

Class Discussion: Islamic Architecture

Background information on the decoration of Islamic buildings:

Geometric patterns and arabesques have developed over the centuries in Islamic decoration. Arabesques are linear patterns of scrolling and interlacing foliage, tendrils or plain lines. To Muslims these create an infinite pattern that symbolizes the nature of creation by Allah and the Islamic worldview. Islamic art does not have the figurative iconography that other religions do and in fact it is not permitted to recreate living forms because that is the work of God. There are two modes to Islamic decoration. In the first mode each repeating geometric form has a built-in symbolism ascribed to it. The second mode is based upon the flowing nature, of plant forms. In addition, upon inspection of the many examples of Arabesque art, some would argue that there is in fact a third mode, the mode of Arabic calligraphy.

- Wikipedia. (2015, July 3). *Islamic geometric patterns*. [Webpage]. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_geometric_patterns

Videos:

1. National Geographic. (2013). *Ancient megastructures: The Alhambra*. [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.natgeotv.com/ca/ancient-megastructures/videos/the-alhambra>
2. National Geographic. (2013). *Ancient megastructures: The Alhambra: wonder of Islam*. [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.natgeotv.com/ca/ancient-megastructures/videos/wonder-of-islam>
3. National Geographic. (2013). *Ancient megastructures: The Alhambra: the watchtower*. [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.natgeotv.com/ca/ancient-megastructures/videos/the-alhambra-the-watchtower>
4. National Geographic. (2013). *Ancient megastructures: The Alhambra: palaces and gardens*. [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.natgeotv.com/ca/ancient-megastructures/videos/the-alhambra-palaces-and-gardens>

5. National Geographic. (2013). *Ancient megastructures: The Alhambra: water*. [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.natgeotv.com/ca/ancient-megastructures/videos/the-alhambra-water>