

Art and Islam



Picture source: blog.imagereflex.com/archives/2005/07/

Art and Islam

- Islam has 1500 years of Art and Culture.
- Islam forbids the creation of images of Muhammad in order to prevent his followers worshipping idols. There are no pictures of people or animals in mosques.
- A mosque is an Islamic holy building. The name comes from the Arabic word “majid” meaning “place of prostration”.

Islamic Art is Made up of...



Tiles from the 14th century Alhambra throne room in Granada, Spain.

- Geometric Pattern
- Calligraphy (beautiful and ornate writing)
- Ceramic work and mosaics
- Weaving and textiles

Picture source: gate.cia.edu/.../arthistory/islam/slides.html

Architecture



Islamic Buildings are richly decorated with mosaic work and calligraphy.

This mosque is the famous Dome of the Rock in East Jerusalem where Muhammad is said to have ascended into heaven.

Geometric Pattern



Masjid I Jami. Safavid Dynasty, 18th Century. Isfahan, Iran.

A geometric pattern is one that is made up of regular lines and repeated shapes. Shapes can be reflected or rotated to create a pattern.

Islamic artists often have a small deliberate mistake in their patterns to show that they are not perfect like Allah.

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Pattern Decoration



It is not just mosques that are decorated with pattern. Many buildings in Islamic countries are decorated with mosaic work (patterns made up from small pieces of coloured tile).

This pattern is made up from hexagonal pieces arranged to form diamond shapes. It is the decoration of a palace in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Calligraphy



Calligraphy is beautiful ornate writing. Mosques are often decorated in with the name Muhammad and verses from the Quran, the Islamic Holy Book.

This piece of Calligraphy means ‘Allah is beautiful and loves everything beautiful’.

Image Source:

www.amaana.org/children/rubina.htm

Calligraphy Styles



Above are images of Bismillah verse (in Arabic). All the chapters except one in the Holy Quran begin with the verse, "In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind." The two Bismillahs above say the same thing, in different Arabic "fonts" or calligraphy styles.

Picture source: www.mc.maricopa.edu/~ladelia/INTREL243/CH%201