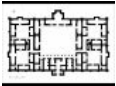


The Muslim West | Seats of Power: Palaces

The private areas of the palace.

The space within palatial enclosures was distributed hierarchically, depending on whether it was public or private. Private spaces included the royal residence, located in the most central and inaccessible part of the enclosure, designed also to accommodate the sovereign's extended family. It was split into residential units arranged around courtyards with porticos that gave access to the private rooms. These always included a main room with adjacent bedrooms, all richly furnished and decorated for receiving the most intimate of guests and holding private parties.



Name:
Palace of Ziri in 'Achir (Qasr)

Dynasty:
Around Hegira 336 / AD 947 Zirid

Details:
Kef Lakhdar, Aïn Boucif, Médéa, Algeria

Justification:
Similar to ordinary people's residences, royal residences were arranged around interior courtyards with a fountain in the centre and columns around the edge.



Name:
Dar al-Jam'i

Dynasty:
Hegira 1298–1300 / AD 1880–2 Alawid

Details:
Meknès, Morocco

Justification:
Tiled walls, wood carving, practical decorative niches in walls, rugs, cushions, tapestries and a range of furniture made for luxurious, comfortable and hygienic rooms.



Name:
Niche

Dynasty:
Hegira 296–467 / AD 909–1074 Rustamid of Sedrata

Details:
National Museum of Antiquities and Islamic Arts
Algiers, Algeria

Justification:
Tiled walls, wood carving, practical decorative niches in walls, rugs, cushions, tapestries and a range of furniture made for luxurious, comfortable and hygienic rooms.



Name:
Alhambra vase

Dynasty:

Hegira 8th century / AD 14th century Nasrid

Details:

National Archaeological Museum
Madrid, Spain

Justification:

Tiled walls, wood carving, practical decorative niches in walls, rugs, cushions, tapestries and a range of furniture made for luxurious, comfortable and hygienic rooms.
