

# Exhibition at the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo



# Madinat al-Zahra, the shining chy

# In dialogue with

# UNESCO Historic Urban Islamic Landscape

# LEAFLET

# UNESCO HISTORIC URBAN ISLAMIC LANDSCAPE

Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo, Egypt

# Introduction

Islamic Architecture on the World Heritage List The UNESCO World Heritage List displays an extraordinary geography of sites considered exceptional testimonies of Islamic architecture. More than thirty sites treasure constructive inventions, accumulate millenary urban memories, and reflect forms of permanent intercultural dialogue to this day. The caravan routes made some of them, such as Samarkand, epicenters of trade, pilgrimage, and intellectual exchange. Sometimes, the type of location, as in the Minaret of Jam or the Quseir Amra case, is evidence of a deliberate landscape design. In other cases, new palaces with an urban scale, such as Madinat al-Zahra or the Alhambra in Granada, become singular references capable of projecting an air of family on three continents. The ingenuity of the botanical planning of the Taj Mahal or the adaptive capacity of Ispahan to generate global prototypes of religious architecture coming from a Sasanian substratum make them places of exceptional universal value. In other cases, successive legacies build unique historic urban landscapes, as in the case of Cairo, capable of bringing together from Fustat to the present day the greatest typology of sabils, walls, aqueducts, mosques, madrasas, mausoleums, cemeteries, cisterns, fountains, gardens, hammams, canals, caravanserais, and markets as in very few cases in the history of humankind. Islamic urban histories are explicitly reflected in the collections of the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo, which is why the photographic exhibition dedicated to Madinat al-Zahra benefits from and is complemented by a selection of pieces that broaden the dialogue between sites and between periods. Stone-cutters, architects, inlayers, carpenters, calligraphers, painters, potters, engineers, and embroiderers have been able to weave the threads of a shared legacy that is made explicit by the pieces chosen to generate a dialogue between movable-built heritage and allow the visitor to have access to pieces from the museum's extraordinary collection that are not part of the permanent exhibition. Through these events, UNESCO seeks to continue generating inter- institutional dialogue and sharing scientific knowledge. With these initiatives, the UNESCO World Heritage sites confirm their willingness to continue to inspire intercultural and intergenerational research. Islamic urban heritage is undoubtedly a clear example of diversity and creative genius that still holds many lessons to be learned.

# Selected Sites of Islamic Architecture in the World Heritage List



#### Islamic Cities

1. Caliphate City of Medina Azahara (Spain)

2. Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzín, Granada (Spain)

- 3.Medina of Fez (Morocco)
- 4. Medina of Marrakesh (Morocco)
- 5. Kairouan (Tunisia)

6.Historic Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)

7.Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)

8. Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (Saudi Arabia)

9.Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen)

#### Islamic Architecture

10. Monastery of the Hieronymites and Tower of Belém in Lisbon (Portugal)

11. Historic Centre of Cordoba (Spain)

- 12. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali)
- 13. Anjar (Lebanon)
- 14. Great Mosque and Hospital of Divriği (Türkiye)
- 15. Quseir Amra (Jordan)
- 16. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq)
- 17. Kunya-Urgench (Turkmenistan)

18. Takht-e Soleyman; Soltaniyeh; Sheikh Safi aldin Khānegā; Gonbad-e Qābus; Itchan Kala (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

19.Meidan Emam, Esfahan; Masjed-e Jāmé of Isfahan (Iran, Islamic Republic of) 20.Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam

(Afghanistan)

21. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan)

22. Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi, Taj Mahal (India)

23. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

# **UNESCO** Historic Urban Islamic Landscape

The "UNESCO Historic Urban Islamic Landscape" exhibition offers a captivating glimpse into the prosperity and cultural achievements of cities in Islamic history. Through a carefully curated collection of artifacts of the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo, the exhibition highlights the architectural refinement, artistic and engineering achievements, and societal developments that were integral to the Islamic culture. The exhibition showcases the enduring legacy of Islamic cities through five key themes: Fustat as the foundation of Cairo city, Capitals of Islamic Empires, Architecture, The Genius of the Muslim Engineer, and Urbanization in Islamic Cultures. These themes reflect the sophisticated urban planning, scientific progress, and cultural richness that defined these centers of vibrant urban life.

To explore the themes, artifacts, and the agenda of the event on the 23rd of September read the QR Code below:





# **World Heritage Islamic Properties**

Caliphate City of Medina Azahara (Spain)

The Caliphate City of Medina Azahara, built in the mid-10th century CE as the seat of the Umayyad Caliphate of Córdoba, is a remarkable example of urban planning that integrates architectural and landscape approaches, reflecting the zenith of Islamic civilization in Al-Andalus. Despite being destroyed shortly after its creation, the site was hidden for centuries, which helped preserve decorative its infrastructure, buildings, and elements. Today, it serves as a well-preserved archaeological complex offering deep insights into the splendor of Western Islamic civilization. Medina Azahara was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2018.



### Alhambra, Generalife, and Albayzín, Granada (Spain)

Perched on two adjacent hills above modern Granada, the Alhambra, Generalife, and Albavzín form a remarkable medieval ensemble of Nasrid art and Moorish urban planning. The Alhambra, with its palatial architecture and intricate decorative elements, served as the seat of the emirs in the 13th and 14th centuries, while the Generalife's gardens exemplify sophisticated Islamic landscape design. Nearby, the Albayzín district preserves the traditional Moorish layout, with narrow streets and modest houses blending seamlessly with later Christian influences. This site exemplifies the harmonious coexistence of Islamic and Christian cultures, showcasing Granada's rich historical and architectural legacy. It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984.



### Medina of Fez (Morocco)

The Medina of Fez, founded between 789 and 808 AD, is a historical marvel that has preserved its medieval urban fabric over centuries. It is one of the most extensive and best-conserved historic towns in the Arab-Muslim world, with a rich tapestry of Andalusian, Oriental, and African architectural influences. The city contains a dense collection of religious, civil, and military monuments, representing the cultural and intellectual legacy of Islamic Morocco. The Medina of Fez was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1981.



#### Medina of Marrakesh (Morocco)

Founded in 1070-72 by the Almoravids, Marrakesh has long been a major political, economic, and cultural center of the western Muslim world, influencing North Africa and Andalusia. The city's Medina is home to impressive monuments, such as the Koutoubia Mosque, the Kasbah, and the Saadian Tombs, alongside later architectural gems like the Bahia Palace and the Ben Youssef Madrasa. The Medina's narrow streets, traditional houses, and bustling souks reflect its vibrant history and living heritage. Its iconic Jamaâ El Fna Square, a UNESCO-recognized cultural space, continues to enchant visitors. The Medina of Marrakesh was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985.



#### Kairouan (Tunisia)

Founded in 670 CE, Kairouan flourished under the Aghlabid dynasty in the 9th century and remains one of the most important holy cities in the Maghreb. The city's rich architectural heritage includes the Great Mosque, an Islamic architectural masterpiece with marble and porphyry columns, and the 9th-century Mosque of the Three Gates, known for its intricately sculpted facade. Despite the political capital moving to Tunis in the 12th century, Kairouan has preserved its historic urban fabric, with its winding streets, traditional courtyard houses, and notable monuments. Kairouan was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988.



#### Historic Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)

Established in the 10th century CE, Historic Cairo is an unparalleled ensemble of Islamic architecture, with landmarks from the Tulunid, Fatimid, and Mamluk periods. The city's layout reflects a blend of medieval town planning and Islamic jurisprudence, featuring iconic mosques, madrasas, and mausoleums that have shaped its skyline. Despite the pressures of modern development, Historic Cairo remains a cohesive urban fabric, embodying the coexistence of diverse cultures. Historic Cairo was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979.



### Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)

Damascus, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, was founded in the 3rd millennium BCE and became the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate in the 7th century CE. The city is a living museum of civilizations, showcasing contributions from the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic periods. Notably, the Umayyad Great Mosque stands as a masterpiece architecture. Islamic Despite modern of developments, Damascus has retained its Roman plan and orientation, making it a key example of urban planning. The Ancient City of Damascus was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979.



#### Historic Jeddah, The Gate to Makkah (Saudi Arabia)

Historic Jeddah, established in the 7th century AH, served as the primary port for pilgrims heading to Makkah, playing a crucial role in the Red Sea trade routes. The city's architecture reflects its unique adaptation to the hot and humid climate of the region, with imposing tower houses decorated with Roshan facades, and vibrant souks that contributed to its cosmopolitan character. Jeddah's urban landscape is an outstanding example of a thriving pilgrimage city, encapsulating the final flourishing of Red Sea trade in the late 19th century. Historic Jeddah was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2014.



#### Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen)

Known as the "Manhattan of the Desert," Shibam, established in the 16th century CE, is renowned for its dense cluster of mud-brick high-rises, making it an exceptional example of multi-story urban planning within a fortified city. Located on a rocky spur above Wadi Hadramaut, Shibam was strategically designed to serve both defensive and economic purposes. The city's layout, with its grid of streets and squares surrounded by towering houses, reflects the socio-political prestige of the Hadrami traders. The Old Walled City of Shibam was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1982.



# **Programme of the Opening**

## 19th September 2024

17.30 Institutional messages: Supreme Council of Antiquities/Directorate of Museums, Spanish Embassy, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo.



**Forthcoming keynote speech** 23rd September 2024 by Prof Felix Arnold at the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo, for more information scan the QR Code below to enter our website:





# Exhibition at the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo



# ARTIFACTS

# UNESCO HISTORIC URBAN ISLAMIC LANDSCAPE

# المناظر الطبيعية الإلإسلالامية الحضارية التاريخية لليونسكو

The flourishing city exhibition المدينة العامرة

A tour inside the Islamic city جولة داخل المدينة الإلإسلالامية

**1st theme: Fustat, as the foundation of Cairo city** الفسطاط أول مدينة على أرض مصرصر في العصور الإلإسلالامية Objects 1 to 14

. التحف من1:14

#### مسرسرجة فخار - 1 . Pottery Lamp

A Fatimid-era lamp with a handle and two openings, decorated with circular cups and grape-like plant designs, was found near Fustat.

العصرصر الفاطمي — لها فتحتان أحدمما لوضع الزيت والألأخرى لإلإخراج الشعلة، زخرفة البدن تشمل جامات دائرية وزخرفة نباتية أشبه بعنقود العنب. يشبه في تصميمه وصناعته مسارح الإلإضاءة التي عثرثر عليها في الفسطاط.

#### مسرسرجة فخار - 2 Pottery Lamp

Another Fatimid lamp with floral decorations, similar in design to those excavated in Fustat. Used for lighting, crafted from various materials, and featuring a wick made of plant fibers.

العصرصر الفاطمي — لها فتحتان أحدهما لوضع الزيت والألأخرى لإلإخراج الشعلة، زخرفة البدن تشمل زخرفة نباتية، يشبه في تصميمه وصناعته مسارح الإلإضاءة التي عثرثر عليها في الفسطاط.

#### قالب من الخشب - 3. Wooden Block 3

A wooden block engraved with a fish, discovered in the ruins of Fustat.

زخرف باطن القالب بشكل سمكة، القالب من حفائر مدينة الفسطاط.







#### 4. Pottery Stamp 4 - ختم من الفخار - 4

Round stamp with two animals separated by wavy plant designs, used for decorating cakes, from Fustat.

ختم دائری مزخرف بالبارز میئة حیوانیینین یفصلهما فرع نباتی، تستخدم مثل مذه الألأختام لتزتزیینین الكعك، من الفسطاط.

#### ختم من الفخار - 5 S. Pottery Stamp

Round stamp with Kufic script, resembling others found in Fustat. Reflects the evolution of pottery from simple to decorative.

ختم مستدير من الفخار عليه نص بالكتابة الكوفية، يشبه في تصميمه وصناعته الألأختام التيى عثرثر عليها في الفسطاط.

#### قطعة من العظم - 6 Bone Piece 6. Bone Piece

Rectangular bone piece with sunbeam-like decoration, showing Sassanian influence, from Fustat.

منقوش بها زخرفة تشبه شعاع الشمس، القطعة تحمل أحد التأثيريرات الساسانية، من أطلالال مدينة الفسطاط.

#### قفأر من الخشب - 7 Mooden Mouse 7.

A toy mouse with movable parts, from Fustat, reflecting Islamic educational and entertainment practices for children.

فأر من الخشب زنبه وفكه متحركان, ربما لعبة أطفال, أستخدمت مثل مذه الألأشكال في العصور الإلإسلالامية كوسائل تعليمية وترفيهية للألأطفال مما يعكس ثقافة المسلمون الترتربوية إتجاه النشأ, من أطلالال مدينة الفسطا

#### سيف من الخشب - 8. Wooden Sword

Small wooden sword, possibly a child's toy, from the ruins of Fustat. سيف صغيرير من الخشب، ربما لعبة أطفال، من أطلالال مدينة الفسطاط.



A painted wooden human figure, likely a child's toy, from Fustat.

شكل إنسان جالس من الخشب، تشبه لعب الألأطفال، من أطلالال الفسطاط.













#### رنوك مملوكية- 10. Pottery Bases 10

Group of pottery bases decorated with Mamluk blazons, representing various personal, functional, and written symbols from the Mamluk era.

مجموعة من قواعد آوانين من الفخار المطلي، قوام زخرفتها أشكال رنوك، ومين الشارات الخاصة بكبار موظفين الدولة والألأمراء والسلالأطينين فين العصرصر المملوكين.

#### شباك قلة من فخار- 11 11. Pot Strainer

Pottery strainer with intricate perforations and inscriptions, found in Fustat. Used to regulate water flow and protect from insects, creatively decorated with geometric and plant motifs.

مزخرف بالتخريم بزخرفة كتا بية/ عثرثر عليه فيى الفسطاط. مثل مذه القطعه توضح براعة الصانع المسلم فيى الحفاظ على نظافة ماء الشرشرب بتنقيته من الشوائب وتنظيم تدفق الماء للشارب عبربر هذه الفتحات الدقيقة.

#### شباك قلة من الفخار- 12 12. Pot Strainer

Pottery strainer with geometric perforations, found in Fustat.

مزخرف بالتخريح بأشكال مندسية، عثرثر عليه في الفسطاط.

#### شباك قلة من الفخار- 13 13. Pot Strainer

Pottery strainer decorated with stylized inscriptions, from Fustat.

مزخرف بالتخريم بزخرفة شكل سمكة، عثرثر عليه في الفسطاط.

#### شباك قلة من الفخار- 14. Pot Strainer الفخار- 14

Pottery strainer with fish-shaped perforations, discovered in Fustat.

مزخرف بالتخريم بزخرفة كتابية محورة, عثرثر عليه في الفسطاط.











## 2nd theme: Capitals of Islamic Empires عواصم الخلالافات الإلإسلالامية المزدهرة Objects 15 to 27 التحف من 15 إلى 2

#### عملة من الذهب والفضة- 15. Collection of Coins 15.

A diverse collection of gold and silver coins from various Islamic eras, including the Umayyad, Abbasid, Tulunid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk, and Ottoman periods, with minting dates and locations from numerous Islamic cities.

مجموعة من العملة متنوعة ما بينين ذهب وفضة تنسب للعصور (الألأموي — العباسي — الطولوني — الفاطمي — الألأيوبي — المملوكي - العثماني) وتحمل تاريخ الضرضرب وأماكن الضرضرب التي تشمل العديد من المدن الإلإسلالامية، والتي أظهرت في كثيرير من الألأحيان مدى قوة وضعف الإلإقتصاد في العديد من الحقب التاريخية الإلإسلالامية

#### صحن من الخزف- 16 16. Qashani Dish

A Qashani dish from the Abbasid era, featuring a central naval design surrounded by red and gold floral decorations on a white background. Made in Baghdad.

مزخرف بوسطه برسم سرسرة يحيطها زخارف نباتية، مناعة بغداد – العصرصر العباسين.

#### 

A Damascus ceramic tile depicting a vase, a gazelle, a rabbit, and flowers in white on a blue background, reflecting the natural beauty of Damascus.

عليها رسم جزء من زمرية / تحيط بها رسوم غزال وأرنب وأزمار بالألأبيض على أرضية زرقاء. يمكننا تخيل دمشق الجميلة المزدمرة من خلالال مذة التحف الألأثرية التي تعكس روعة الطبيعة في دمشق ولعل أبرز الزخارف التي جاءت على العمارة والفنون الإلإسلالامية / رسوم المسجد الألأموي بدمشق والتي تعكس مناظر طبيعية وكأنها من الجنة / ربما تأثر الفنان بالطبيعة في دمشق من حوله وعكسها في رسومه.

#### سلطانية من الخزف- 18 18. Fatimid Bowl

A Fatimid lustre ceramic bowl with a vessel design flanked by birds and vases, with the background decorated with plant motifs.

صنعت من الخزف ذي البربريق المعدني الذهبي، قوام زخرفتها رسم طيور ورسوم نبا تية، تنسب إلى العصرصر الفاطمي.









#### حشوة من الخشب- 19. Wooden Inlay الخشب 19. Wooden Inlay

A wooden inlay from the Sayyida Nafisa Mosque, featuring Kufic inscriptions and relief engraving.

حشوة خشب بها كتابة كوفية (العمر السالم) مزخرفة بالنقش البارز، منقولة لمتحف الفن الإلإسلالامي من مسجد السيدة نفيسة. مثل مذه الحشوات الخشبية التي تحمل الطابع الفاطمي في الزخرفة، نفذت الزخارف بالحفر متعدد المستويات مما يعكس مهارة الفنان، فأصبحت منتجاته تحفا فنية ثمينة لالابد من الحفاظ عليها فيتوارثها الألأجيال

### حلية من العاج- 20. Ivory Piece 20.

A rectangular piece of ivory, decorated with perforations and engravings of four-star shapes and five faces.

قطعة من العاج مستطيلة الشكل مزخرفة بالتخريج والحفر لتعكس مهارة الصانع، الزخرفة عبارة عن اربعة أشكال نجمية والحفر عبارة عن خمسة أوجه.

#### بدن نارجيلة من الخزف- 21. Ribbed Hookah 21

An Iranian ceramic ribbed hookah, glazed white with blue decorations and plant motifs.

بدن نارجيلة مضلعة من الخزف الإلإيراني بطلالاء أبيض وزخارف زرقاء، على اضلالاعها فروع نباتية، أسلوب نيسا بور.

#### 22. Large Ceramic Dish 22. لحن من الخزف- 22

A large ceramic dish with gold-painted figures and plant designs on a white background, featuring a Persian inscription dated 647. مناعة الري، أرضيته بيضاء ومدمون باللون الذمبي، وبنصفه الألأعلى صور آدمية وبنصفه الألأسفل صور حيوانات ورسوم نباتية وعلى الحافة كتابة فارسية مؤرخة عام 647

صحن من خزف رودس- 23. Rhodes Ceramic Dish \_\_\_\_\_2

An Ottoman-era ceramic dish made in Rhodes, decorated with three carnations and plant branches.

صحن قاشاني صناعة رودس عليه ثلالات أزمار القرنفل، وفروع نباتية، العصرصر العثماني إشتهرت الدولة العثمانية بمحا ولالاتها العديدة في زيادة أنواع النباتات بشكل عام عا أراضيها والألأزمار بشكل خاص، فأكثرثرت من بعض الزمور مثل اللالالا، والقرنفل الخ، وقد ظهر ذلك بوضوح على منتجات العصرصر العثماني التي زخرفت غالبيتها بهذة الألأزمار.









#### 24. Spanish Ceramic Dish صحن من الخزف الألأسباني- 24

A Spanish ceramic dish with brown metallic lustre on a cream background, featuring a lily in the center in the form of a blazon.

عليه زخارف بالبربريق المعدني البني اللون على أرضية لونها سمني، بوسطه زمرة زنبق فی میئۃ رنک.

#### 25. Alhambra Style Vase زهرية طراز الحمراء- 25

A pear-shaped Andalusian vase with wing-like handles, decorated with metallic lustre and blue plant motifs, featuring the phrase "There is no victor but God" and Arabic writing.

زمرية كمثرثرية الشكل لها مقبضينين تشبه الألأجنحة من طراز الحمراء(الهمبربرا) الألأذ والفازة مزخرفة بالبربريق المعدني مع ر المراجع و المراجع مريحي المسلس على سع لون أزرق ويزخرف البدن في جزئيه العلوي والسفلى والرقبة والبدن زخارف نبا تية ورنوك تحمل عبارة (لالا غالب إلالا اللها للها للها لله) ويحيط بالبدن شرشريط من الكتابة العربية.

#### 26. Kütahya Ceramic Jug دورق من خزف كوتاهية- 26

A Kütahya-made ceramic jug imitating ancient Rhodes, with blue and red floral motifs on a white background and a lid, reflecting the Ottoman focus on floral decoration.

دورق قاشاني صناعة كوتا سية تقليد رودس القديم عليه زخارف نباتية. إشتهرت الدولة العثمانية بمحاولالاتها العديدة في زيادة أنواع النباتات بشكل عام عا أراضيها والألأزمار بشكل خاص, فأكثرثرت من بعض الزمور مثل اللالالالالا والقرنفل ..إلخ، وقد ظهر ذلك بوضوح على منتجات العصرصر العثمانين التين زخرفت غالبيتها بهذة يشأر ب الألأز ما ر.

# صحن من خزف الألأندلس- 27. Andalusian Qashani Plate محن من خزف الألأندلس- 27.

A Qashani plate with a white background and metallic color, featuring a squirrel flower in the center surrounded by simple plant decoration.

صحن قاشاني صناعة الألأندلس أرضيته بيضاء وعليه باللون المعدني السنجابي زهرة حولها زخرفة نباتية.











#### 28. Oil Painting of Bab al-Futuh

لوحة زيتية لباب- 28 الفتوح

A scene made in oil colors on a piece of wood representing Bab al-Futuh, made by Frère in the early nineteenth century.

بالألألوان الزيتية على قطعة من خشب تمثل باب الفتوح قديما ومو من صناعة ( فرير) وتاريخه في أوائل القرن التاسع عشرشر.

## لوحة زيتية لباب زويلة- 29. Oil Painting of Bab Zuweila 29.

A scene painted in oil on a piece of wood, representing the old Bab Zuweila, created by Frère and dating back to the early nineteenth century. Cairo is considered the only Islamic city that had three walls built over successive historical periods. Al-Magrizi mentioned that the width of the wall was several cubits, wide enough for two knights to pass through. The wall enclosed all the internal facilities in Cairo, making the city resemble a great fortress. Perhaps the reason for constructing the walls with such thicknesses was to enable the garrison defending Cairo to quickly assemble at any vulnerable point. Badr Al-Jamali's Walls When the Prince of the Armies, Badr al-Jamali, came by order of the Caliph al-Mustansir. he built another wall after expanding Cairo by 150 meters north of the existing wall. Al-Magrizi noted that three brothers, brought by Badr al-Jamali from Raha, contributed to constructing Cairo's second wall during his reign. Badr al-Jamali built his walls and gates behind and parallel to the walls of Jawhar al-Siqilli. He constructed the three main gates: Bab al-Nasr and Bab al-Futuh on the northern side, Bab Zuweila was constructed on the southern side of the wall. Each gate is flanked by two great towers; the area of each gate is 25 square meters, with a height of 33 meters. Bab al-Nasr was completed in 1087 AD )480 AH(. It was built on the northern side, constructed between two towers, and featured engravings of fighting equipment such as shields and swords on the stones. Above the door was an opening for pouring incendiary materials in case of aggression. The Second Gate: Bab al-Futuh Built in the same year as Bab al-Nasr, Bab al-Futuh differed from Bab al-Nasr because the two towers of Bab al-Futuh have arched bases. The sides of the towers are decorated with two closed arches whose corners are adorned with small, attached stone cushions. This type of decoration appeared for the first time in Egypt. Bab Zuweila Bab Zuweila was built by Badr al-Jamali along with Cairo's southern wall in 1092 AD )485 AH(. Unfortunately, most of the southern section of the wall that Badr al-Jamali constructed was destroyed





when Al-Mu'ayyad Sheikh demolished it to build a university in 818

AH.

منظر مصنوع بالألألوان الزيتية على قطعة من خشب يمثل باب زويلة قديما ومو من صناعة (فرير) وتاريخه في أوائل القرن وتعتبربر القاهرة المدينة الإلإسلالامية الوحيدة التي اقيم لها اسوار ثلالاثة علي فترتر تاريخية متعاقبة، و قد ذكر المقريزي ان عرض جدار السور عدة ازرع وكان يتسع لمرور فارسينين و ضم هذا السور جميع المنشأة الداخلية بالقاهرة فبدت المدينة وكأنها حصن عظيم، ربما كان السبب في بناء الالاسوار بهذا السمك هو تمكينين الحامية المدافعة عن القاهرة من التجمع السرسريع عند أي

#### 30. Gypsum and Stained-Glass Window

#### شباك من الجص والزجاج- 30 الملون

A window featuring a mosque and a cypress tree, with the inscription "Oh God Oh Muhammad," from a house in Atfet El Hamam. Hamam.

السنجابي زمرة حولها زخرفة نباتية.

#### 31. Marble and Motherof-Pearl Mosaic

#### لوح مستطيل من فسيفساء- 31 بالرخام الملون والصدف

Rectangular mosaic panel from the Mamluk period, featuring arches and octagonal shapes in black, red, white, yellow marble, and mother-of-pearl.

لوح ملصوق على شكل أربع قناطر محمولة على أكتاف من الرخام الألأبيض والألأحمر بوسط كل منها قمران من الصدف والرخام الألأسود والألأصفر وبجوف القناطر أشكال مثمنة يتكون منها صلبان، مصرصر — العصرصر المملوكي.

### قاعدة من الحجر الجيريريوالصدف- 32 32. Limestone Base









## 4th theme: The Genius of the Muslim Engineer عبقرية المهندس المسلم

Objects 31 to 38 من 33 إلى 38

# بلالاطات من القاشاني- 33. Set of Ceramic Tiles

Twelve Turkish ceramic )from Damascus( tiles with octagonal starshaped geometric designs in blue and white.

مجموعة من إثنى عشرشر بلألأطة مربعة من القاشاني الترتركي، عليه رسم مندسي من الألأطباق النجمية المثمنة، وكانت تكسية الجدران بالبلالاطات الخزفية أحد وسائل ترطيب درجات حرارة الجو داخل المبنى.

#### نافورة من الرخام- 34. Marble Fountain 34.

A two-part white marble fountain consisting of a cylindrical column surrounded by three fish, with a strip of plant leaves encircling it from above and below. Muslims used water as a fundamental element in Islamic architecture. Muslim engineers recognized the importance of water in moderating temperature and enhancing people's mood. The significance of water stems from the Qur'an's descriptions of Paradise, where rivers and flowing water are central. Muslim architects creatively incorporated this element as an aesthetic feature, placing fountains in the courtyards of small houses, often in the center. These fountains took various shapes, including cylindrical, square, rectangular, and octagonal. In palace gardens, large water channels were used. The use of fountains and water channels was in line with Islamic teachings, which promote the conservation and careful use of water. Water from these fountains flowed into basins and was then reused.

نا فورة من الرخام الألأبيض من جزئينين عبارة عن قائم إسطوانيى الشكل يلتف حوله ثلالاث سمكات ويحيط به من أعلى ومن أسفل شرشريط من أوراق نباتية. استخدم المهندس المسلم العنصرصر المائيى كعنصرصر اساسيى فيى العماره الالاسلالاميه، فأدرك أهمية الماء لتلطيف درجات حرارة الجو وأيضا فيى تحسينين الحالة المزاجية.

#### كوشة عقد محراب- 35. Mihrab Face 35.

Part of a mihrab face with black, white, and red marble, inlaid with black paste and turquoise-colored glass, from the Sudun Mirzadeh Mosque.

جزء من وجه محراب مركب من قطعتينين بالرخام الألأسود والألأبيض والألأحمر والمفتاح به لفظ الجلالالة والتوشيحة اليمنى بها زخرفة مطعمة بالمعجون الألأسود يحيطها شرشريط مزخرف أيضا وبها دائرة من زجاج ملون باللون الفيريروزي، منقول لمتحف الفن الإلإسلالامي من مسجد سودون ميرير زادة بالسيوفية.







العقود من العناصرصر المعماريه الهامه فيي العماره الالاسلالاميه فبالالاضافه الى الغرض المعماري الذي تقوم به وهو حمل الألاسقف وتوزيع الألأروقه والتخفيف من حمل وضغط الجدران كان للعقود دور جمالي اخر يتمثل فيى اضفاء مسحه زخرفيه وجماليه على العمائر المختلفه.

#### **36. Green Pottery Pipe** ماسورة من فخر مطلی- 36 decorated with ribbing

Covered pipes laid underground, known as covered drainage or covered irrigation, were invented by Muslims. This innovation took place in Toledo and Cordoba in the Islamic Maghreb during the 4th century AH )10th century AD(. Muslims were the first to develop the method of using covered drainage or delivering water through underground pipes for irrigation. They implemented various irrigation techniques in agriculture across the western Islamic world and in Andalusia, under the guidance of Al-Ishbili, a Muslim scholar of engineering and irrigation sciences.

جزء من وجه محراب مركب من قطعتينين بالرخام الألأسود والألأبيض والألأحمر والمفتاح به لفظ الجلالالة والتوشيحة اليمني بها زخرفة مطعمة بالمعجون الألأسود يحيطها شرشريط مزخرف أيضا وبها دائرة من زجاج ملون باللون الفيريروزي، منقول لمتحف الفن الإلإسلالامي من مسجد سودون ميرير زادة بالسيوفية. العقود من العناصرصر المعماريه الهامه فيي العماره الألاسلالاميه فبالألاضافه الى الغرض المعماري الذي تقوم به وموحمل الألأسقف وتوزيع الألأروقه والتخفيف من حمل وضغط الجدران كان للعقود دور جمالي اخر يتمثل فيى اضفاء مسحه زخرفيه وجماليه على العمائر المختلفه.

#### **37. Wooden Inscription Panel**

#### حشوة خشىية- 37

A wooden panel featuring three lines of prominent Arabic script on its surface, with the inscription: "The establishment of this blessed place was ordered by the servant of God Almighty, Prince Shihab al-Din Ahmad bin Baha' al-Din Raslan, one of the men of the victorious circle." This piece was transferred to the Museum of Islamic Art from Kamal al-Din Mosque in al-Husayniyah. Architects have paid great attention to incorporating written inscriptions in many architectural structures. These inscriptions often clarify the name of the person who commissioned the building, the date of construction, and sometimes include Quranic or poetic verses. These documentary texts have become a window through which researchers can glimpse many historical details, most notably names, the chronological order of eras, rulers, and other significant information.

عليها ثلالاثة أسطر كتابة عربية بارزة نصها (أمر بإنشاء مذا المكان المبارك العبد ال إلىّ + اللها للها لّلها لله تعالى الأُلأُميرير شهَاب الدين أحمد بن بهاء ا + الدين رسلالان أحد رجال الحلقة المنصورة) منقولة لمتحف الفن الإلإسلالامي من مسجد كمال الدين بالحسينية. إعتنى المعماريون في الكثيرير من المنشآت المعمارية، بالحرص على وجود نصوص كُتا بيّة توضح إسّا الشّخص الذيّ أُمّر بالنشاء المنشأة، وتاريخ الإلإنشاء، وأحيانا كثيريرا يضيفوا آيات قرآنية وأبيات شعرية، فأص هذه النصوص التوثيقية بمثابة المرآة التي يرى من خلالالها الباحثينين العديد من الألأمور التاريخية، أبرزها الألأسماء وترتيب ال

والحكام وغيريرها.





#### 38. Wooden Muqarnas Panel

#### جزء من مقرنص- 38

A wooden rectangular panel featuring muqarnas work, originally from the ceiling of the Al-Mardani Mosque, now in the Museum of Islamic Art. Muqarnas, also known as Mocárabe in Iberian architecture, is a threedimensional decorative element in Islamic art, characterized by intricate, tiered niches or stalactites, serving both architectural and aesthetic purposes in domes, arches, and ceilings



مستطيل من الخشب شغل مقرنص، منقول لمتحف الفن الإلإسلالامي من سقف جمامع المرداني. تؤدي المقرنصات وظيفه معماريه في الألانتقال من شكل مندسي الى اخر ومن سطح الى اخر حيث تغطي مناطق الألانتقال في القباب لتحويل المربع الى دائره تقام عليها القبه كواسطه انتقال متدرجه من سطح الى سطح وربما ارتبطت فكره نشآه المقرنص بنشآه القبه كحل لمعالجه منطقه الألانتقال من مربع الى دائرة، ولها دور زخرفي أيض في العماره الألاسلالاميه حيث توضع في الألاركان بينين الألاسقف والجدران واسفل الشرشرافات وفي الماذن واعلى المنابر وفي تيجان الألاعمده والمداخل والمحاريب لتشكل عنصرمر جمالي في مندسته وتشكيلالاته ثلالانيه الألابعاد.

# **5th theme: Urbanization in Islamic Cultures** العمران في فكر الحضارة الإلإسلالامية Object 39

**39. Map with Sacred Sites** 

38 -ورق مرسوم علية صورة مكة والمدينة والمسجد الألأقصى وقبور الصحابة، مؤرخ عام 1282 ، مخلف من جامع السلطان برقوق

A paper dated 1282 AH from the Sultan Barquq Mosque, depicting Mecca, Medina, Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the graves of the Companions. These three cities are revered in Islamic history as they house the most sacred places: the Holy Kaaba in Mecca, the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, and Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.



ثلالاث مدن مم الألأكثرثر مكانة في التاريخ الإلالالامي وفي وجدان المسلمينين منذ قيام الدولة الإلاسلالامية وحتى الألأن, مكة المكرمة أماكن مقدسة في التاريخ الإلاسلالامي، وهي الحرم المكي حيث وجود الكعبة المشرشرفة وهي ثاني قبلة للمسلمينين، وقبلة الحجاج، والمسجد النبوي الشرشريف وهو النواة الألأولى للدولة الإلاسلالامية وفيه قبربر الرسول صلى اللها للها للها لله عليه وسلم، و المسجد الأقصى القبلتينين وثالث الحرمينين ومسرسرى اللها للها للها للها للها للم

#### Contributors

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# PRESS RELEASE

# UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation Launch Dual Exhibitions at the Museum of Islamic Art

Cairo, Egypt – September 23rd, 2024 – The UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo is pleased to announce the opening of two major exhibitions in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo. These exhibitions, hosted by Museum, offer an immersive exploration of the history, culture, and architecture of the Islamic world, focusing on two distinct themes which are interlinked.

The first exhibition, "Madinat Al-Zahra, The Shining City," focuses on the palatial city of Madinat al-Zahra, commissioned by the Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Rahman III in 940 CE near Córdoba, Spain. Known as the "Brilliant City," this UNESCO World Heritage Site reflects the caliph's power, ideological ambitions, and artistic excellence. The city, named after Abd al-Rahman's beloved Azahara, served as a political statement as well as a hub of cultural and architectural innovation.

Since 2016, a joint German-Spanish project led by Felix Arnold, a renowned architect and archaeologist, has been investigating the entrance area of the city, uncovering new insights into its construction process, urban design, and the role of gardens and walls in shaping the city's structure. At the opening ceremony, Felix Arnold delivered a keynote speech, where he emphasized the importance of Madinat al-Zahra in the broader context of Islamic architectural heritage.

The exhibition features original photographs and key findings from Arnold's research, as well as two captivating photographic series: "Intimate Diary of Madinat al-Zahra," which showcases iconic locations like the Salón Rico and Casa Yafar, and a new collection by Rafael Carmona, documenting the ongoing restoration of the Salón Rico.

The second exhibition, "UNESCO Historic Urban Islamic Landscape," complements the first by exploring the material culture and architectural achievements of Islamic societies, particularly those represented in UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This exhibition highlights the enduring impact of Islamic urban planning, featuring artifacts from the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo. Themes include the foundation of Fustat as the foundation of Cairo city, Capitals of Islamic Empires, Architecture, The Genius of the Muslim Engineer, and Urbanization in Islamic Cultures, offering a deeper understanding of the urbanization processes that shaped Islamic cultures.

Together, these exhibitions emphasize the preservation of Islamic heritage and its profound influence on world architecture and urbanism. By showcasing the connections between Madinat al-Zahra and other Islamic cities like Cairo, UNESCO and AECID provide visitors with a unique opportunity to explore the intertwined legacies of Islamic history and culture. UNESCO, AECID, and the Museum of Islamic Art invite visitors to experience these exhibitions, which offer a comprehensive view of the cultural and architectural contributions of Islamic societies from Córdoba to Cairo and beyond.

# KEYNOTE Spech

by Dr. Felix Arnold





Invitation: 23rd of September 2024, 17:30 h , keynote speech by Prof Felix Arnold at the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo

In dialogue with UNESCO Historic Urban Islamic Landscape

# SOCIAL NEDIA

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UNESCO Cairo boosting the role of Gardens in the Historic Islamic Urban Landscapes, the case of Madinat al-Zahra

Earlier today, UNESCO Cairo, hosted a highly anticipated keynote speech by renowned archaeologist Prof. Felix Arnold, offering fresh insights into the architectural and cultural significance of Madinat al-Zahra.

Dr. Arnold delved into the unique history of this Umayyad capital near Córdoba, explaining how the city's design was not the result of a single plan but an evolving process that reflected continuous adaptation. He highlighted the symbolic importance of the vast gardens, which represented the caliph's new world order, and discussed the strategic role of the city's walls in controlling its layout—an approach later mirrored in the founding of Cairo (al-Qahira) by the Fatimids.

The keynote provided a deeper understanding of how Madinat al-Zahra contributed to the tradition of Islamic urbanism and influenced world architecture. Organized by UNESCO Cairo, the event emphasized the critical role Islamic gardening played in shaping urban planning and cultural heritage.

Through this collaboration, UNESCO Cairo, MIA Museum and the Embassy of Spain continue to promote the preservation of Islamic heritage, offering new perspectives on these historic cities and their lasting global impact.

#UNESCOCairo#FelixArnold#MadinatAlZahra#IslamicUrbanism#IslamicArchitecture#CulturalHeritage#WorldHeritage#AECID#KeynoteSpeech#PreservingHeritage#IslamicHistory#UNESCOWorldHeritage#UNESCOExhibitions#IslamicHistory

