Mudéjar Art | Mudéjar Civic and Aristocratic Art

Andalusian palaces for Christian kings

Mudéjar aristocratic art was created by the kings and their entourage of noblemen in an attempt to imitate the Islamic palaces whose magnificence they had witnessed on ambassadorial business. As the Christian kings conquered the towns of al-Andalus, the sumptuous living rooms, gardens and bedrooms of the Andalusian palaces became royal residences and the backdrop for aristocratic life, a deliberate expression of dominance over the enemy and admiration for its art. At this same time, the new palaces copied the use of plaster- and brickwork, the sophisticated interior decoration and the harmonious arrangements of courtyards and gardens. The Aljafería Palace, Royal Citadel and the Sintra Palace are good examples of the re-use of Andalusian palaces by Christian kings.

Name:
Mudéjar Palace of Aljafería

Dynasty:
14th and 15th centuries Mudéjar

Details:
Saragossa, Spain

Justification:
Alfonso I took up residence in the Aljafería without making any significant architectural alterations. The Mudéjar constructions are later additions.

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Name:
Rose window

Dynasty:
1350–70 Mudéjar

Details:
National Archaeological Museum

Madrid, Spain

Justification:
Rose window from the Aljafería Palace, National Archaeological Museum, Madrid.

Name:
Seville Citadel

Dynasty:
13th-15th centuries Mudéjar

Details:
Seville, Spain

Justification:
Alfonso X and Pedro I built their own palaces within the Royal Citadel, the latter boasting the most exquisite façade in Spanish Mudéjar architecture.

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Palácio da Vila (Town Palace)

Dynasty:
11th, 15th–16th, 18th century Manueline-Mudéjar

Details:
Sintra, Lisbon, Portugal

Justification:
The Mudéjar palace in Sintra is a later construction, commissioned by Manuel I and erected on the site of an existing Muslim palace.

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