

Geometric Decoration | Geometric Decoration in Textiles

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The decoration used in some fabrics resembles that seen in tiling and plasterwork used on the walls of buildings. It sometimes even shares the system used to divide the decorated area, with the epigraphic bands on the edges of the fabric corresponding to the epigraphic friezes that crown geometric plinths. This type of decoration arises from the development of interlacing, the designs of which are star-shaped, polygonal, lobed and other motifs.



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 knot-work line (in this case a yellow band) creates a number of colourful geometric motifs in red, blue, green, white and yellow.



Name:
Kaftan fragment

Dynasty:
Hegira, late 10th–early 11th century / AD late 16th– early 17th century Ottoman

Details:
National Museums of Scotland (NMS)
Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

Justification:
In this kaftan, the stars outlined in the knot-work contain eight tulips.



Name:
Printed cotton textile fragment

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

Details:
Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
A good example of a decorative arrangement similar to that used on the walls of buildings, with an epigraphic band at the top.



Name:
Belt

Dynasty:
Hegira 12th–13th centuries / AD 18th–19th centuries 'Alawid

Details:

Museum of the Udayas
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:

A belt with adjacent rows of small horseshoe arches and a central band with a stylised Almohad (AH 524–668 / AD 1130–1269) sebka (rhombuses). The pattern is identical to that on the façade of the Hassan Tower in Rabat.



Name:

Prayer rug with multiple prayer niches (fragment)

Dynasty:

Hegira 11th century / AD 17th century Ottoman

Details:

Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum
Berlin, Germany

Justification:

A prayer rug that bears the repeated image of the mihrab niche.
