

The Fatimids | Mosque and Palace

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Throughout the Fatimid provinces, mosque interiors and furnishings were richly endowed and decorated with elegant religious inscriptions and intricate arabesque ornamentation. Royal patronage ensured the highest standards of craftsmanship, and that the dynasty's religious and ideological convictions were expressed through artistic means.



Name:
Parts of a minbar

Dynasty:
Sides: Hegira 369 / AD 979; back: Hegira 375 / AD 985 Sides: Tunisian Fatimid;
back: Umayyad Caliphate of Córdoba

Details:
Batha Museum
Fez, Morocco

Justification:
One of the oldest minbars (pulpit) in North Africa. It was commissioned by the Fatimid amir, Buluggin I (r. 361–73 / 972–84) for the Andalusian Mosque in Fez in 369 / 980, and enhanced by some Umayyad panels in 375 / 985.



Name:
Page from a Qur'an

Dynasty:
Hegira, beginning of the second quarter of the 5th century / AD 9th century Zirid

Details:
Museum of Islamic Art
Raqqada, Kairouan, Tunisia

Justification:
A Qur'an dedicated to the Great Mosque in Kairouan by al-Mu'izz ibn Badis (r. 406–54 / 1016–62), a ruler who had broken away from the Fatimids and wanted to promote the mosque as a bastion of the Islamic Sunni Maliki sect in North Africa.



Name:
Great lantern of al-Mu'izz

Dynasty:
Hegira 424–43 / AD 1032–51 Fatimid–Zirid

Details:
Museum of Islamic Art
Raqqada, Kairouan, Tunisia

Justification:
A lamp dedicated to the Great Mosque in Kairouan by al-Mu'izz ibn Badis.



Name:
Door of the ante-chamber of the maqsura

Dynasty:

Hegira, second quarter of the 5th century / AD 11th century Zirid

Details:

Museum of Islamic Art
Raqqada, Kairouan, Tunisia

Justification:

A door, decorated with floral and calligraphic decoration in the Fatimid style. It originates from the maqsura (sanctuary kept for the sole use of the caliph or the imam) of the Great Mosque at Kairouan, and was commissioned by al-Mu'izz ibn Badis.

**Name:**

Stucco-covered wooden side-rib

Dynasty:

Probably about hegira 424 / AD 1033 Probably Fatimid

Details:

Islamic Museum, al-Aqsa Mosque / al-Haram al-Sharif
Jerusalem

Justification:

A painted wooden panel exemplifying the care taken by the Fatimids in the restoration and enhancement of the main religious buildings of Jerusalem.
