

The Atabegs and Ayyubids | Religious Life

'Islamic religious art is most eloquently expressed in mosque architecture.'

Damascus's role as a starting point for the yearly pilgrimage, or hajj, adds to the city's religious character. During the Ayyubid period, a suburb known as al-Maydan grew around the hajj road and became an important centre for the production of religious art. Islamic religious art in the Atabeg and Ayyubid periods is most eloquently expressed in mosque architecture and illuminated Qur'ans. Masonry and woodwork on minarets, mihrabs, maqsuras and minbars exemplify this pre-eminence.



Name:

Mihrab of the Madrasa al-Halawiyya

Dynasty:

Madrasa, Hegira 543 / AD 1149; mihrab, AH 643 / AD 1245 Zangid/Atabeg and Ayyubid

Details:

Aleppo, Syria

Justification:

Mihrab or prayer niche indicating the direction of prayer; the Halawiyya Madrasa in Aleppo.



Name:

Mihrab of the Madrasa al-Halawiyya

Dynasty:

Madrasa, Hegira 543 / AD 1149; mihrab, AH 643 / AD 1245 Zangid/Atabeg and Ayyubid

Details:

Aleppo, Syria

Justification:

Qu'ranic inscription in symmetrical triangular formations which flank the mihrab of the Halawiyya Madrasa.



Name:

Two wooden columns

Dynasty:

Hegira 7th century / AD 13th century Ayyubid

Details:

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:

Woodcarving is a prominent feature of Islamic art in the Levant.



Name:

Panel from a cenotaph

Dynasty:

Hegira 613 / AD 1216 Ayyubid

Details:

Victoria and Albert Museum

London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

Woodcarving is a prominent feature of Islamic art in the Levant.



Name:

Incense burner

Dynasty:

Hegira mid- to late 7th century / AD 13th century Ayyubid

Details:

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

Justification:

An incense burner executed in a Syrian or Mesopotamian workshop and commissioned by one of the region's thriving Christian communities for religious use.



Name:

Incense burner

Dynasty:

Hegira mid- to late 7th century / AD 13th century Ayyubid

Details:

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

Justification:

The representations on this incense burner depict saints taking part in a religious ceremony.
