

# Geometric Decoration | Geometric Decoration in Architecture

'Interior walls were clad with panels and friezes, as if they were fine fabrics..'

Interior walls were clad with panels and friezes with geometric patterns in relief that would originally have been coloured, as if they were fine fabrics. This type of decoration appears in muqarnas in the West and in the East and was used on window cornices and arches. It is made up of interconnected prismatic parts of different shapes. Finally, geometric calligraphic decoration in kufic script adorns the friezes of religious and civil buildings.



**Name:**

Buinaniya Madrasa

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 751–6 / AD 1351–6 Marinid

**Details:**

Fez (Old Town / medina), Morocco

**Justification:**

The walls of the courtyard are covered with richly sculpted plasterwork above the ceramic plinths.



**Name:**

Qasr al-Hayr al-Gharbi

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 109 / AD 727 Umayyad

**Details:**

Syrian Desert, Syria

**Justification:**

The portico is clad with plasterwork panels with geometric designs (squares, rhomboids, circles, hexagons) that frame sections of floral decoration.



**Name:**

Qasr al-Hayr al-Gharbi

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 109 / AD 727 Umayyad

**Details:**

Syrian Desert, Syria

**Justification:**

The portico is clad with plasterwork panels with geometric designs (squares, rhomboids, circles, hexagons) that frame sections of floral decoration.



**Name:**

Zisa

**Dynasty:**

1165-1180 Norman

**Details:**

Palermo, Sicily, Italy

**Justification:**

Small, differently shaped prisms are combined to create a three-dimensional architectural element.



**Name:**

Zisa

**Dynasty:**

1165-1180 Norman

**Details:**

Palermo, Sicily, Italy

**Justification:**

Small, differently shaped prisms are combined to create a three-dimensional architectural element.

---



**Name:**

Fragment of a frieze

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 296–467 / AD 909–1074 Rustamids of Sedrata

**Details:**

National Museum of Antiquities and Islamic Arts  
Algiers, Algeria

**Justification:**

This frieze, which separate the roof from the wall, has an epigraphic band with the word baraka (blessing) repeated in kufic characters.

---



**Name:**

Teak Panel

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 3rd / AD 9th century Abbasid

**Details:**

The British Museum  
London, England, United Kingdom

**Justification:**

Geometric decoration was also used on wooden objects, such as the doors or on pieces of furniture.

---