

Western Influence in Ottoman Lands | Egypt

'The Westernised elements of buildings and palaces offered a magnificence and opulence cherished by the Ottoman sultans and kings...'

The economic, political and cultural degeneration that took place throughout the Ottoman lands during this period may have been the underlying cause of the Westernisation trend that was aimed at reform, and which was based on the adaptation of some features and elements of Islamic art alongside the prevailing European influences in all fields of art. The Westernised elements of buildings and palaces offered a magnificence and opulence cherished by the Ottoman sultans and kings, and this style prevailed over the Islamic elements such as muqarnas, geometric, vegetal and epigraphic motifs.



Name:
Prayer Rug

Dynasty:
19th century Ottoman (Muhammad 'Ali period)

Details:
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
A silk rug, stitched with gold wire and displaying Western influences in the decorations and their distribution.



Name:
Bowl

Dynasty:
18th century Ottoman

Details:
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
A brown lidded bowl, the metal knob of which is in the form of a pear. It is decorated with vegetal motifs using gilt and coloured enamel, showing European influences in the technique of execution.



Name:
Handkerchief

Dynasty:
19th century Ottoman

Details:
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
A linen handkerchief embroidered with a complex array of vegetal motifs in different colours and displaying naturalistic motifs influenced by the Baroque and Rococo styles.



Name:
Window

Dynasty:

16th–18th century Ottoman

Details:

Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

A window composed of pierced stucco decorations filled in with coloured glass. The decorations bear a legend reading 'Ya Allah, Ya Muhammad' above an architectural form flanked by two cypress trees, showing the European naturalistic style prevalent during the Ottoman period.
