

Arabic Calligraphy | Monumental Calligraphy

‘Calligraphy was applied to a variety of surfaces including stone, plaster, wood and ceramic tiles.’

Calligraphy was applied to a variety of surfaces including stone, plaster, wood and ceramic tiles. It was very popular on stonework in Turkey, Syria, Egypt and Tunisia. Exceptional examples of it on woodwork can be seen in the Great Mosque of Kairouan and at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.



Name:
Wall inscription

Dynasty:
Hegira 910 or 920 / AD 1504 or 1514 Mamluk

Details:
In situ at Aqaba Castle
Aqaba, Jordan

Justification:
The inscriptions on the entrance walls of Aqaba Castle state that it was built by order of Amir Khayr Bay al-Ala'i during the reign of the Mamluk sultan Qansuh al-Ghuri (r. 906–22 / 1500–1516).



Name:
Wall inscription

Dynasty:
Hegira 910 or 920 / AD 1504 or 1514 Mamluk

Details:
In situ at Aqaba Castle
Aqaba, Jordan

Justification:
Detail of a carved calligraphic roundel at Aqaba Castle.



Name:
Wall inscription

Dynasty:
Hegira 910 or 920 / AD 1504 or 1514 Mamluk

Details:
In situ at Aqaba Castle
Aqaba, Jordan

Justification:
Detail of a restored area of calligraphy at Aqaba Castle.



Name:
Aqaba Castle (Khan)

Dynasty:
Hegira 920 / AD 1515–hegira 996 / AD 1585 Mamluk–Ottoman

Details:
Aqaba, Jordan

Justification:
General view of the gates of Aqaba Castle.



Name:
Aqsa Mosque

Dynasty:
Hegira 65–96 / AD 685–715 Built in the Umayyad period; renovated in the Abbasid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman periods

Details:
Jerusalem

Justification:
Below the dome of the Aqsa Mosque is a beautiful mihrab, the patron of which was Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi (known as Saladin, r. 564–89 / 1169–93), when he liberated the mosque from the Franks in 583 / 1187.



Name:
Aqsa Mosque

Dynasty:
Hegira 65–96 / AD 685–715 Built in the Umayyad period; renovated in the Abbasid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman periods

Details:
Jerusalem

Justification:
Detail of the inside face of the dome at the Aqsa Mosque.



Name:
Aqsa Mosque

Dynasty:
Hegira 65–96 / AD 685–715 Built in the Umayyad period; renovated in the Abbasid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman periods

Details:
Jerusalem

Justification:
Exterior of the Aqsa Mosque with its dome to the left and the Old City of Jerusalem beyond.



Name:
Aqsa Mosque

Dynasty:
Hegira 65–96 / AD 685–715 Built in the Umayyad period; renovated in the Abbasid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman periods

Details:
Jerusalem

Justification:
Main entrance to the Aqsa Mosque.



Name:
Madrasa al-Jaqmaqiyya

Dynasty:
Hegira 762–822 / AD 1361–1421/2 Mamluk

Details:

Damascus, Syria

Justification:

The use of black and white marble to cover the façade of the madrasa is extremely effective. It was built in 810 / 1407–8, by order of the then Governor of Damascus, Sayf al-Din Jaqmaq al-Arghunshawi (r. 821–3 / 1418–20).
