

Islamic Architecture

Islam is the religion taught by the Prophet Muhammad and based on the Koran. Emerged in the 7th century – spread quickly throughout the Arabian peninsula.

ARCH 1121

History of Architectural Technology

Department of Architectural Technology
New York City College of Technology, CUNY

Islam

Faith had ritual requirements, but no architecture.

Building were:

brick & stucco – Influenced from Mesopotamia

Ashlar (squared hewn stone laid in regular courses with fine joints)– Influenced from North Syria

Islam

Muhammad's death in 632

Within 80 years of his death

– insurgence of Islamic Architecture

Mainly Congregation Mosques

Islamic Architectural Elements

Arcaded Portico – taken from the palm leaves that sheltered
at Muhammed's courtyard

Mihrib in the Qibla – decorative niche in the wall oriented to
Mecca. Found inside the mosque

Minbar – pulpit- was at the right of mihrib – recalling three steps
from which he preached

Maksura – railed enclosure to protect the caliph when leading
prayers

Basin (pool) – for rituals

Minaret – Convenient for the call to prayer - five times a day.

Elements of Islamic Style:

Kind of representation of desert oasis: each guarded by fortress walls, yet inside abundant in flowing water, lush gardens, and shady alcoves.

- large domes
- minarets (towers)
- large courtyards often merged with a central prayer hall
- the use of iwans (a large vaulted hall having one side open to a court) to intermedate between different sections
- use of geometric shapes and repetitive art
- extensive use of decorative Arabic calligraphy
- use of symmetry
- ablution fountains
- use of bright color
- focus on the interior space of a building rather than the exterior

Islam:

7th -11th Century – saw building of great congregation or “Friday Mosques”

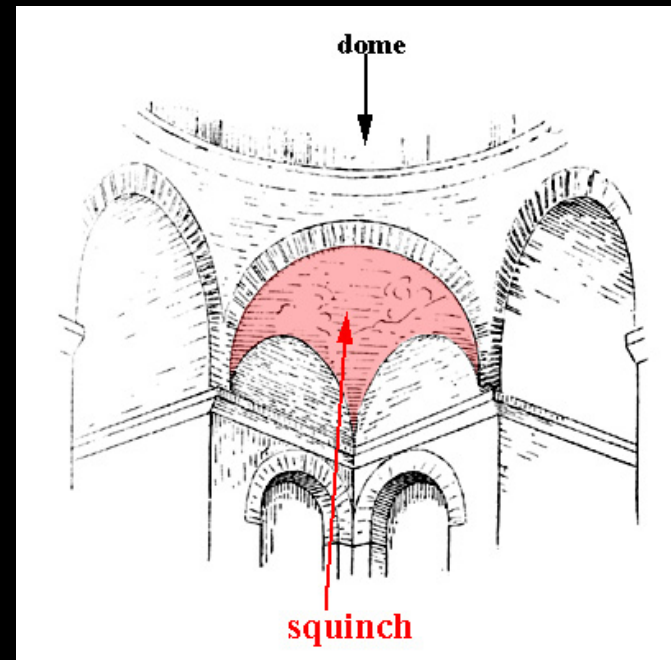
Walled rectangular courtyards surrounded by flat roofed porticos



Coincided with the abandonment of brick and rise of ashlar

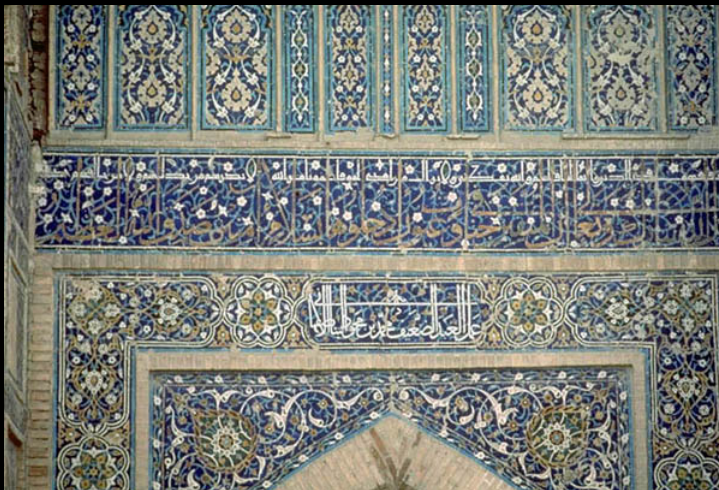
Islamic Architecture:

3 Important features were derived:



The Squinch

The Glazed Tile



Stalactite Decoration

Dome of the Rock: 684 Jerusalem

Islam's earliest monument

Influenced by Byzantine rotunda – octagonal in plan

Dome and Clerestory supported on piers

Dome built of wooden ribs covered with boards and lead, then gilded.

Houses the Noble Rock from which the Prophet is said to have made his leap to heaven

Shrine for Pilgrims – not public worship

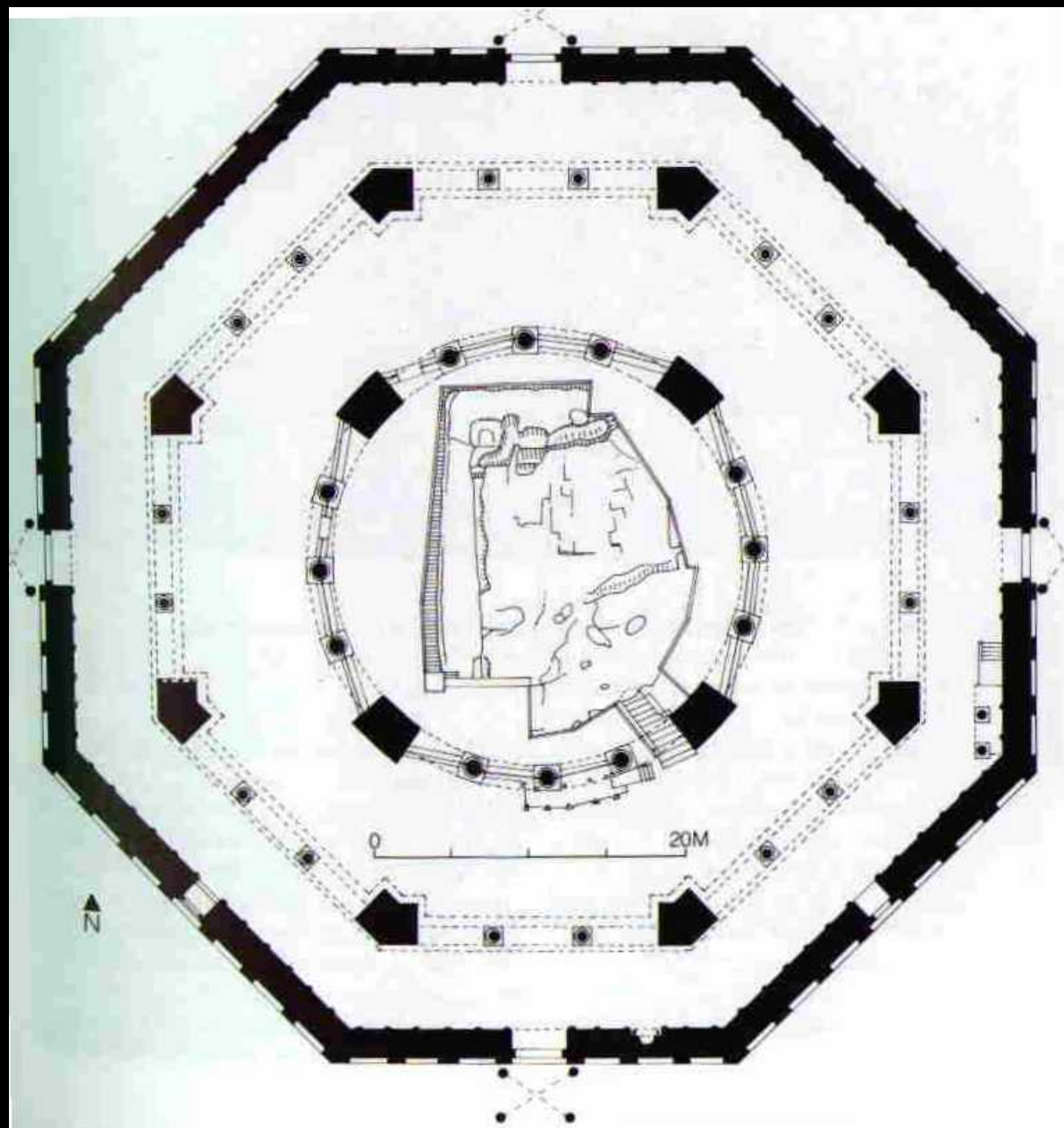


Dome of the Rock: 684 Jerusalem

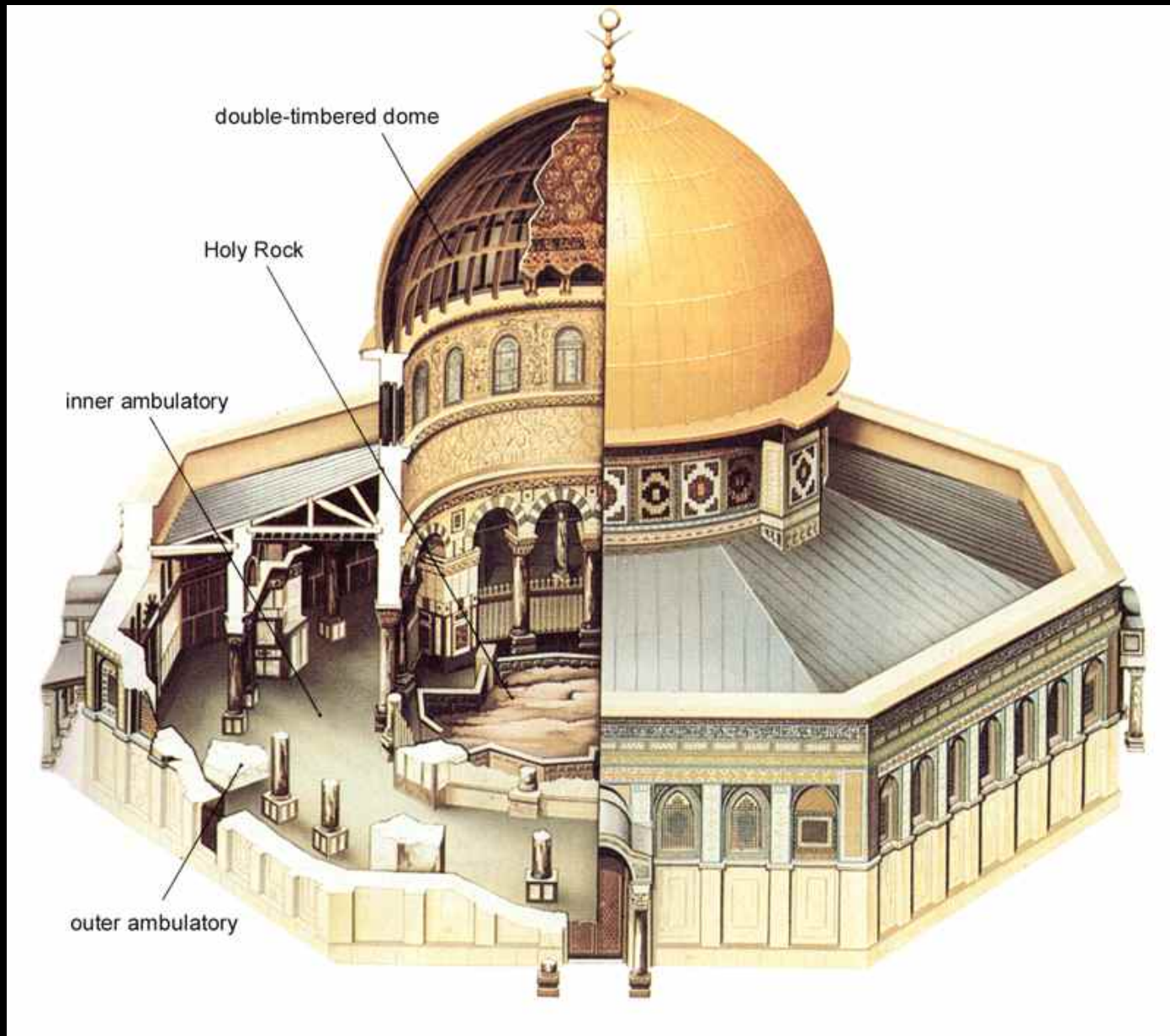
Has feel of lightness unusual for buildings from the Dark Ages



Dome of the Rock: 684 Jerusalem



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Great Mosque of Damascus: 709-715 Syria

Islam's oldest congregational mosque

Existing Hellenistic buildings were used in the plan

Included a prayer hall, courtyard and rooms for visiting pilgrims

Prayer Hall was covered with a tiled wooden roof and rested on columns from Roman temples

Colored marble, glass mosaics and gilding in the arcades

Minarets developed from Roman temples in the corners



Great Mosque of Damascus: 709-715 Syria



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Islamic Architecture:

12th Century – Medresa (Teaching Mosque) smaller, but similar to earlier mosques. Porticos were replaced by vaulted halls or Iwans. Entrance was flanked by 2 minarets.

Iwan is a arch opening.



Masjid-i-Shad: 1612-37 Isfahan, Iran

Congregational mosque

4-iwan mosque

Portal flanked by two minarets and its dazzling tiled dome.



Masjid-i-Shad: 1612-37 Iran

General view of the Mosque showing the portal with its two minarets echoed by the prayer hall iwan with its two minarets and dome.



Masjid-i-Shad: 1612-37 Iran

The tiled dome of the prayer hall with its central sun motif.



Masjid-i-Shad: 1612-37 Iran

The main portal with its
two flanking minarets



Domed Sanctuary illuminated
by decorative window grilles.

The Great Mosque at Cordoba: 785 Spain

Its Great Hall is 19 bays wide

Alternating voussoirs of white and red brick

Arches were stilted to give additional height

The Sanctuary is roofed with two vaults of complexity



The Great Mosque at Cordoba: 785 Spain



The Great Mosque at Cordoba: 785 Spain

Mihrab



The Alhambra: 13-14th Centuries Granada, Spain

The Alhambra was a palace, a citadel, fortress, and the home of the Nasrid sultans, high government officials, servants of the court and elite soldiers (from the 13th to the 14th century).



The Alhambra: 13-14th Centuries Granada, Spain



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Islamic Architecture:

1453 was the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans

Islamic Architecture suffered

Looked to Hagia Sophia – Mosques tended to be variations on the Hagia Sophia



Hagia Sophia

The Suleymaniye Mosque : Istanbul 1550-57

The largest Ottoman half-domed mosque

It sits on the top of the sixth hill that dominates the city cascades down in a pyramidal arrangement of its domes, half-domes, counterweights, and buttresses.

The mosque complex included: four Madrasas (teaching center), an imaret (soup kitchen), a tabkhane (lodging), a medical school (tibb medrese), bath, fountain, and the mausolea of the founder, his wife, and Sinan himself

Sinan was the Architect.



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