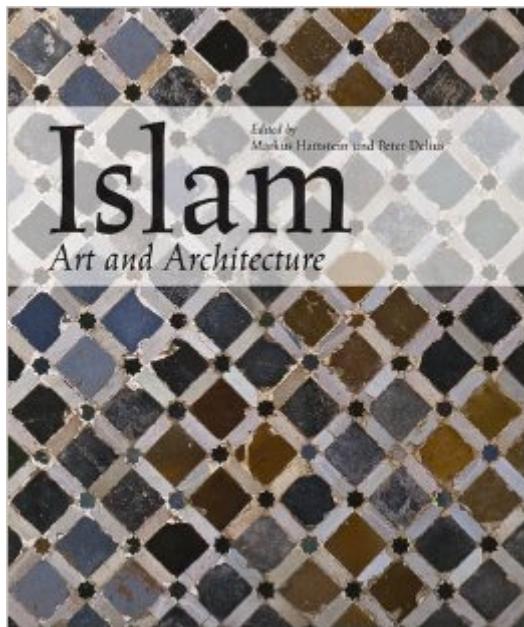


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# Islam Art & Architecture



## **Synopsis**

"Islam, the second largest and the youngest of the major world religions, has changed the world and left its mark on human history since the appearance of the prophet Mohammed in the seventh century. This book follows the historical development of the Islamic dynasties and regions, showing the variety of their forms of artistic expression from the beginning until today. From decorative elements of buildings to calligraphy and the embellishment of everyday objects, ornamentation, that most characteristic Islamic art form, is displayed in an extraordinary rich range of ways. The contributions of important scholars bring to life before our very eyes this culture, which belongs next to Greek and Roman antiquity as one of the pillars of our modern society."

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 640 pages

Publisher: hf ULLMANN (October 12, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3833161078

ISBN-13: 978-3833161070

Product Dimensions: 12.4 x 10.8 x 1.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #544,915 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Religious Buildings #1040 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History #1466 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam

## **Customer Reviews**

This is simply a magnificent book. Written and published originally in German, well-translated (it reads as if it had been originally written in English, which indicates a good translation), beautifully put together, well edited, with hundreds of full color photographs of mosaics, mosques, palaces, forts, towns, manuscripts, jewels, and mausoleums. The book claims attention. It is a full history of Islam, with maps and timelines in every chapter to help the reader in what might be unfamiliar territory, plus a full history of the development of Art and Architecture in 14 centuries of Islamic culture around the globe. Every page has at least one photograph, and all photographs are of great quality, sharp and clear. Even the photo on page 334, one of the very few in black and white, is good, almost haunting, since the walls shown are in ruins. The paper is also high quality. From the cover onwards it is clear that there is great respect for the culture represented in this book, and for

the reader who will go through 600 hundred pages of text and supporting material. My personal highlights: night shot of the Kaaba, in Mecca, p. 2 and 13. Map of Europe, Asia, and most of Africa with sharp, thumbnail-like photographs of Muslim architectonic marvels in those three continents, p. 6-7. Al-Mutawakkil mosque, p. 103. What the facade of the Azhar Mosque in Cairo (p. 140) and the Almoravid clay seal (p. 247) have in common, which is a testimony to the endurance of symbols. The entire "Spain and Morocco" chapter, 207-299. The appendix, starting on 601, is helpful and clear. The publisher, K&#223;nemann, is responsible for another winner, "Gothic Architecture, Sculpture, Painting," but I believe "Islam, Art and Architecture" is better overall.

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