

The Muslim West | Court Life

Silk: a royal fabric

As sartorial fashion and trends in palace decoration changed under the influence of Eastern artists and merchants, silk became the natural and preferred choice for the court. At first the production of silk was permitted only in the royal workshops, where it reached a level of quality and beauty that was as highly esteemed as the silks produced by the Eastern workshops, and often given as diplomatic gifts by sovereigns.



Name:

Silk textile with geometric pattern

Dynasty:

Hegira 8th–9th / AD 14th–15th century Nasrid

Details:

Victoria and Albert Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

The luxury fabrics used for royal garments, and the curtains, cushions and tapestries that furnished the palaces were all made out of silk.



Name:

Stole, mirror dressing (tenchifa)

Dynasty:

Hegira 12th-13th centuries / AD 18th-19th centuries Alawid

Details:

Museum of the Udayas
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:

The luxury fabrics used for royal garments, and the curtains, cushions and tapestries that furnished the palaces were all made out of silk.



Name:

Kaftan

Dynasty:

Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century 'Alawid

Details:

Museum of the Udayas
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:

The luxury fabrics used for royal garments, and the curtains, cushions and tapestries that furnished the palaces were all made out of silk.
