

HAA 12 Lecture: Syllabus and readings  
Fall 1998: M, W, [F] at 11, Sackler 318

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Office hours: M. 1.00-3.00 pm

## EARLY ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE (650-1250)

An introductory survey of the architecture, ceramics, metalwork, textiles, and arts of the book from Spain to India and Central Asia, during the period between the rise of Islam in the seventh century and the Mongol conquests of the early thirteenth century. Focusing mainly on the patronage of ruling elites (a succession of dynasties that claimed the right to rule over the Muslim community) in principal urban centers, the architecture and material culture of the Islamic world is approached through a variety of contexts: aesthetic, cultural, religious, political, and socio-economic.

The lectures alternate between the treatment of single monuments or objects, and clusters of materials produced in single centers over a given period of time. This method of presentation permits a focused treatment of particular cultural artifacts as well as the examination of broader patterns of cultural patronage over time.

Three sections provide opportunities to explore thematic and methodological problems related to the study and definition of early Islamic art and architecture.

### **READINGS:**

The required textbook used in the lecture course, listed below, is available for purchase at the Harvard Coop:

Ettinghausen, Richard, and Oleg Grabar, *The Art and Architecture of Islam 650-1250* (London and New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987).

Additional readings, books and articles, have been placed on reserve at the Fine Arts Library. A short list of reference works, providing useful background, is provided at the end of the syllabus.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

There will be a mid-term (20%) and final examination (30%) based on the readings and lectures. The written assignments comprise: an analysis of two architectural plans (2 pp.: 10%, due October 2); and a short paper (10 pp. max.: 30%, due Jan. 11). Attendance and participation at three sections are also required (10%).

## SYNOPSIS OF LECTURES AND SECTIONS

Sept. 16 W	INTRODUCTION
Sept. 21 M	ABD AL-MALIK'S "DOME OF THE ROCK" IN JERUSALEM: SYMBOL OF DOMINATION?
Sept. 23 W	SPACES FOR WORSHIP: MOSQUES OF THE Umayyad Period
Sept. 28 M	UMAYYAD SECULAR ARCHITECTURE: THE QUSUR
Sept. 30 W	CITIES FOR THE CALIPH: Abbasid Baghdad and Samarra
Oct. 2 F	SECTION I
Oct. 5 M	MOSQUES OF THE Abbasids
Oct. 7 W	ARTS OF THE Abbasid Court
Oct. 14 W	ISLAMIC SPAIN UNDER THE Umayyads
Oct. 16 F	ISLAMIC SPAIN AND THE Maghrib: The "Party Kings," Almoravids, and Almohads
Oct. 19 M	ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM UNDER THE Fatimids: North Africa and Cairo 969-1171
Oct. 21 W	Fatimid Art and Cultures of the Mediterranean
Oct. 26 M	Iran and Central Asia 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Centuries: The Archaeology of Nishapur
Oct. 28 W	MID-TERM EXAMINATION
Nov. 2 M	Iran and Central Asia 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Centuries: The Great Mosque at Isfahan
Nov. 4 W	Seljuqs and Atabegs I
Nov. 9 M	Seljuqs and Atabegs II
Nov. 16 M	ARTS OF THE Crusader Period
Nov. 18 W	The Ayyubids in Syria: Aleppo
Nov. 20 F	SECTION II
Nov. 23 M	The Ayyubids in Egypt: Cairo
Nov. 25 W	India from the Ghaznavids to the Delhi Sultans
Nov. 30 M	Ceramics of the 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> Centuries: Mina'i and Luster
Dec. 2 W	Metalwork of the 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
Dec. 7 M	Art of the Arabic Book: Herbals and <i>Moralia</i>
Dec. 9 W	Art of the Arabic Book: Hariri's <i>Maqamat</i> "Assemblies"
Dec. 11 F	SECTION III
Dec. 14 M	Architecture in Anatolia until the mid 13 <sup>th</sup> Century
Dec. 16 W	CONCLUSION: THE MONGOL INVASIONS
Dec. 18- Jan. 4	RECESS
Jan. 4-15	READING PERIOD. Final papers due on Jan. 11
Jan. 15	REVIEW SESSION
	FINAL EXAMINATION [date to be announced]

## READINGS FOR LECTURES AND SECTIONS

Items with a double asterisk (\*\*) are in two binders at the Fine Arts Library circulation desk (closed reserve).

- Sept. 16 W      INTRODUCTION**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 1,  
Oleg Grabar, *The Formation of Islamic Art*, ch. 1.
- Sept. 21 M      ABD AL-MALIK'S "DOME OF THE ROCK" IN JERUSALEM:  
SYMBOL OF DOMINATION?**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 2., pp. 26-45.  
Oleg Grabar, *The Shape of the Holy: Early Islamic Jerusalem*, ch. 1.
- Sept. 23 W      SPACES FOR WORSHIP: MOSQUES OF THE Umayyad PERIOD**  
**Readings:**  
Oleg Grabar, *The Formation of Islamic Art*, ch. 5.  
**Optional:**  
\*\* Nuha N. N. Khoury, "The Mihrab from Text to Form."
- Sept. 28 M      Umayyad SECULAR ARCHITECTURE: THE QUSUR**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 2, pp. 45-74.  
\*\* Robert Hillenbrand, "*La Dolce Vita* in Early Islamic Syria: the Evidence of Later Umayyad Palaces."
- Sept. 30 W      CITIES FOR THE CALIPH: ABBASID BAGHDAD AND SAMARRA**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, chap. 3, pp. 75-105.  
Oleg Grabar, *The Formation of Islamic Art*, ch. 6.  
**Optional:**  
\*\*J. M. Rogers, "Samarra: A Study in Medieval Town-Planning."
- Oct. 2 F      SECTION I: ANICONISM AND ORNAMENT**  
**Readings:**  
Terry Allen, *Five Essays on Islamic Art*, ch. 2.  
Oleg Grabar, *The Mediation of Ornament*, ch. 3.
- Oct. 5 M      MOSQUES OF THE ABBASIDS**  
**Readings:**  
Terry Allen, *Five Essays on Islamic Art*, ch. 4.  
\*\* L. Golombek, "Abbasid Mosque at Balkh."
- Oct. 7 W      ARTS OF THE ABBASID COURT**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 3, pp. 105-125.  
\*\* Franz Rosenthal, "Note on the Mandil."

\*\*Tha'alibi, *The Book of Curious and Entertaining Information*, The Lata'if al-ma'arif of *Tha'alibi*, intro., ch. 1 and 4.

\*\* Abu Hayyan al-Tawhidi, "Abu Hayyan at-Tawhidi on Penmanship."

**Optional:**

\*\* Yasser Tabbaa, "The Transformation of Arabic Writing: Part 1, Qur'anic Calligraphy."

- Oct. 14 W ISLAMIC SPAIN UNDER THE UMAYYADS**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 4.  
\*\*Renata Holod, "Luxury Arts of the Caliphal Period."  
\*\* Nuha N.N. Khoury, "The Meaning of the Great Mosque of Cordoba in the Tenth Century."
- Oct. 16 F ISLAMIC SPAIN AND THE MAGHRIB: THE "PARTY KINGS," ALMORAVIDS, AND ALMOHADS**  
**Readings:**  
\*\* Manuel Casamar Perez, "The Almoravids and Almohads. An Introduction."
- Oct. 19 M ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM UNDER THE FATIMIDS: NORTH AFRICA AND CAIRO 969-1171**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 5, pp. 167-186.  
Doris Behrens-Abouseif, *Islamic Architecture in Cairo: An Introduction*, pp. 58-77.
- Oct. 21 W FATIMID ART AND CULTURES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 5, pp. 186-208.  
\*\* Jonathan Bloom, "The Origins of Fatimid Art."  
\*\* Qadi b. al-Zubayr, "Book of Gifts and Rarities," ch. 8.
- Oct. 26 M IRAN AND CENTRAL ASIA 9<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES: ARCHAEOLOGY OF NISHAPUR**  
**Readings:**  
Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 6, pp. 209-252.  
\*\* Julian Raby, "Looking for Silver in Clay: A New Perspective on Samanid Ceramics."
- Oct. 28 W MID-TERM EXAMINATION**
- Nov. 2 M IRAN AND CENTRAL ASIA 9<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES: THE GREAT MOSQUE AT ISFAHAN**  
**Readings:**  
Oleg Grabar, *The Great Mosque at Isfahan*.

- Nov. 4 W SELJUQS AND ATABEGS I**  
**Readings:**  
 Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 7, pp. 253-303.  
 Abbas Daneshvari, *Medieval Tomb Towers in Iran*, intro., ch. 1 and 2.
- Nov. 9 M SELJUQS AND ATABEGS II**  
**Readings:**  
 Robert Hillenbrand ed. *Art of the Saljuqs in Iran and Anatolia*, essays by Basil Gray (pp. 1-4), and Barbara Finster (pp. 17-28).
- Nov. 16 M ARTS OF THE CRUSADER PERIOD**  
**Readings:**  
 Jaroslav Folda, *Art of the Crusaders in the Holy Land*, ch. 2 and 3.
- Nov. 18 W THE AYYUBIDS IN SYRIA: ALEPPO**  
**Readings:**  
 Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 7, pp. 303-313.  
 \*\* Yasser Tabbaa, *Construction of Power and Piety in Medieval Aleppo*, ch. 1 and 2.  
**Optional:**  
 \*\*Yasser Tabbaa, "Survivals and Archaisms in the Architecture of Northern Syria, ca. 1080- ca. 1150."
- Nov. 20 F SECTION II: CALLIGRAPHY AND EPIGRAPHY**  
**Readings:**  
 \*\* Richard Ettinghausen, "Arabic Epigraphy: Communication or Symbolic Affirmation."  
 Oleg Grabar, *Mediation of Ornament*, ch. 2.  
 (Study of objects from Sackler Museum).
- Nov. 23 M THE AYYUBIDS IN EGYPT: CAIRO**  
**Readings:**  
 Behrens-Abouseif, *Islamic Architecture in Cairo*, ch. 6, pp. 78-93.
- Nov. 25 W INDIA FROM THE GHAZNAVIDS TO THE DELHI SULTANS**  
**Readings:**  
 Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 7, pp. 291-293.
- Nov. 30 M CERAMICS OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup>-13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES: MINA'I AND LUSTER**  
**Readings:**  
 Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 8.  
 \*\* Marianna Shreve Simpson, "Narrative Allusion and Metaphor in the Decoration of Medieval Islamic Objects."  
**Optional:**  
 \*\* J. W. Allan, "Abu'l-Qasim's Treatise on Ceramics."

- Dec. 2 W METALWORK OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup>-13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**  
**Readings:**  
 \*\* Ranee Katzenstein and Glenn D. Lowry, "Christian Themes in Thirteenth-Century Islamic Metalwork."  
 Rachel Ward, *Islamic Metalwork*, ch. 4 and 5.
- Dec. 7 M ART OF THE ARABIC BOOK: HERBALS AND MORALIA**  
**Readings:**  
 Richard Ettinghausen, *Arab Painting*, ch. 2 [browse]  
 \*\* Eva R. Hoffman, "The Author Portrait in Thirteenth-Century Arabic Manuscripts: A New Islamic Context for a Late-Antique Tradition."
- Dec. 9 W ART OF THE ARABIC BOOK: HARIRI'S MAQAMAT, "ASSEMBLIES"**  
**Readings:**  
 \*\* Oleg Grabar, "The Illustrated Maqamat of the Thirteenth Century: The Bourgeoisie and the Arts."
- Dec. 11 F SECTION III: PROBLEMS IN PATRONAGE AND PRODUCTION**  
**Readings:**  
 \*\* Richard Ettinghausen, "The Bobrinski 'Kettle.' Patron and Style of an Islamic Bronze."  
 \*\*Boaz Shoshan, "High Culture and Popular Culture in Medieval Islam."
- Dec. 14 M ARCHITECTURE IN ANATOLIA UNTIL THE MID 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**  
**Readings:**  
 Ettinghausen and Grabar, ch. 7. pp. 313-327.  
 Aptullah Kuran, "Anatolian-Seljuk Architecture," in *The Art and Architecture of Turkey*, ed. E. Akurgal, pp. 80-110.
- Dec. 16 W CONCLUSION: THE MONGOL INVASIONS**
- Jan. 4-15 READING PERIOD. Final papers due on Jan. 11**
- Jan. 15 F REVIEW SESSION**
- FINAL EXAMINATION [date to be announced]**

## SUGGESTED READINGS/ SOURCES FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE

- An Historical Atlas of Islam*, ed. William C. Brice (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1981). RFA 71.38.
- Bosworth, Clifford Edmund, *The Islamic Dynasties* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1980). RFA 79.28.2. Provides lists of rulers by dynasty and brief historical overview for each.
- Endress, Gerhard, *Introduction to Islam* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1988).  
With sections on Islamic religion, law, society, economy, and appendix with invaluable explanation of Muslim names, titles, and the Islamic calendar. On reserve at Fine Arts Library.
- Frye, R. N. ed., *Cambridge History of Iran*, vol. 4, *The Period from the Arab Invasion to the Saljuqs* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978). Especially ch. 1-7. RFA 285.66.11.(4).
- Hodgson, Marshall, *The Venture of Islam*, vol. 1 *The Classical Age of Islam* (Chicago and London: Chicago University Press, 1977); vol. 2 *The Expansion of Islam in the Middle Period* (Chicago and London: Chicago University Press, 1974), bk. 3, ch. 1-7. On reserve at Fine Arts Library.
- Shorter Encyclopaedia of Islam*, ed. H. A. R. Gibb and J. H. Kraemers (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1974). RFA 50.23.50.5.

## ADDITIONAL RESERVE BOOKS

- Almagro, M. et al. *Qusayr Amra*.
- Bloom, Jonathan. *Minaret: Symbol of Islam*.
- Creswell, K. A. C. *Early Muslim Architecture*, 2 vols.
- Deroche, François, *The Abbasid Tradition*.
- Hamilton, R. W. *Walid and His Friends: An Umayyad Tragedy*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Khirbat al-Mafjar*.
- Hillenbrand, Robert. *Islamic architecture: form, function, and meaning*.