, the vocabulary of Islamic architecture is derived and used for other buildings such as **public baths**, **fountains** and **domestic architecture**.



# Islamic Architecture Chronology

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# 7th-8th Centuries: Early Islamic Period

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- During the early Islamic period, Islamic architecture was strongly influenced by existing architectural traditions in regions such as the Arabian Peninsula and Byzantine and Sassanian Persia.
- The first mosques, including the Prophet's Mosque in Medina and the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, were constructed during this era.
- Islamic architecture was marked by the use of simple geometric forms, arches, and decorative calligraphy.



# 8th-10th Centuries: Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties

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- The Umayyad and Abbasid periods saw the construction of significant architectural achievements, including the Great Mosque of Cordoba in Spain and the Abbasid capital of Baghdad.
- The use of decorative stucco and the development of geometric and floral patterns in architectural ornamentation became prominent features of this period.

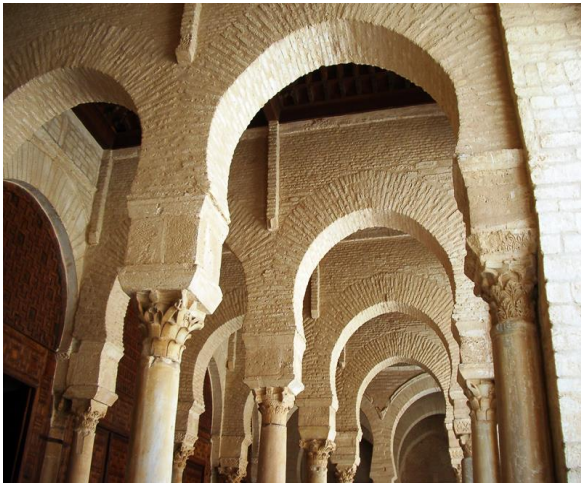


Mosque of Cordoba in Spain

# 10th-12th Centuries: Islamic Spain

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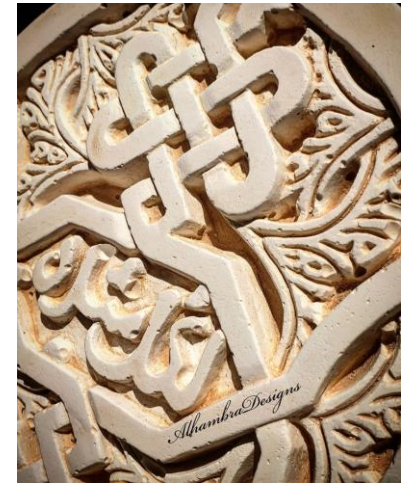
- Islamic Spain, or Al-Andalus, saw the development of unique architectural styles, including the Alhambra in Granada .
- The use of **horseshoe arches**, **complicated tilework** (azulejos), and **elaborate stucco** decoration became distinctive features of Al-Andalusian architecture.



Horseshoe arches



Complicated tilework



Elaborate stucco

# 10th-12th Centuries: Islamic Spain

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Alhambra in Granada

# 11th-13th Centuries: Seljuk and Mamluk Periods

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- In regions such as Iran and Egypt, the Seljuk and Mamluk dynasties produced notable architectural works, including the Seljuk mosques in Isfahan and the Mosque of Ibn Tulun in Cairo.
- Architectural innovations included the use of pointed arches and muqarnas (honeycomb-like decorative elements).



the Mosque of Ibn Tulun in Cairo



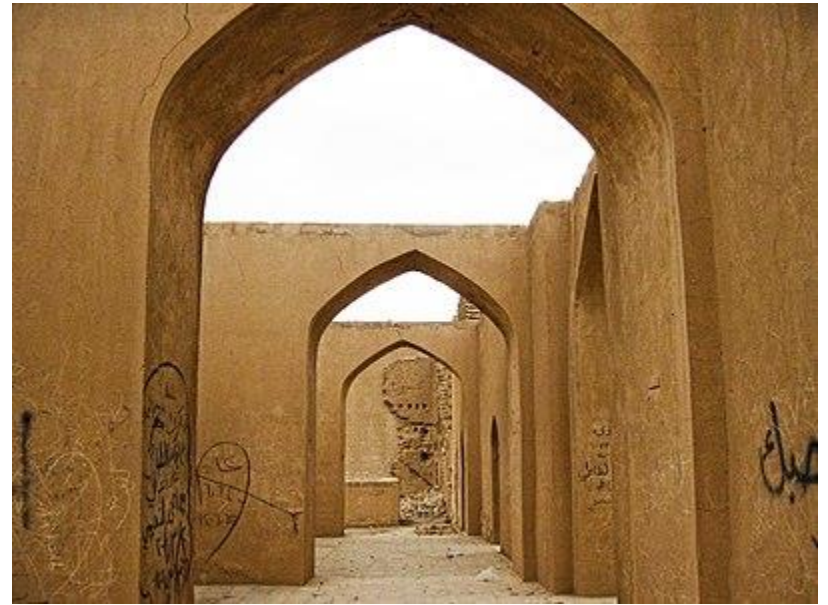
Seljuk mosques in Isfahan

# 11th-13th Centuries: Seljuk and Mamluk Periods

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Muqarnas



Pointed archs

# 13th-16th Centuries: Mongol and Timurid Periods

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- Despite periods of political instability, Islamic architecture continued to flourish under the Timurid dynasty in Central Asia, with notable structures like the Gur-e-Amir mausoleum in Samarkand.
- The use of ornate tilework, domes, and minarets continued to be prominent.



Gur-e-Amir mausoleum in Samarkand



# 14th-17th Centuries: Ottoman Empire

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- The Ottoman Empire produced iconic architectural works, such as the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul (converted into a mosque) and the Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque).
- Ottoman architecture is characterized by large domes, complicated tile decoration, and monumental entrance portals.



# 16th-18th Centuries: Safavid and Mughal Empires(India)

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- In Persia, the Safavid Empire left behind architectural marvels like the Sheikh Lutfullah Mosque in Isfahan.
- In the Indian subcontinent, the Mughal Empire produced grand structures like the Taj Mahal, known for its use of white marble, complex tile work, and symmetrical gardens.



# 18th-19th Centuries: Qajar and Ottoman Revival

- The Qajar dynasty in Iran produced luxurious palaces with mirrored interiors, including the Golestan Palace in Tehran.
- In the Ottoman Empire, architectural revival movements led to the construction of neo-classical and neo-baroque buildings.



Golestan Palace in Tehran

# 20th Century to Present: Contemporary Islamic Architecture

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- Modern and contemporary Islamic architecture has seen a fusion of traditional elements with modern design approaches.
- Countries with significant oil wealth, such as the United Arab Emirates, have invested in iconic structures like the Burj Khalifa and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.



**Thank you**

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