

Geometric Decoration | Geometric Decoration in Architecture

'The repetitive character made it easy for craftsmen to faithfully reproduce complicated compositions.'

Geometric designs dominate architectural decoration above all other patterns. The linear and repetitive character of geometric ornamentation made it easy for craftsmen to faithfully reproduce complicated compositions, thus ensuring their continuity and formal similarity over time and in different lands. Moreover, the great variety of geometric motifs and the possibility of adapting them to materials as diverse as tile, plaster, brick and wood encouraged their use throughout buildings in floors, skirting boards, walls, cornices and ceilings.



Name:
Fragment from a mosaic floor

Dynasty:
Hegira 303 / AD 916 Fatimid

Details:
Museum of Islamic Art
Raqqada, Kairouan, Tunisia

Justification:
Inspired by antiquity, mosaics were used in geometric compositions on the floors of Muslim buildings.



Name:
Zellij panel

Dynasty:
Hegira 751–7 / AD 1351–6 Marinid

Details:
Batha Museum
Fez, Morocco

Justification:
The composition of this zellij panel (made of very small tiles) resembles Almohad sebka (rhombuses).



Name:
Tile

Dynasty:
Hegira end of 9th–beginning of 10th century / AD end of 15th–beginning of 16th century Mudéjar

Details:
Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities (Medelhavsmuseet)
Stockholm, Sweden

Justification:
The geometric pattern is traced by a white interlacing line that originates at the green star in the centre.
