

EXPLORE ISLAMIC PATTERN IN THE JAMEEL GALLERY

The Jameel Gallery houses over 400 objects, including ceramics, textiles, carpets, metalwork, glass and woodwork, which date from the 8th and 9th centuries to the years preceding the First World War.

Islamic art has a number of distinctive design elements, which are often combined in the decorative scheme on a single object: These include:

rich colours
decorative patterns
calligraphy
floral or plant designs
geometric shapes and designs
symmetry

Some modern architects still incorporate these elements into their work for Islamic and secular buildings. In designs for a new mosque in Hackney, Makespace architects took a Moorish tiling pattern from the Alhambra palace in Granada and enlarged and abstracted it to form the façade of the building. In Paris the design of L’Institut du Monde Arabe features screens based on traditional Middle Eastern lattice work, with geometric patterns which change in shape and design according to the intensity of the sunlight.

- *Find examples of the following types of patterns and sketch examples of them:*

*Rotating
Reflecting
Tessellating*

- *Design a pair of tiles that would tessellate, inspired by the tiles in the Jameel Gallery. Use the principles of Islamic design in their decoration.*
- *When you return to school create a model of your tiles. Which building could you imagine using these tiles on?*

DISCOVER PATTERN IN THE ARCHITECTURE GALLERIES

There are over 400 architectural models in the V&A and RIBA collections of which 55 are displayed in the Architecture gallery. Many of the models show how architects use patterns in building, decoratively and structurally. They represent different types of buildings and styles of architecture.

Architects have been using patterns in buildings since the 4th century BC. Patterns are visible in the design of almost every building. They can be found on the exterior walls, entrances or chimneys as well as in the interior design of ceilings, wallpaper or flooring. They can be created by the materials used in a building, e.g. terracotta brickwork, a steel frame facade, slate roof tiles or glass panes.

The V&A building includes many different types of pattern design, both in its structure and decoration. These include wall friezes, columns and floor tiles. Famous examples of buildings which heavily feature a repeating pattern in their design include the Eden Project in Cornwall, designed by Grimshaw Architects, and the Selfridges building in Birmingham, designed by Future Systems.

- *Examine how architects use pattern in building design, both interior and exterior.*
- *Find and sketch 3 structural patterns, i.e. the hexagon shapes in the Eden project biome which form part of the building's structure.*
- *Find and sketch three patterns that are purely decorative.*
- *For each sketch, write down what type of building it is and which country it is from.*