The Muslim West | Andalusian-Maghrebi Art

Almoravids and Almohads: Maghrebi-Andalusian art.

The two branches of a single artistic style: the Almoravid and Almohad, was based on religious zeal. Originating in the Maghreb, on reaching al-Andalus it unified artistic expression on both sides of the Straits of Gibraltar. Initially quite austere, the influence of existing Andalusian artistic influences helped to make it more elaborate.



Name:
Town Gate

Dynasty:
Hegira second half of 5th–first half of 6th century / AD end of 11th–first half of 12th century Almoravid

Details:
Faro, Portugal

Justification:
The Almoravid branch had a tendency to use brick pillars, horseshoe arches and understated geometric decoration.



Name:
Djama'a al-Kebir (Great Mosque)

Dynasty:
Hegira 530 / AD 1136 Almoravid

Details:
Tlemcen, Algeria

Justification:
The Great Mosque of Tlemcen.



Name:
Fragments of bronze door facing

Dynasty:
Hegira 531 / AD 1136 Almoravid

Details:
Batha Museum
Fez, Morocco

Justification:
The Almoravid branch had a tendency to use brick pillars, horseshoe arches and understated geometric decoration.



Name:
Glazed bowl

Dynasty:
Hegira second half of 6th century / AD second half of 12th century Almohad

Details:
Mértola Museum
Mértola, Beja, Portugal

Justification:

Almohad art; monumental, understated and orderly when used on buildings also introduced a new repertoire of plant-based decoration in the form of the 'plain palm' (a smooth, plain palm leaf), which was widely used in architecture, ceramics and woodwork.



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Name:
Giralda

Dynasty:
Hegira 580–94 / AD 1184–98 Almohad

Details:
Seville, Spain

Justification:
Plain-palms used in the Giralda, Seville.



Name:
Fragment of lintel (izar)

Dynasty:
Hegira second half of the 6th century / AD second half of the 12th century Almohad

Details:
Batha Museum
Fez, Morocco

Justification:
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Name:
Hasan Mosque

Dynasty:
Hegira 6th / AD 12th century Almohad

Details:
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:
Plain-palms used in the Hassan Tower, Rabat.
