Geometric Decoration | Geometric Decoration in Architecture

‘The intention was to leave no spaces undecorated (horror vacui).’

Throughout the Muslim world, the façades of important buildings were covered with muqarnas (known as muqarbas in North Africa) a three-dimensional geometric stalactite-like decoration, or with geometric patterns carved into the stone. The intention was to leave no spaces undecorated (horror vacui). From the Almohad era onwards, the façades of minarets in North Africa and al-Andalus were decorated first with single or intertwined lobed arches that, when repeated and superimposed, resulted in a pattern known as sebka that was created from a network of rhombuses and resembled openwork tapestry.



Name:
Hospital (Bimaristan) Nur al-Din

Dynasty:
Hegira 549 / AD 1154 Atabeg

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
Geometric relief and honeycomb-work adorns or structures the walls of the porticoes.



Name:
Great Mosque and Hospital of Divri#i

Dynasty:
Hegira 626/ AD 1228–9 Mengücekli Emirate

Details:
Divri#i, Sivas, Turkey

Justification:
Geometric relief and honeycomb-work adorns or structures the walls of the porticoes.



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Great Mosque and Hospital of Divri#i

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Details:
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Justification:
Geometric relief and honeycomb-work adorns or structures the walls of the porticoes.



Name:
Kutubiya Mosque

Dynasty:
Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Almohad

Details:
Marrakesh, Morocco

Justification:

Openings in Almohad minarets were decorated with lobed arches, that when multiplied and intertwined, formed networks of rhombuses on their walls.



Name:
Giralda

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

Details:
Seville, Spain

Justification:
Openings in Almohad minarets were decorated with lobed arches, that when multiplied and intertwined, formed networks of rhombuses on their walls.
