

# Islamic Architecture

# Islamic Architecture

How did it begin?

- By following the tradition of the Prophet, i.e. building a mosque when they start to occupy a new settlement
- Transformation of buildings used by the people before the Muslims took over the state / country, for e.g. Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey



## The definition

- Islamic architecture is the entire range of architecture that has evolved from Islam as a social, cultural, political and religious phenomenon. Hence the term encompasses religious buildings as well as secular ones, historic as well as modern expressions, and the production of all places that have come under the varying levels of Islamic influence.
- Islamic architecture can be influenced by
  - chronology
  - geography
  - building typology

## Elements of Islamic style

- Large domes
- Minarets
- Large courtyard often merged with a central praying hall
- Use of geometric shape and repetitive art (arabesque)
- Extensive use of decorative Arabic calligraphy
- Use of symmetry and ablution fountain
- A mihrab inside mosque to indicate the direction of Mecca
- Use of bright colour
- Focus on interior of space rather than exterior

## Interpretation of Islamic style

- The concept of Allah's infinite power is evoked by design with repetitive theme which suggests infinity
- Figurative forms are rarely depicted in decorative art as Allah's work is matchless. Foliage is a frequent motif but typically stylized or simplified
- The use of calligraphy is actually means of education and reminder as they are taken from the verses of al-Quran
- It has been called the 'architecture of the veil' because the beauty lies in the inner spaces which are not visible from the outside
- Use of impressive forms such as large domes, towering minarets and large courtyard has both symbolic meaning and scientific purposes

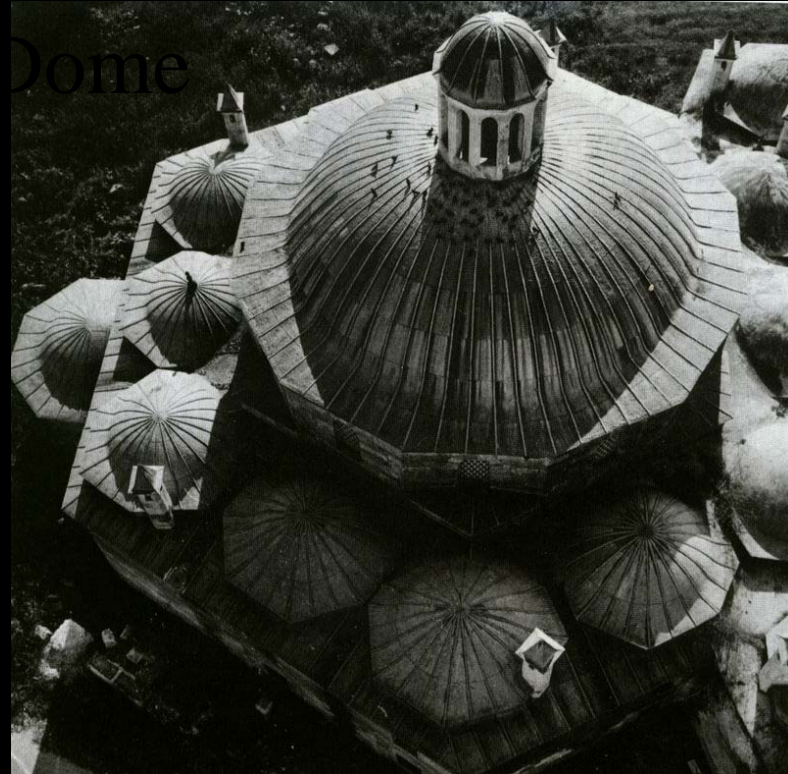
## Influences in Islamic Architecture

Basically, these are the famous styles that has influence the Islamic architecture

- Moorish architecture
- Timurid architecture
- Ottoman architecture
- Mughal architecture
- Islamic architecture

In Asia and South East Asia, Islamic architecture blend into the regional architecture because the influence of previous religions or culture was stronger

# The Mosque





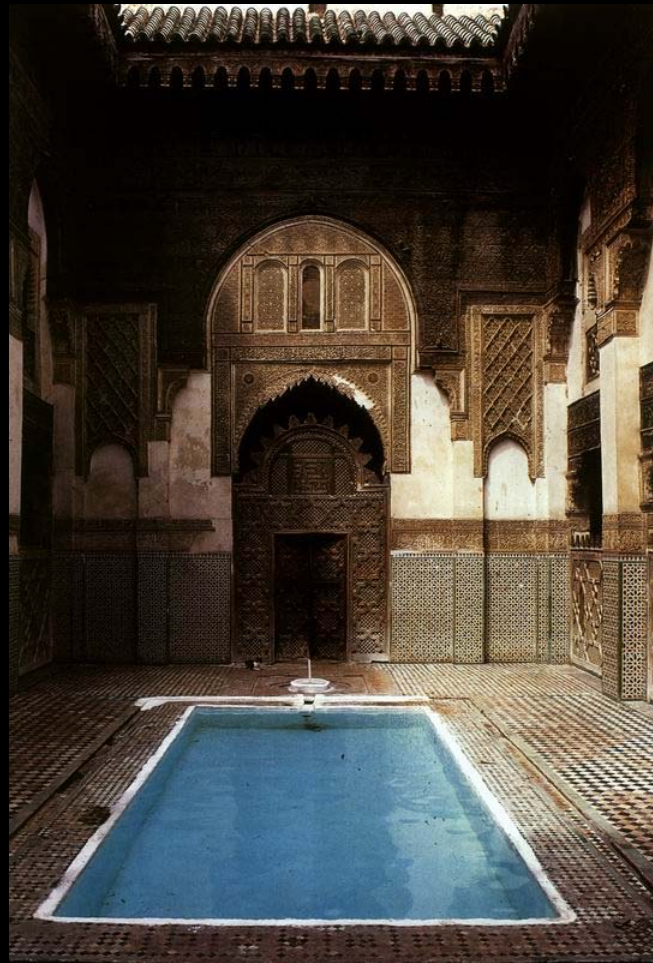




## Mihrab

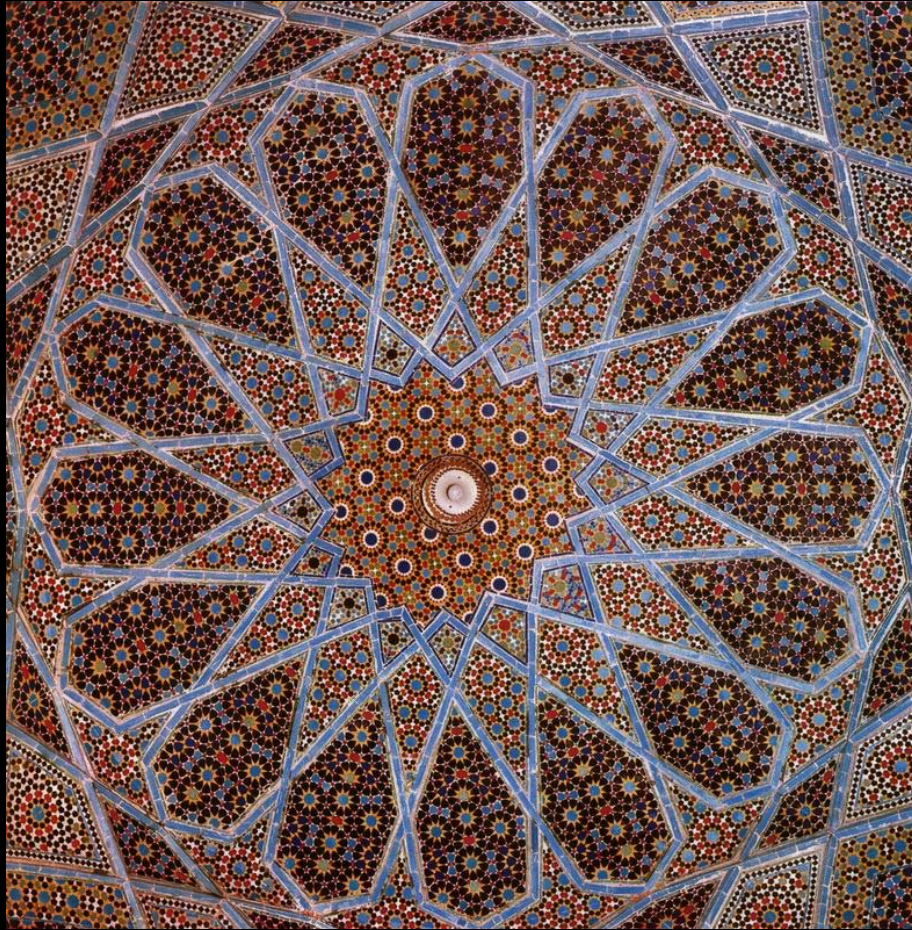


Mimbar



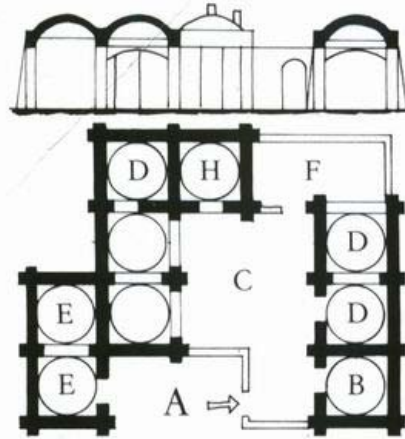
## Caravansary

HISTORY & CULTURE 1 (90012)

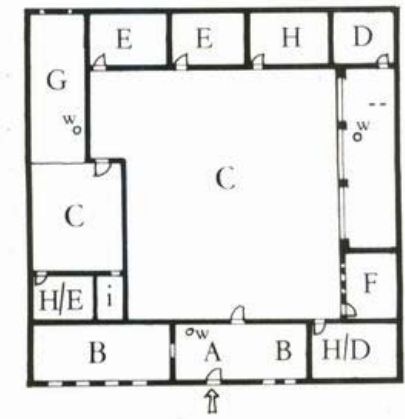


Geometric pattern





*Courtyard house in the Souf, Algeria. (2)*



*Courtyard house at Qustul, Nubia. (3)*

# Typical houses



*Courtyard house at Al-Majma'ah, Saudi Arabia, showing the ground floor (a) and upper storey (b). (4)*