

Geometric Decoration | Geometric Decoration in Architecture

'This has been interpreted as a representation of the vault of heaven.'

Ceilings were also embellished with geometric motifs, often multicoloured and gilded, which has been interpreted as a representation of the vault of heaven. This can be seen clearly in the muqarnas vaults in which the interlacing develops from a central star to occupy the entire area available.



Name:
Khanqah and Madrasa of Sultan Faraj ibn Barquq

Dynasty:
Hegira 813 / AD 1411 Mamluk

Details:
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
This enormous vault covering a mausoleum is painted with a striking red geometric interlacing that originates with an eight-pointed star and opens out to infinity.



Name:
Alhambra

Dynasty:
From Hegira 636 / AD 1238 to the reign of Muhammad V (AH 754–94 / AD 1354–91) Nasrid

Details:
Granada, Spain

Justification:
The geometric design of the star-shaped muqarnas vault in the Abencerrajes Room grows from a tiny eight-pointed star to create the large star.



Name:
Djama'a Sidi Bel-Hasan (mosque)

Dynasty:
Hegira 696 / AD 1296 'Abd al-Wadid

Details:
Tlemcen, Algeria

Justification:
This small, octagonal vault was built using small, prismatic pieces (toothing) of different shapes bound to each other. The original, rich colouring is now faded.
