

Western Influence in Ottoman Lands | Tunisia

‘Sumptuous houses were built in the most beautiful districts of the medina along with nearby country houses set in surrounding gardens.’

Indeed, from the late 17th century, public and private buildings began to include innovations in their architecture, decoration and ornamentation. The first elements of the Baroque style began to emerge, and local earthenware, stucco and sculpted wood traditions were abandoned in favour of Italian or Rococo decoration executed by foreign craftsmen. Sumptuous houses were built in the most beautiful districts of the medina along with nearby country houses set in surrounding gardens. Ornamentation differed from one palace to another, but the fascination for Carrara marble and imported ceramics became widespread during the 18th and 19th centuries: grand marble stairways, Italian painted wooden ceilings, Neapolitan tiles, Husaynid stuccowork and floral painting. Internal doors and window shutters were made of Italian sculpted panels.



Name:
Kasser Said Palace

Dynasty:
13th/first half of 19th century

Details:
Bardo, Tunisia

Justification:
Grand marble staircase seen beneath an Italian-style compartmentalised stucco vault: European marble and earthenware.



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Burj Qubbat Ennhas

Dynasty:

AH 12th/AD 18th centuries

Details:

Manouba, Tunisia

Justification:

Italian Baroque door – entrance to the coeur d'honneur.

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Justification:

Ornamental details of the gilt ceiling painted in the Italian style.

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Rose Palace

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AH 12th–13th/AD 18th centuries

Details:

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Justification:

Detail of Italian-style sculpture.

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