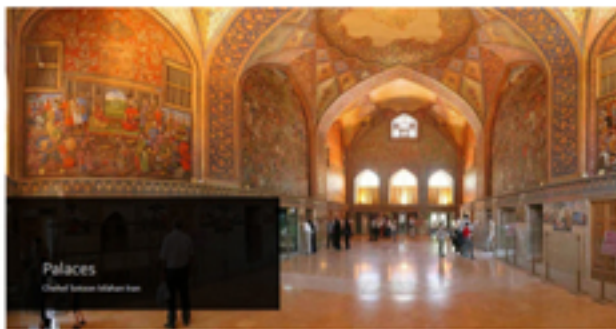


Geometry and Islamic Tiles



Throughout this slide show I will take you to a journey that gives you an insight to the world of Geometry and Islamic art. So take a deep breath and enjoy your trip.

In Islamic culture, geometry is everywhere. You can find it in mosques, schools, palaces and private homes.

This tradition began in the 8th century CE during the early history of Islam, when craftsman took preexisting motifs from Roman and Persian cultures and developed them into new forms of visual expression.

This period of history was a golden age of Islamic culture, during which many achievements of previous civilizations were preserved and further developed, resulting in fundamental advancements in scientific study and mathematics.

Accompanying this was an increasingly sophisticated use of abstraction and complex geometry in Islamic art, from intricate floral motifs adorning carpets and textiles, to patterns of tile work that seemed to repeat infinitely, inspiring wonder and contemplation of eternal order.

Islamic craftsmen and artists – who were prohibited from making representations of people in holy sites – developed an instantly recognizable aesthetic based on repeated geometrical shapes.

The mathematical elegance of these designs is that no matter how elaborate they are, they are always based on grids constructed using only a ruler and a pair of compasses.

All Islamic Geometric Patterns originate from the harmonious subdivisions of circles and are based on templates of circle grids. The use of the circle is a way of expressing the Unity of Islam, the circle is a symbol of a religion that emphasizes One God.

Shapes in Islamic art reflect information, heritage, and are used as a metaphor for knowledge.

In Islam, geometry and mathematics used in art construction reflects that each thing come from the same divine source.

Complexity of design is closely connected with Islamic art traditions, both with geometric lacings and organic, or “vegetal,” patterns.

This comes from the awareness that an Infinite Creator constructed the universe we share so everything is chained together; there is also an element of the idea of “freedom within limits.”

Looking closely at incredibly complicated Islamic designs, we can see smaller portions which are repeated and reflected, with the shapes holding in the designs; underlying principles of structure and order are necessary to support the complicated web.

Colors Representation

Some main colors, used in tiles represent different meanings.

Early Muslims saw oases and plants as the gift from God, and we can see the use of those colors through Islamic art.

Blue– heaven, spirituality Life giving/sustaining water is proof of God's desires to bless His creations, and has been an important symbol of Divine compassion from the very beginning of Islam. Blue also represents both the sky and the lands of stars, reminding us of the eternity of creation.

Gold–heat, energy, life In areas where saffron was available (consistently the single most expensive spice in the ancient world, worth more than its weight in gold), this was also a symbol of royalty, nobility, or reward.

Turquoise- good fortune was appreciated for its color, as well as perceived with its meaning for good fortune.

White– purity references the clouds in the heavens, which can point the way to Paradise or hold life-giving rain.

Green– vitality, regeneration, gardens, heaven Green symbolized not just the boundless bounty of Heaven, but also the blessings promised by a loving Creator and His limitless power to give and nourish life itself.