

Highlights of Post-13th century Islamic Architecture

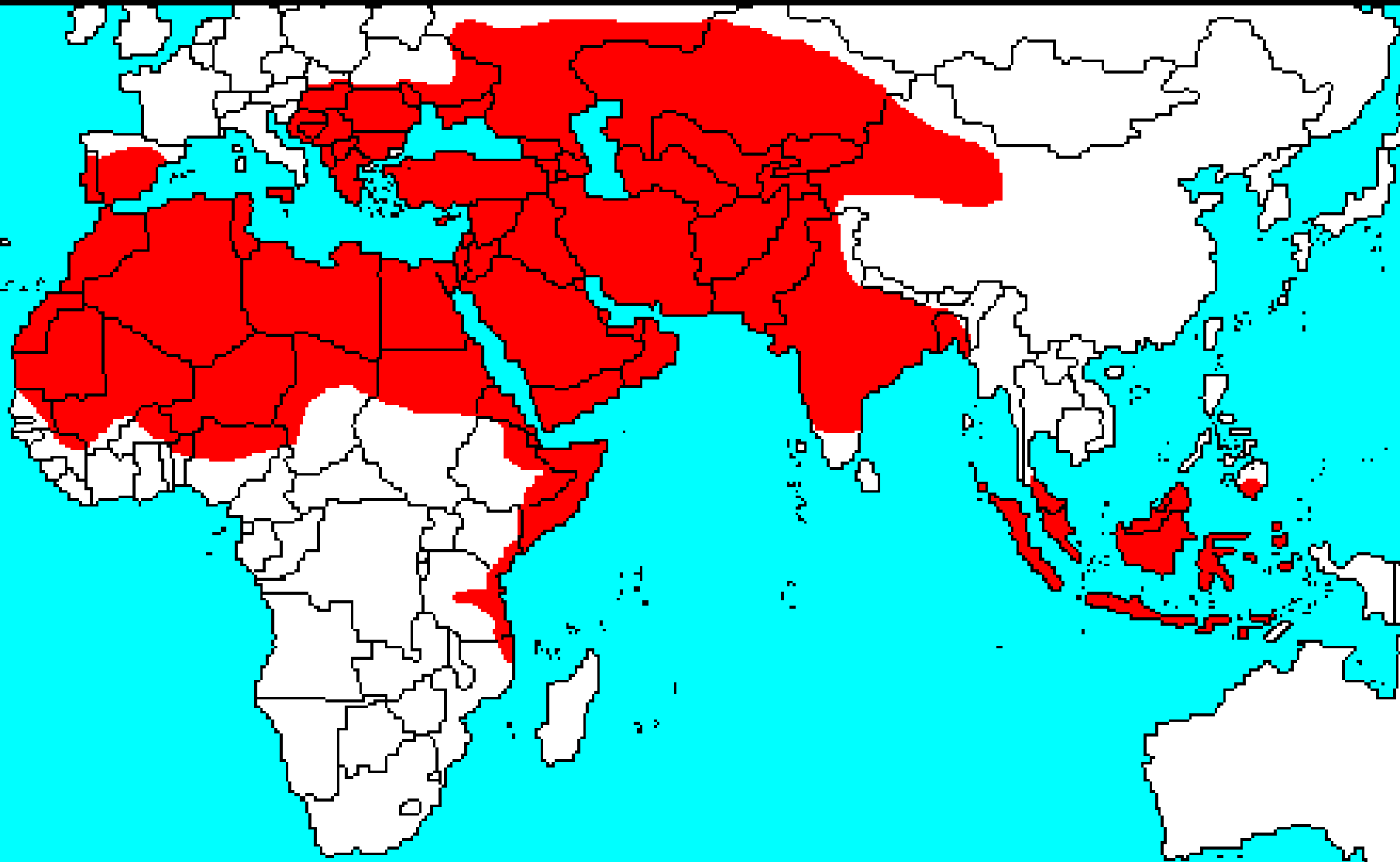
Week Twelve

Goals

- Understanding the Alhambra as a beautiful example of Islamic taste and beliefs.
- Explore the mosques of the Ottoman Empire and their inspiration, the Hagia Sophia.
- How does Islamic art use ornamentation as a reflection of the Islamic beliefs?
- Recognize Islamic elements in the Taj Mahal

Islam's Impact on Architecture



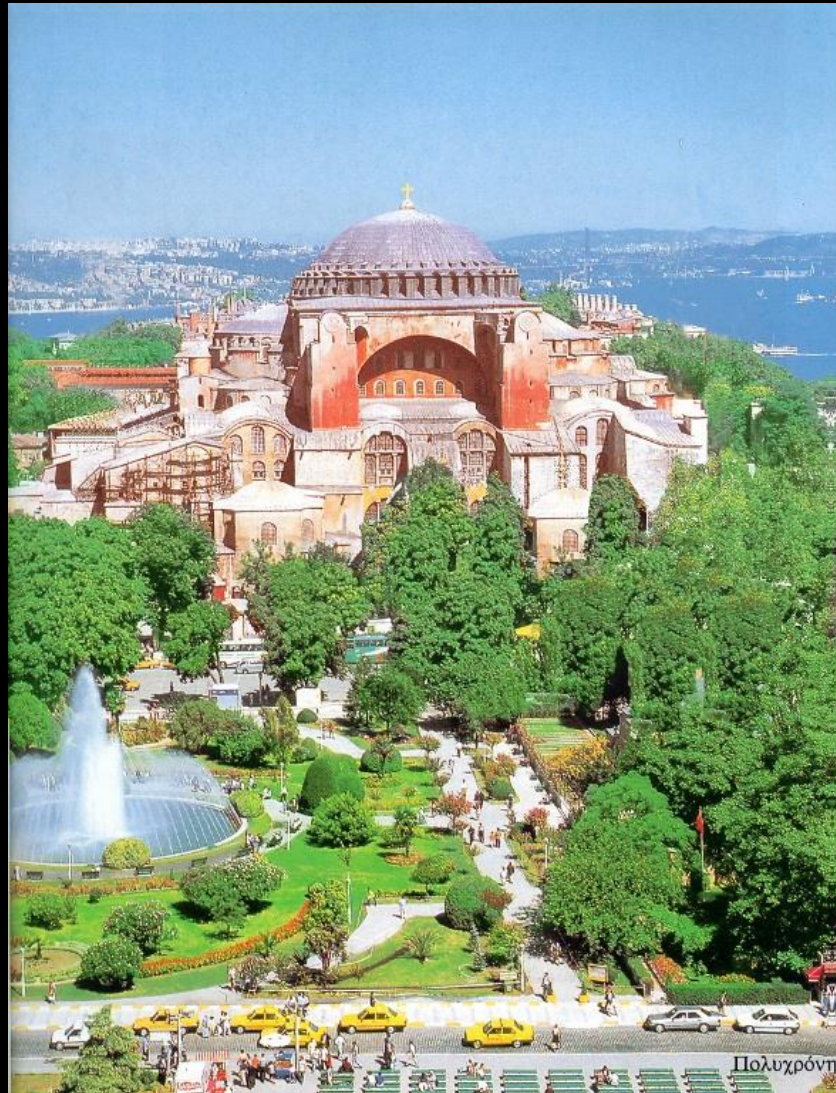


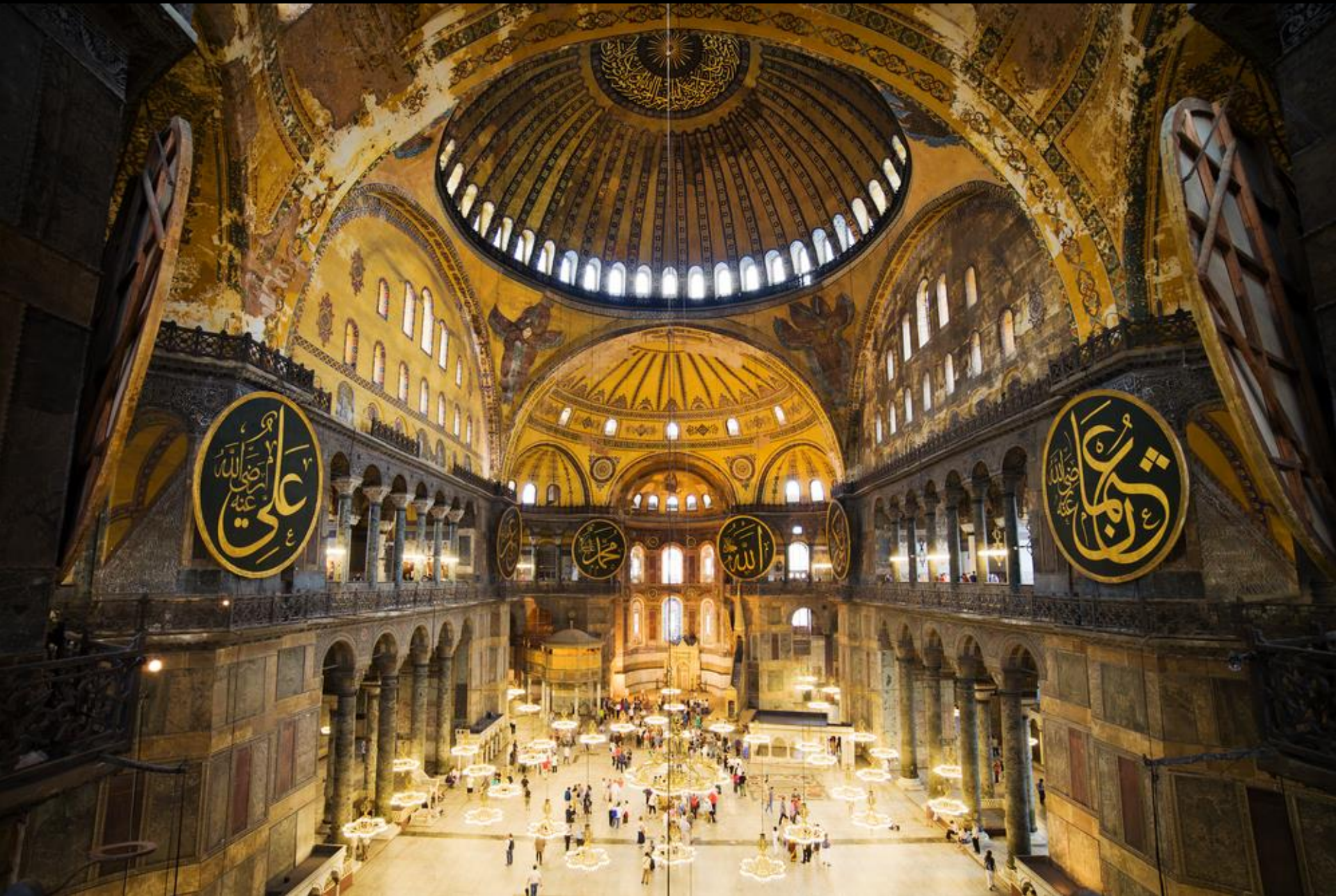
Areas at one time under Muslim rule

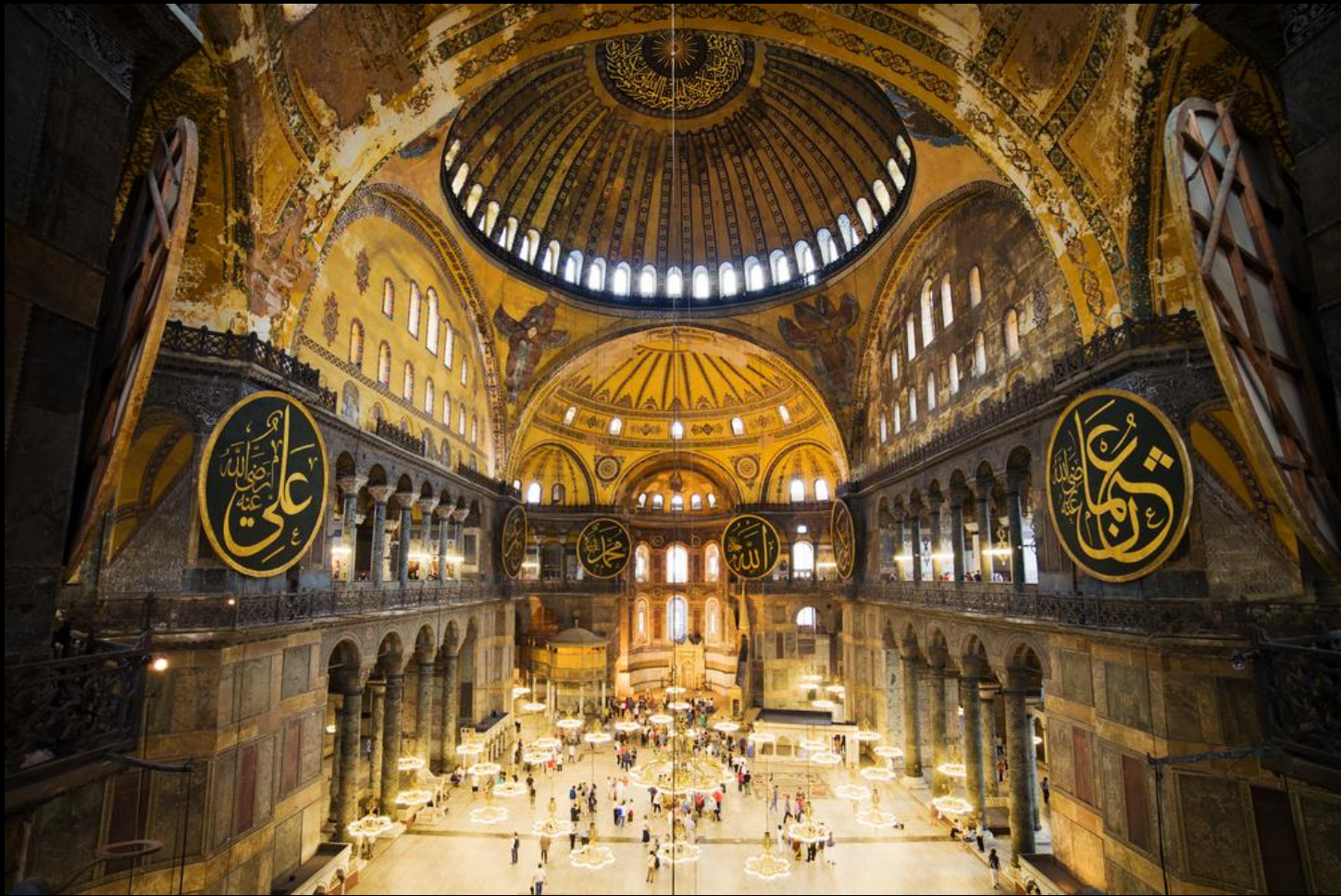
Ottoman Empire (1299-1922/3)



Anthemius of Tralles and Isidorus of Miletus. Church of Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (Istanbul). 532-537.







- 108 feet diameter (dome)
- largest domed building in the world until St. Peter's Basilica in Rome
- 180 feet in height to the Dome (Statue of Liberty is 151 ft)

Bay of windows
reduces stress
on the dome,
decreases
weight, and
admits light
into the interior



Intricately-
carved
stonework
inside Hagia
Sophia





Golden Mosaics



Almost entirety of the treasury spent
(Adjusted for inflation: \$1.8 billion)



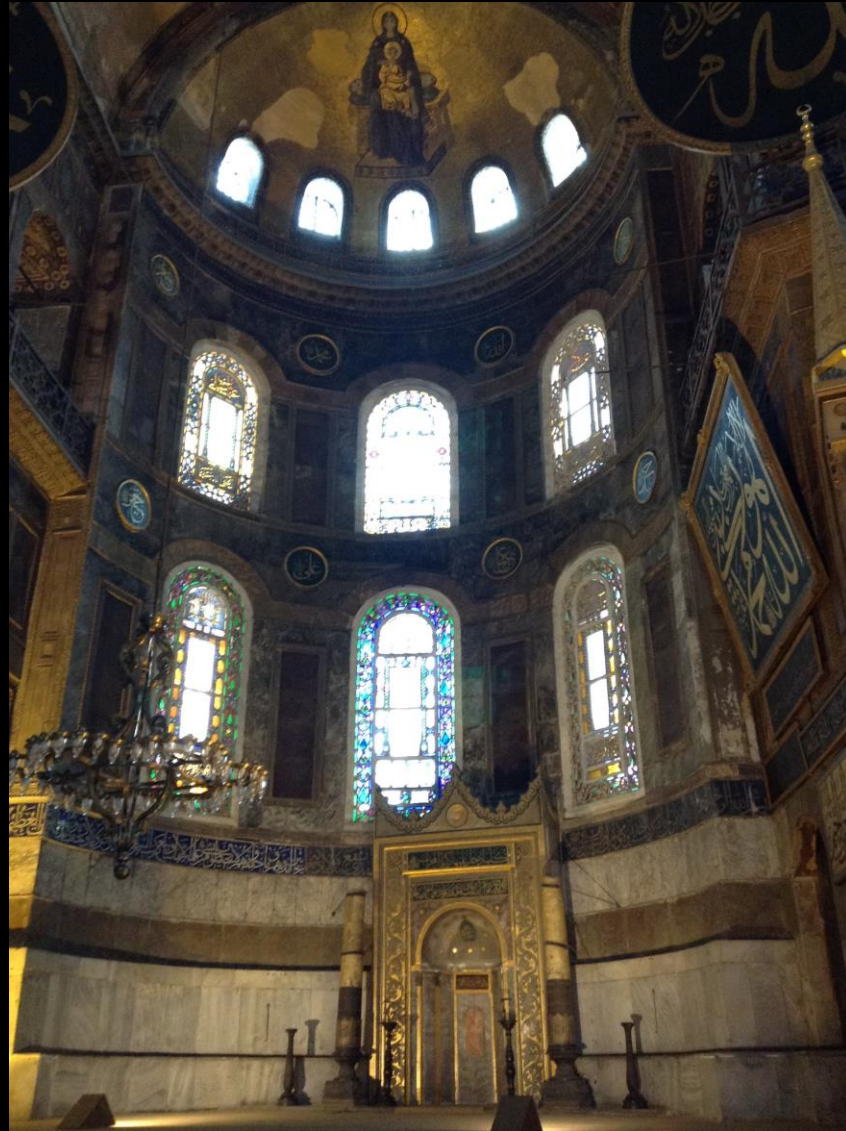
“Oh Solomon, I have surpassed thee” – Justinian I, 537



After 1453:

Hagia Sophia becomes a Mosque

Hagia Sophia Conversion: Mihrab



Hagia Sophia Conversion: Minbar



Hagia Sophia Conversion: Minaret



Dome represents the Heavens



Mosaics plastered over



Mehmed conquered Constantinople on a Tuesday, by Friday, he was praying in the mosque of Hagia Sophia



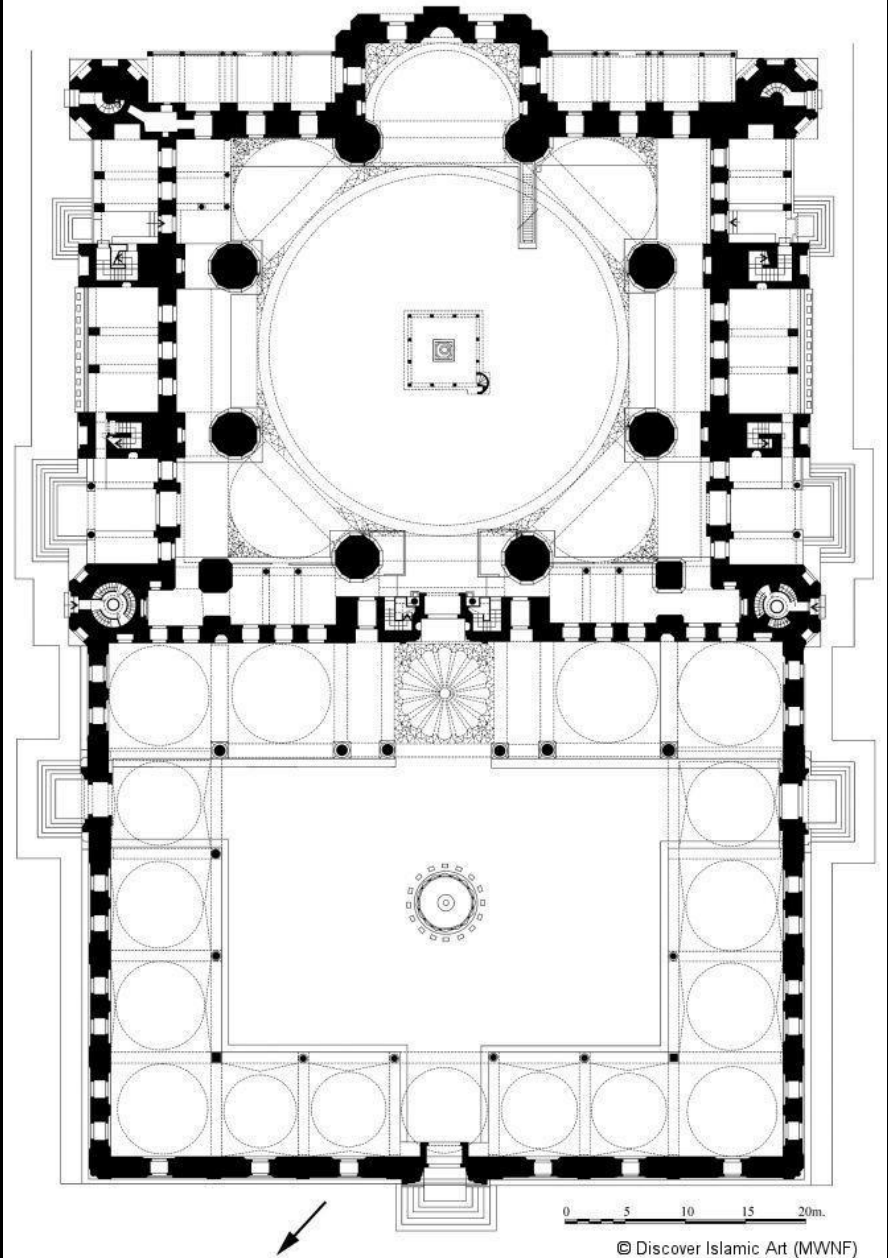
Mosque of Sultan Selim (Selimiye Camii).
Sinan. Edirne, Turkey. 1568-1575



How does Sinan change the Hagia Sophia plan to fit the needs of his patron?



Plan of Selimiye Mosque

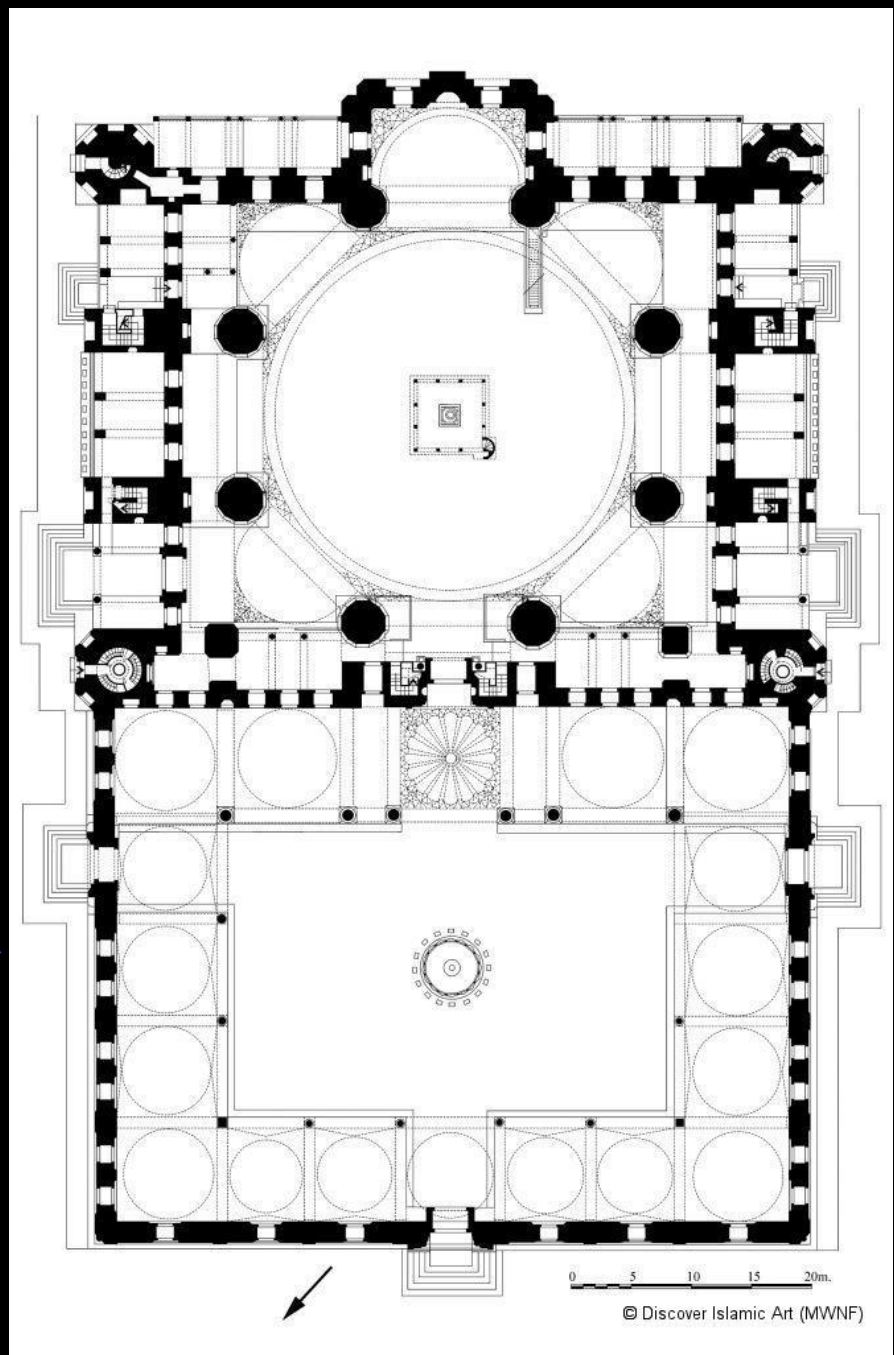


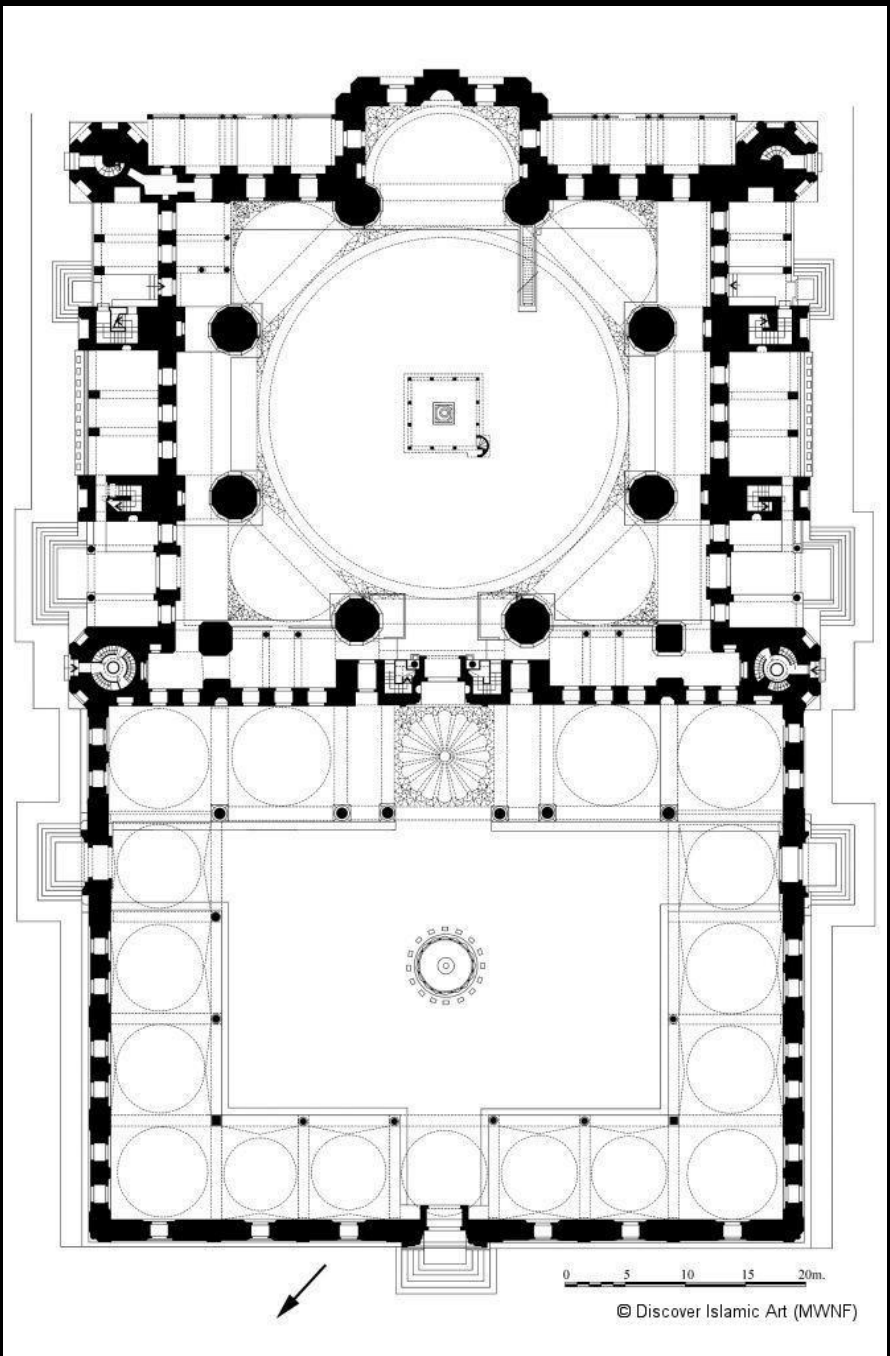
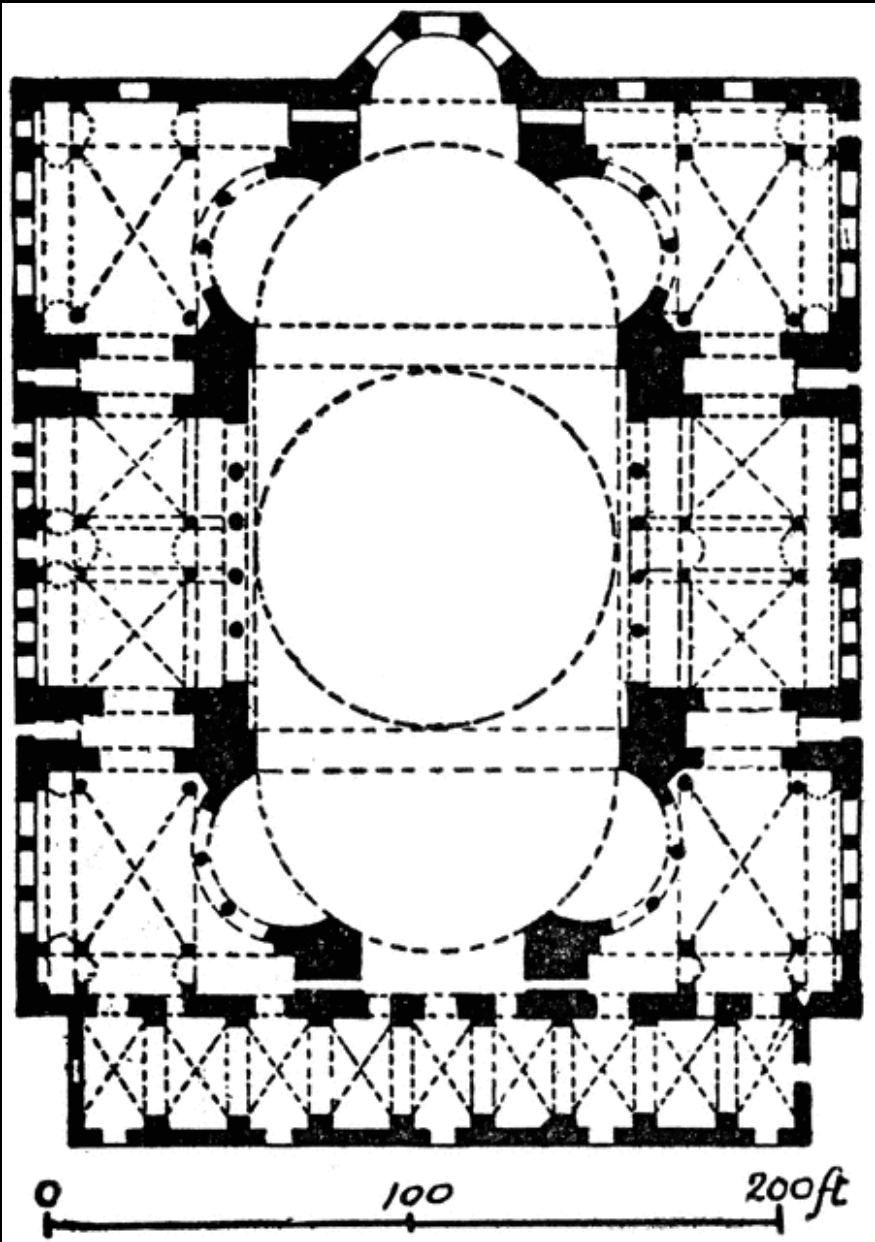
Plan of Selimiye Mosque

Prayer Hall



Walled courtyard
with fountain in the
center

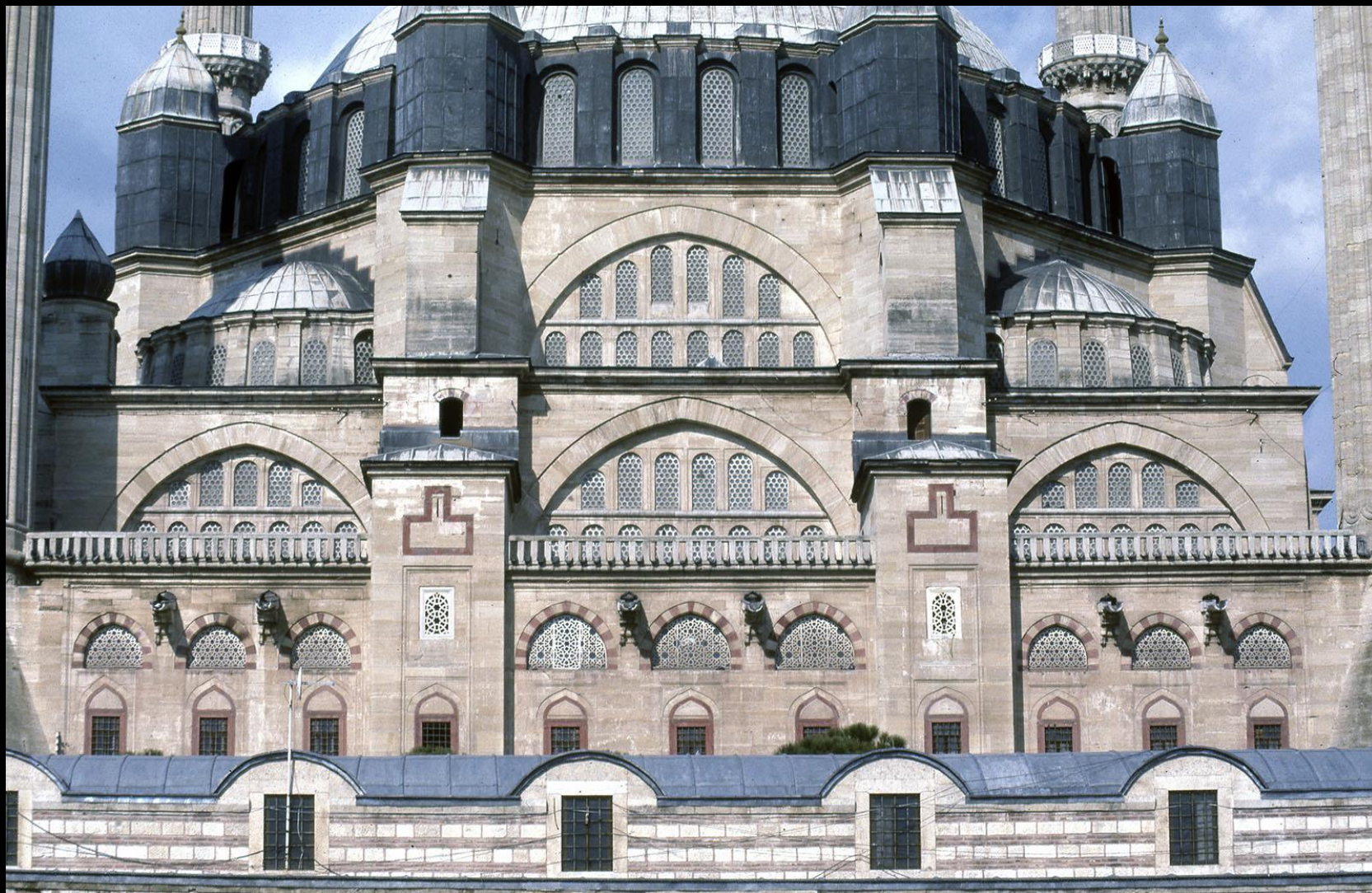




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Plan of Hagia Sophia

Southern Façade of Selimiye Mosque



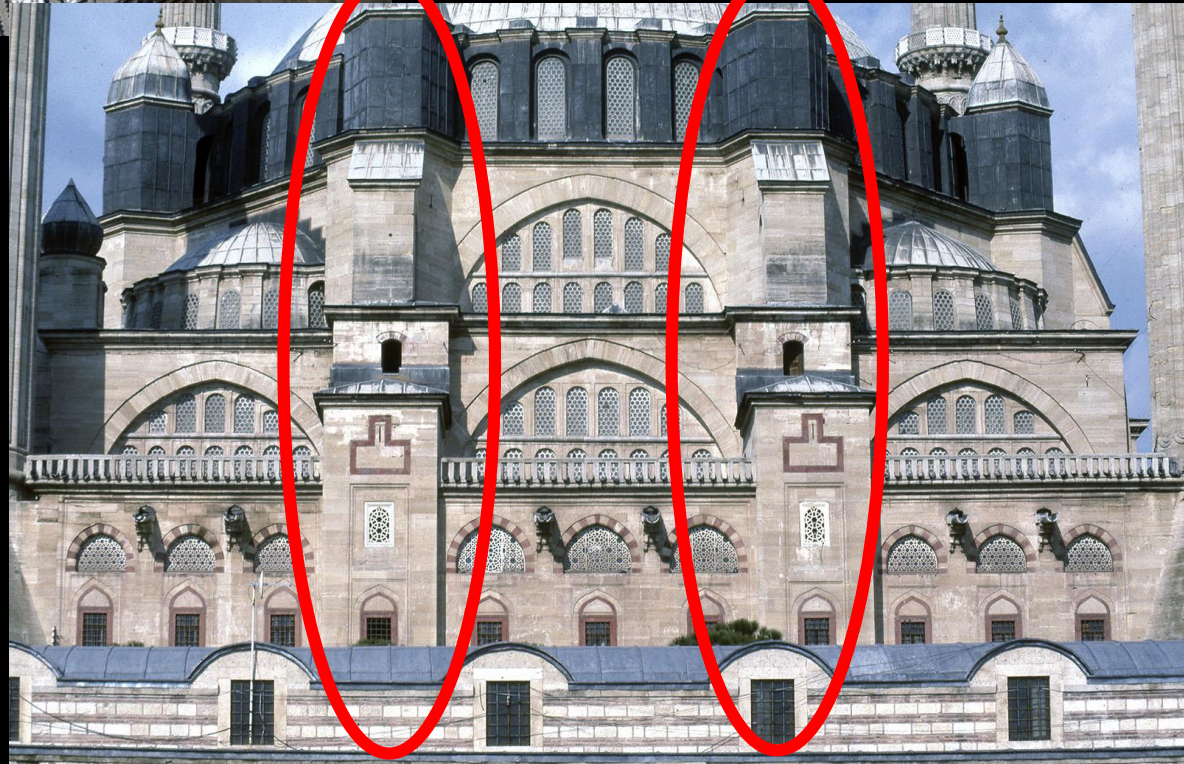
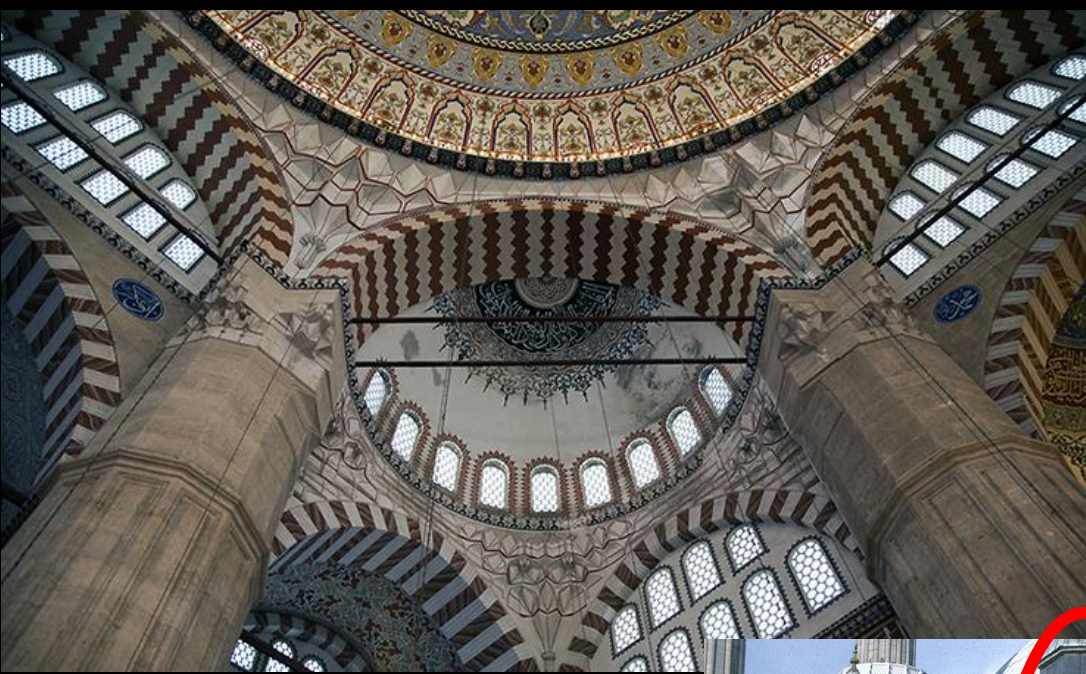
Decorative tiles fill the interior: Central Dome



How do you fit a round dome over an octagonal space?



Most of the weight-bearing walls are hidden behind the piers in the portico.



Mihrab Area



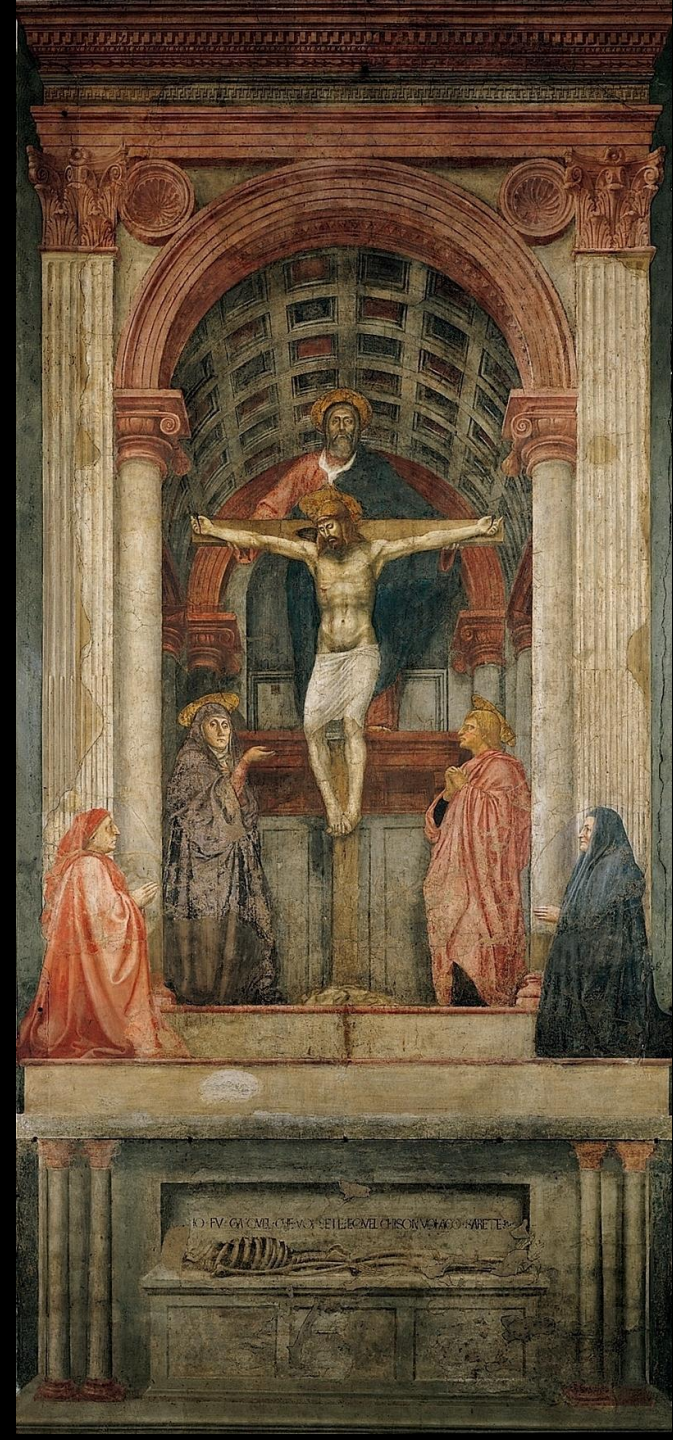


Unification of the exterior and interior



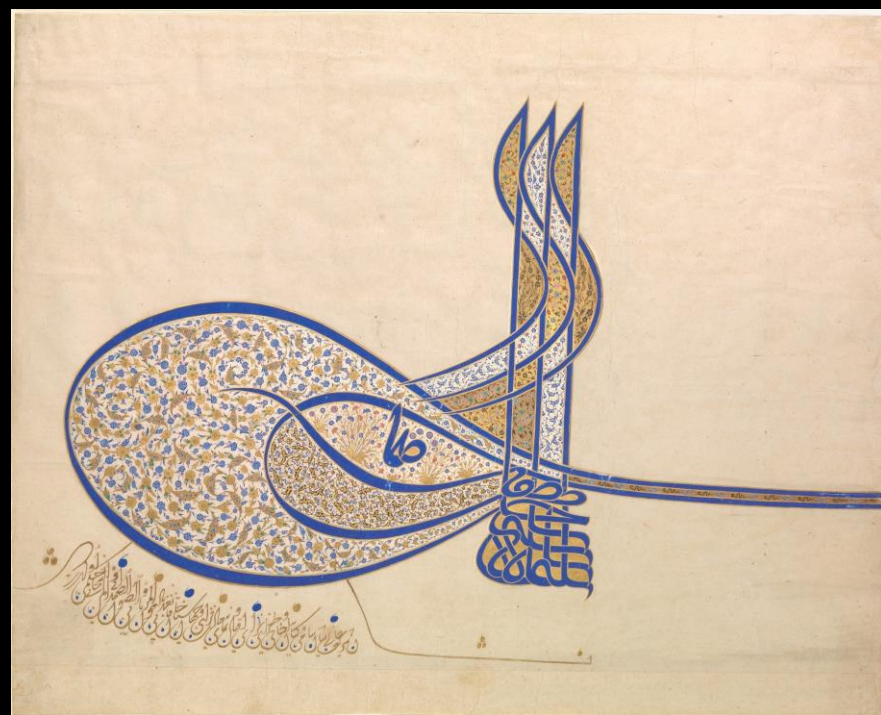


Different
decorations
inside mosques
Compared to a
Western
church...

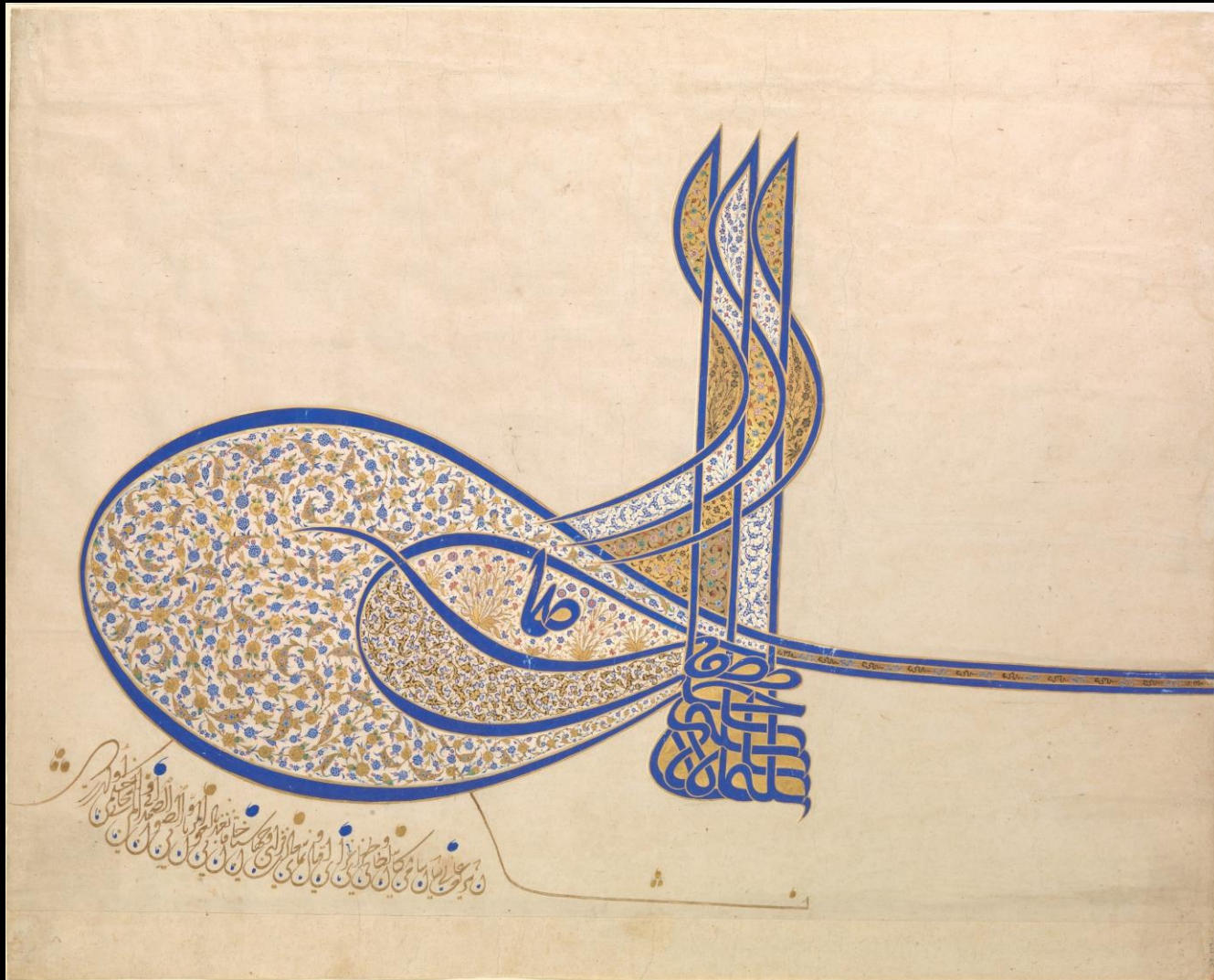




Importance of vegetations in Islamic art



Illuminated Tugra of Sultan Suleyman. From Istanbul, Turkey. Circa 1555-1560. Ink, paint, and gold on paper. Trimmed to 20 ½" x 25 3/8"



Visit this work at the [Met](#)



Mughal Empire (1526-1857)



The Mughal Empire (1526-1857)

- First ruling Islamic forces in India in 13th century
- Mughal Empire began with Babur in 1526.
- Combination of Indian, Persian, and Central Asian styles in art and architecture
- Most famous example is the Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal. 1631-1648. Agra, India.
Mughal Period, reign of Shah Jahan





Islamic Influences:

Iwan:
weightlessness

Minarets lean
outward (correct
optical illusion)

Dome: lifted by its
drum

Façade is inlaid with carnelian, agate, coral, turquoise, garnet, lapis, jasper in flower motif and verses from the Qur'an





Indian Influences:

Chattri (pavilion):
echoes from
minarets and on the
main building



Architectural Harmony?



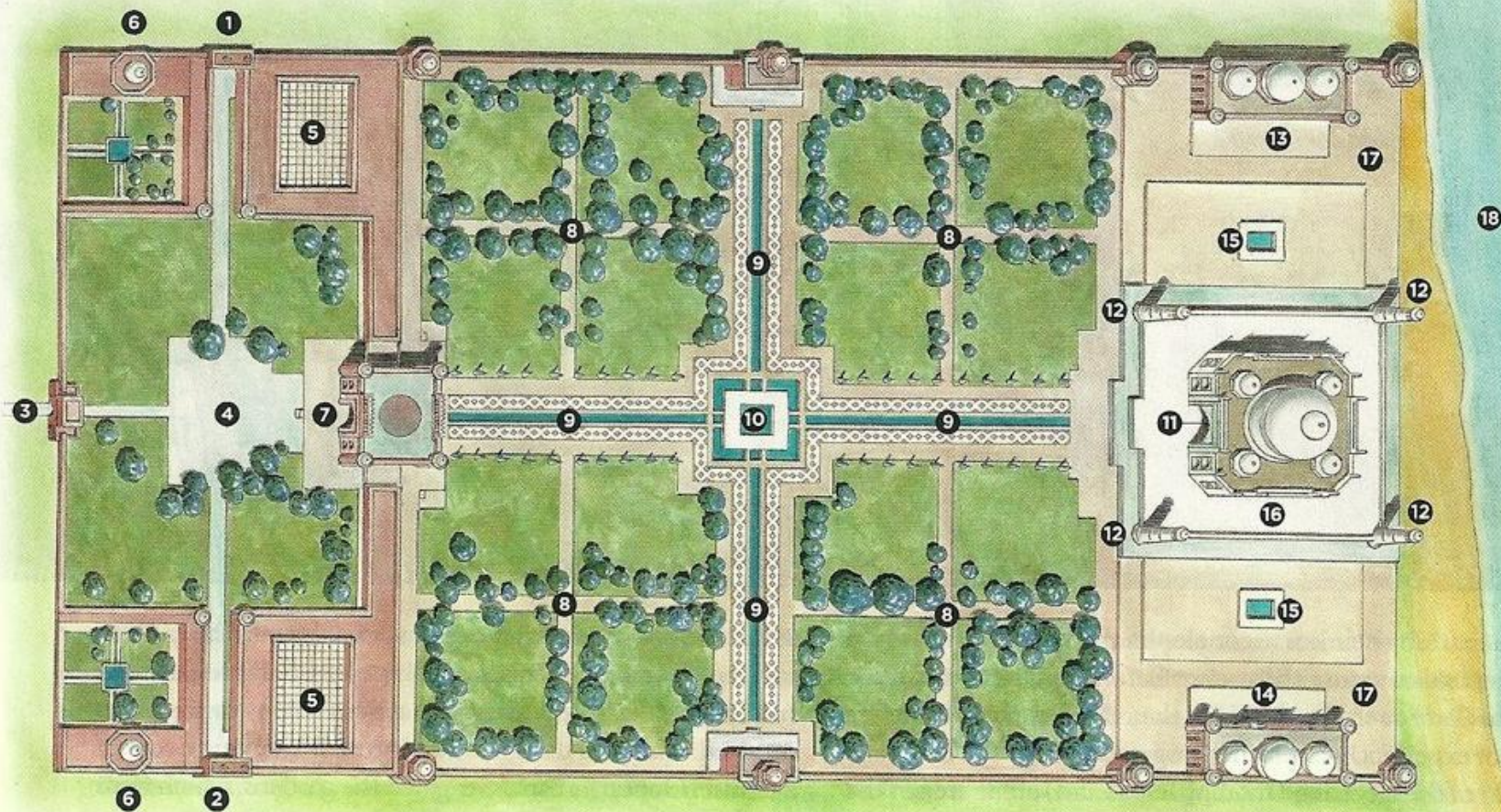
Interior of the Taj Mahal: cenotaph of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal



Fruit trees and cypresses (life and death symbols)
evoking paradise on earth



The Taj Mahal's 42-acre complex of buildings and gardens mirrors an Islamic idea of Paradise



1 WEST GATE

2 EAST GATE

3 SOUTH GATE

Originally faced an entry area filled with bazaars and caravanserai (inns)

4 JILAUKHANA

forecourt

5 KHAWASSPURAS

Living quarters for tomb attendants

6 SAHELI BURJ

Subsidiary tombs, believed to be the burial sites of two of Shah Jahan's "lesser wives"

7 GREAT GATE

8 CHARBAGH

four-square garden

9 WATER CHANNELS

Symbols of the four rivers of Paradise mentioned in the Koran

10 CENTRAL POOL

11 TAJ MAHAL

Mausoleum of Mumtaz Mahal

12 MINARETS

13 MOSQUE

14 MIHMAN KHANA *guesthouse*

15 POOLS

16 MARBLE PLATFORM

17 SANDSTONE PLATFORM

18 YAMUNA RIVER

The largest tributary of the Ganges River, 851 miles long

Great Gate of Taj Mahal



Optical Illusion of the Taj Mahal



Imperial Authority?



Memorial to Love and Loss?



Islamic Art in Spain: Nasrid Dynasty and the Alhambra



Islamic Presence in Spain

- Since the 8th century
- Islamic forces entered Spain from North Africa
- Catholic Monarchs begin to reconquer Spain in the mid-15th century.
- Granada was the last outpost of Islamic influences in Spain.
- On January 2, 1492, Isabella and Ferdinand successfully conquered Granada.



Alhambra. Granada, Spain. Begun in 1238.



General Tour of Alhambra [video](#)

Nasrid Palace (Palacios Nazaries)

- 1- Alcazaba
- 2- Plaza de Armas
- 3- Torre de las Armas
- 4- Torre de la Vela
- 5- Jardin de los Adarves
- 6- Palacio de Carlos V
- 7- Mexuar
- 8- Cuarto Dorado
- 9- Palacio de Comares
- 10- Palacio de los Leones
- 11- Sala de los Abencerrajes
- 12- Sala de los Reyes
- 13- Sala de las dos Hermanas
- 14- Corredor y Sala de Carlos V
- 15- Partal
- 16- Calle Real Alta - Medina
- 17- Jardín del Generalife
- 18- Palacio del Generalife



Patio of the Myrtles



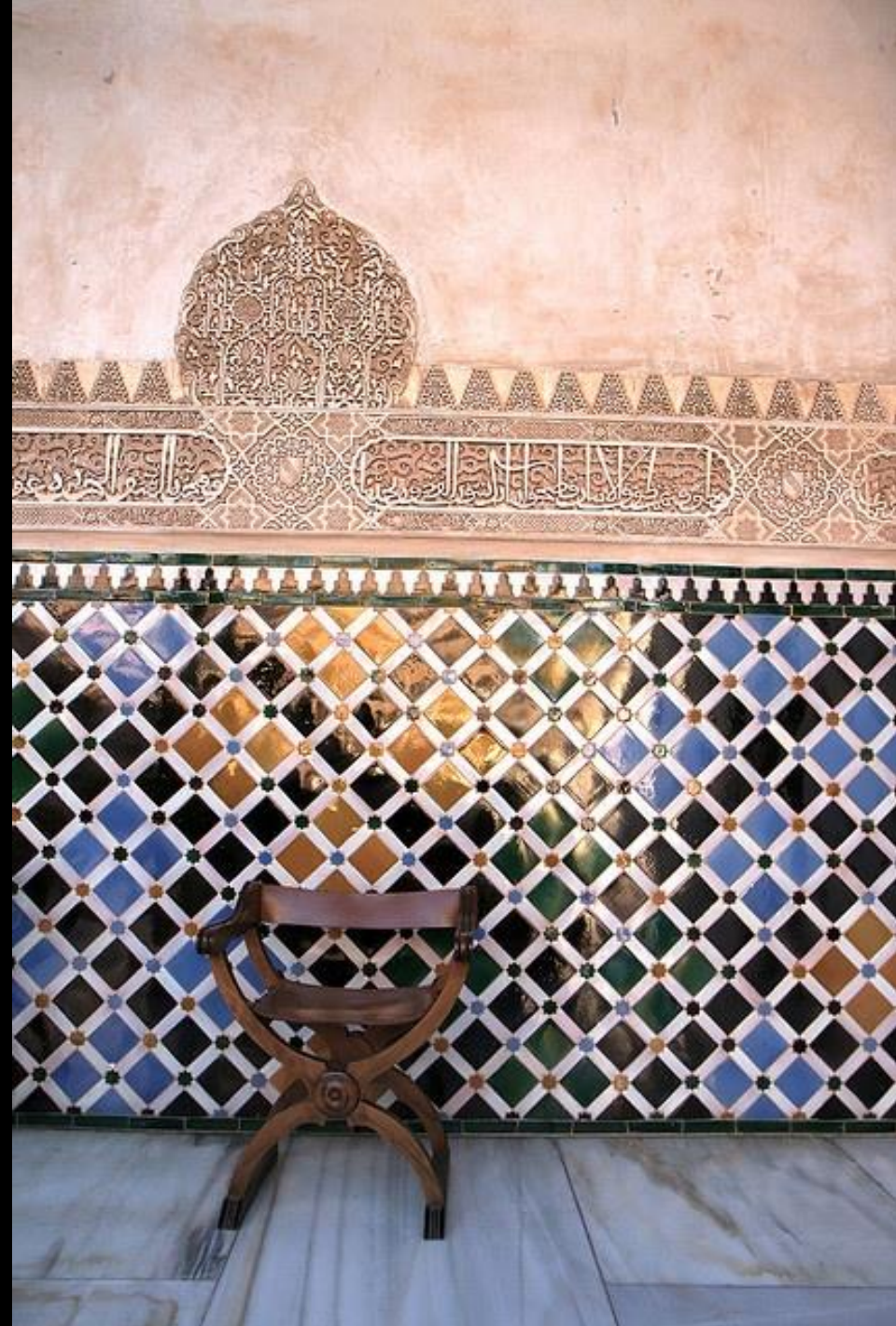
Hall of the Ambassadors (ceiling)



Alhambra and Mathematics

- Why do we find the architecture at Alhambra so attractive?
 - [Video](#) (excerpt from When Moors Ruled Europe)





Memorable Features at the Alhambra: Tile Decorations

What meanings can we find in the endless repeating mosaics and other decorations found within the walls of the Alhambra (specifically, in the Nasrid Palace)?

[Video](#) (Nasrid Palace section from 1:55-7:59)