

Water | Water Management

'It was the duty of a good Muslim governor to ensure an expert was employed for the job.'

Expertise in science and engineering was in high demand and in limited supply but critical in order to properly gauge, assess, implement and maintain water-related technology. It was the duty of a good Muslim governor to ensure an expert was employed for the job, the chosen candidate usually knowledgeable in mathematics, physics, and geometry, astronomy (weather-forecasting and time-keeping) and, importantly, expert in landscaping.



Name:
Hospital (Bimaristan) al-Qaymari

Dynasty:
Hegira 646–54 / AD 1248–56 Ayyubid

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
An Ayyubid hospital that had its own water supply that was raised by a noria and fed by the River Yazid, a branch of the Barada River.



Name:
Cistern

Dynasty:
Hegira second half of 6th–first half of 7th century / AD second half of 12th–first half of 13th century Almohad

Details:
Silves, Faro, Portugal

Justification:
A circular reservoir from the 6th–7th / 12th–13th centuries which is almost 20-m deep. A vaulted spiral staircase, allowing access to the water at different levels, descends alongside the reservoir for 16 m.



Name:
Süleymaniye waterway map

Dynasty:
Hegira second half of the 12th century / AD 18th century Ottoman

Details:
Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:
A map of the detailed waterway system that supplied the Süleymaniye Complex in Istanbul and 80 other different areas in the city.



Name:
Nilometer

Dynasty:
Hegira 247 / AD 861 Abbasid

Details:

Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

The person in charge of the Nilometer was known as the 'Sahib al-Miqyas'. In order to avoid alarming the population he would keep the water level of the Nile a secret until it reached the necessary height.

**Name:**

Nilometer

Dynasty:

Hegira 247 / AD 861 Abbasid

Details:

Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

Inside the Nilometer, with the marble water-measuring pillar visible in the centre.

**Name:**

Solomon's Pools

Dynasty:

The construction of the first and second pools dates to the second half of the 1st century BC. The third, lower pool was built between hegira 865–72 / AD 1461–7. The first and second pools date to the Roman period, the third dates to the Mamluk period.

Details:

Bethlehem, Palestine*

Justification:

For the upkeep of these ancient pools, the position: 'Architect of the Aqueduct of the Sabil' is cited in the Shari'a Court Archives of Jerusalem.
