

# 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.



**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.



**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:**  
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.



**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:**

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.

**Name:**

Hasan Mosque

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 6th / AD 12th century Almohad

**Details:**

Rabat, Morocco

**Justification:**

Plain-palms used in the Hassan Tower, Rabat.

---