

The Muslim West | Andalusian-Maghrebi Art

Merinids and Nasrids: a model for Western Islamic art.

Nasrid art in al-Andalus, and Marinid, Ziyamid and Hafsid art in the Maghreb represent the highpoint of the decorative wealth found in Western Muslim art. Their interrelations give rise to a uniform style (with highly significant examples such as that at the Alhambra in Granada and the 'Attarin Madrasa in Fez) which became a model for Western Islamic art.



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Mansura

Dynasty:
Hegira 698 / AD 1299 Marinid

Details:
Tlemcen, Algeria

Justification:
In its early stages, Marinid art continued to make use of existing decorative elements such as muqarnas (stalactite-like) work and decorated arches.



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Dynasty:
Hegira 8th century / AD 14th century Marinid

Details:
Fez (Old Town / medina), Morocco

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Art from al-Andalus and the Maghreb reached its zenith under the Marinids and the Nasrids with the enhancement of existing elements such as different styles of arches and capitals, glazed ceramics, plasterwork and muqarnas.



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Name:
Wooden frieze

Dynasty:
Hegira 7th century / AD 13th century Marinid

Details:
Batha Museum
Fez, Morocco

Justification:
Fine woods with decorative (originally coloured) carving was used extensively in friezes and for panelling.



Name:
Alhambra cupola

Dynasty:
Around hegira 719 / AD 1320 Nasrid

Details:
Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum
Berlin, Germany

Justification:
Detail of the ceiling from the Alhambra, now in the collection at the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin.
