

The Normans in Sicily | Islamicised Communities Before and After the Norman Conquest

'The Arab period in Sicily survived for a considerable time in the form of social customs.'

The Arab period in Sicily survived for a considerable time in the form of domestic and social customs, as well as in the use of places linked to rituals and practices dating back to the time the island was under Islamic rule. The survival, mainly in smaller towns, of fragments of urban fabric that are similar to examples found in North Africa, despite the differences between their respective architectural contexts, bear witness to the legacy of the Islamic presence on the island's urban landscape.



Name:

Arab Quarter

Dynasty:

After Hegira 4th century / AD 10th century Fatimid

Details:

Sambuca di Sicilia, Italy

Justification:

The triangular Arab Quarter in Sambuca, Sicily, exemplifies the architectural and urban models typically found in Islamicised communities in Sicily.



Name:

Arab Quarter

Dynasty:

After hegira 3rd century / AD 9th century Aghlabid / Fatimid

Details:

Salemi, Italy

Justification:

The Arab quarter, rabato, in Salemi is characterised by narrow streets and blind alleys.



Name:

Fortress of Mazzalaccar

Dynasty:

Aghlabid / Fatimid / Norman?

Details:

Sciacca, Sicily, Italy

Justification:

The Fortress of Mazzalaccar at Sciacca may have been built during the period of Islamic rule to protect lines of communication.
