

# The Muslim West | Court Life

Silk: a royal fabric

As sartorial fashion and trends in palace decoration changed under the influence of Eastern artists and merchants, silk became the natural and preferred choice for the court. At first the production of silk was permitted only in the royal workshops, where it reached a level of quality and beauty that was as highly esteemed as the silks produced by the Eastern workshops, and often given as diplomatic gifts by sovereigns.



**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 luxury fabrics used for royal garments, and the curtains, cushions and tapestries that furnished the palaces were all made out of silk.

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**Name:**

Stole, mirror dressing (tenchifa)

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 12th-13th centuries / AD 18th-19th centuries Alawid

**Details:**

Museum of the Udayas  
Rabat, Morocco

**Justification:**

The luxury fabrics used for royal garments, and the curtains, cushions and tapestries that furnished the palaces were all made out of silk.

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**Name:**

Kaftan

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century 'Alawid

**Details:**

Museum of the Udayas  
Rabat, Morocco

**Justification:**

The luxury fabrics used for royal garments, and the curtains, cushions and tapestries that furnished the palaces were all made out of silk.

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