

**University of Tishk  
College of Engineering  
Department of Interior Design**



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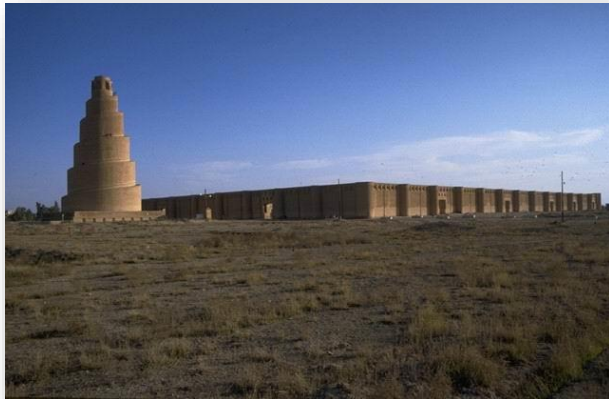
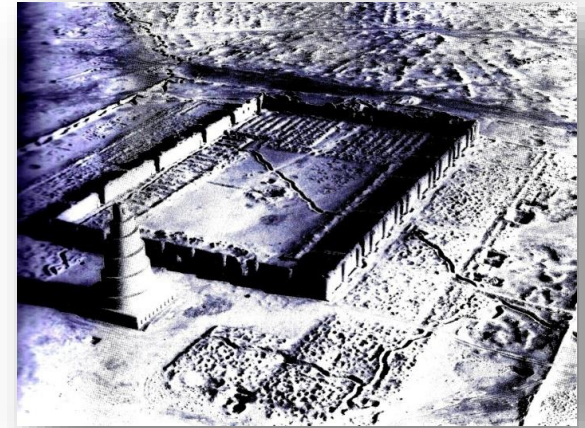
# **Islamic Interior and Exterior Eighth Lecture**

**Supervised by  
M.Sc. Nazik Jamal  
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## Abbasid Style, Great Masjid of al-Mutawakkil

Al-Mutawakkil commissioned the construction of the Great Masjid of Samarra .

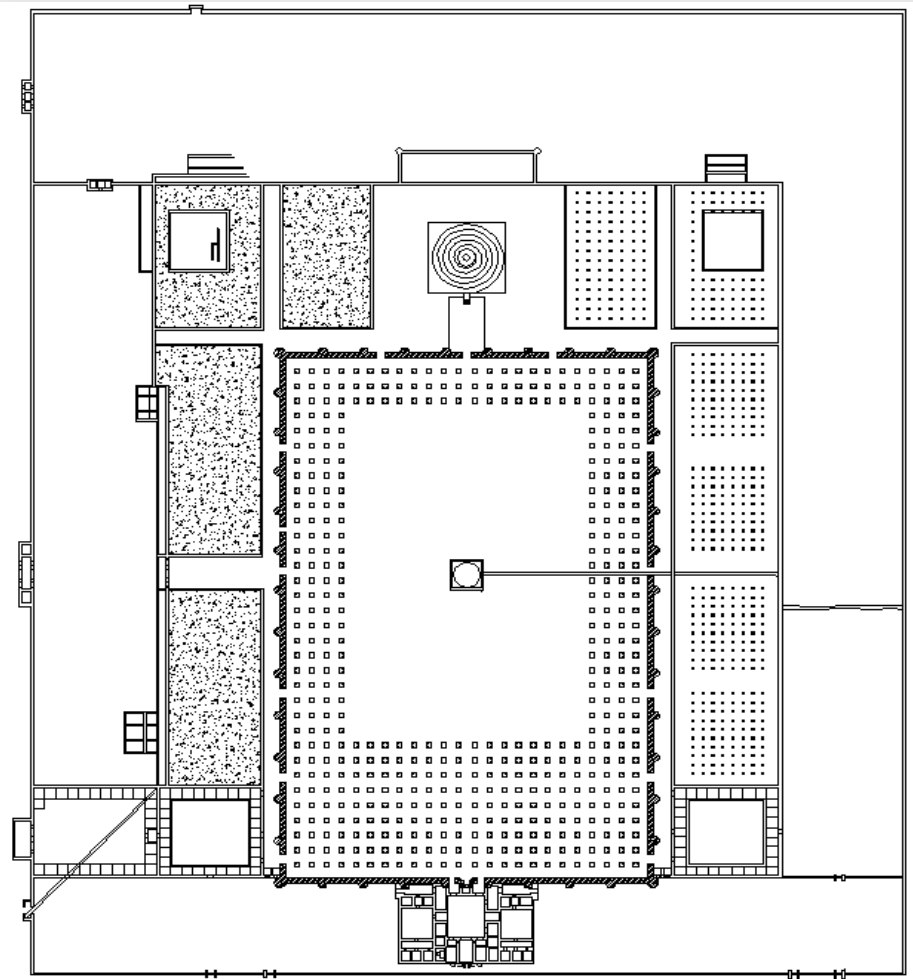
The **outer walls** of its massive prayer hall still **stand**, as does its famous **spiral minaret**, known as **Malwiyya**.



Samarra, Great Masjid, 847-61 , outer wall east façade , gate in the external wall

## Abbasid Style, Great Masjid of al-Mutawakkil

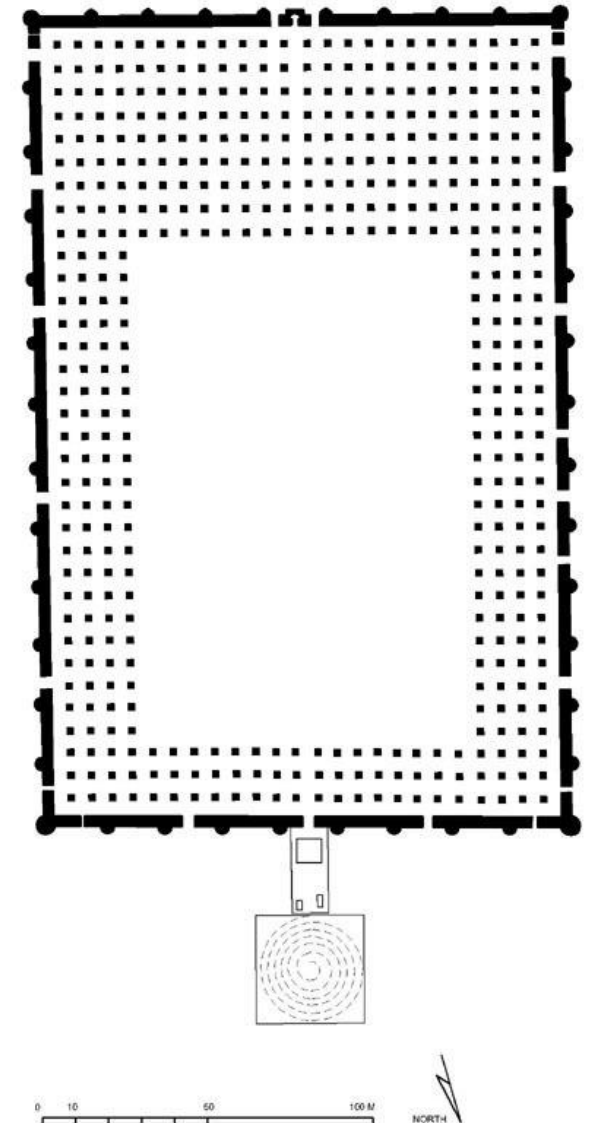
The Masjid is set in **an outer enclosure** measuring 374 x 443m. In this enclosure there are **covered porticoes** to accommodate additional faithful at the Friday prayer (**ziyada**), and a **building behind the niche** which seems to have been intended to **receive the Caliph**, and perhaps **accommodate the imam** of the Masjid.



## Abbasid Style, Masjid of al-Mutawakkil

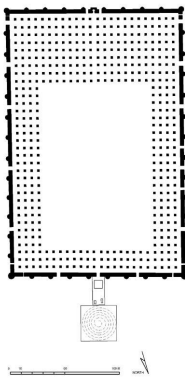
The **Masjid itself** measures 239 x 156m, with 17 aisles in the **prayer hall** and a **triple portico** around the **courtyard**.

This sizable **rectangular structure** measured approximately 38,000 square meters and was encompassed by an **outer baked brick wall** supported by a total of forty-four **semi-circular towers** including four **corner ones**. One could enter the Masjid through one of **sixteen gates**.





## Abbasid Style, Great Masjid of al-Mutawakkil



The roof of the Masjid was supported by twenty-four rows of nine piers in the **prayer hall**, three rows of nine piers again in the **riwaq** to the north, and each side having twenty-two rows of **four piers**.

The prayer hall featured a **monumental mihrab**.

The mihrab[ niche] took the form of a **pointed arch** supported by **two** sets of **engaged columns** on either side.

**Framing** the arch was a **rectangular molding**.



Exterior view of northeast wall of prayer hall.



Mihrab -Niche

## Abbasid Style, Great Masjid of al-Mutawakkil

The **courtyard's fountain** was domed was elaborately decorated with **mosaics** and **marble** paneling.



View of **windows** at clerestory level on **qibla** wall



Detail view of southeastern wall of **prayer hall** showing **brickwork**.

## Abbasid Style, Great Masjid of al-Mutawakkil

Directly **27.25** meters from the **center** of the Masjid's **north face** stands the Minaret **al-Malwiya**, approximately **55 meters high**. The base of the minaret measures **thirty-three square** meters and rises to a **height** of almost **three meters**.

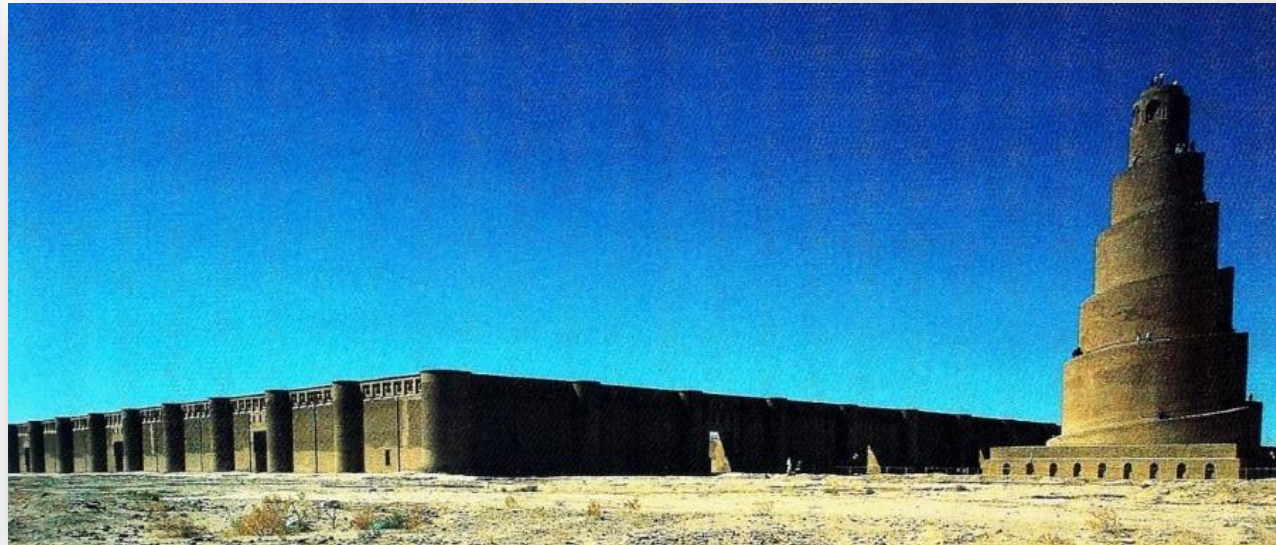
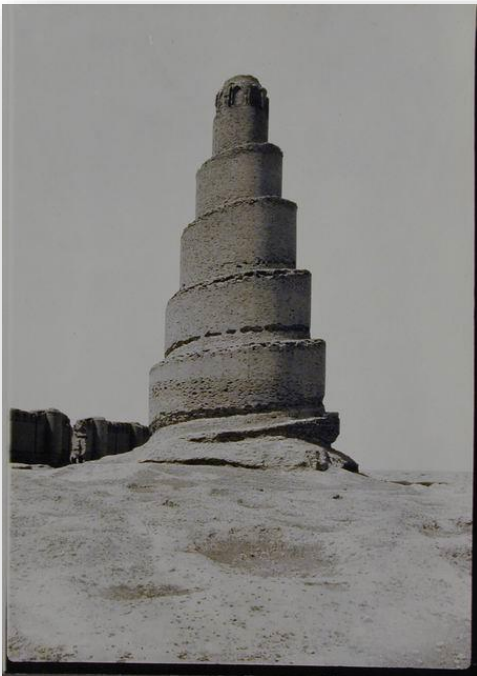




## Abbasid Style, Great Masjid of al-Mutawakkil

It supports a **spiral ramp** that winds **counterclockwise** five times up the minaret beginning on the side closest to the Masjid. **At the top** of the tower rests a round **vestibule**, which is adorned with **eight pointed-arched niches**.

This minaret is **influenced** by a specific type of **Mesopotamia ziggurat**.







## The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir



The **Fortress of Al-Ukhaidir** or **Abbasid palace** of Ukhaidir is located 50 km south west of **Karbala** and about 173 km south west of **Baghdad**, Iraq .

The word **Ukhaidir** means "**small green place**".

The **palace** consists of **two fortified enclosures**. On the **outer enclosure** there is a 17 meters high robust rampart made from **limestone slabs** and **mortar** strengthened by **corner and intermediary towers** alternating with **pairs of blind arches** on columns.



# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace

These **defensive arrangements**, were known to the **Romans** but this was perhaps their **first use in Islam**. Another **defensive scheme** employed in Ukhaidir was the use of **arrow-slits**, which were served by the **wall walk**. The **gateways** were also fitted with **slits** in their vaults.

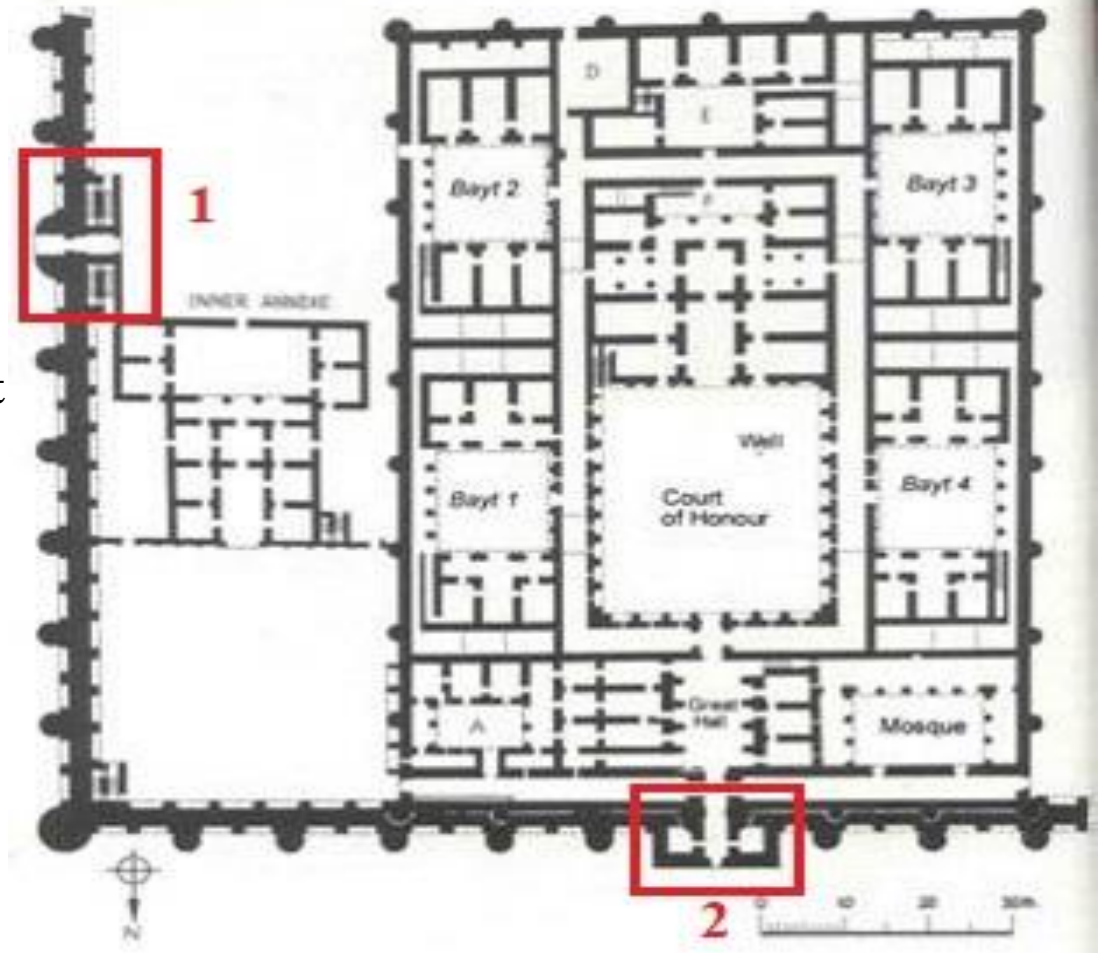




## The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace

The enclosure was pierced, in the **center of each side**, with **gateways** flanked by **quarter round towers**. On the **main gate**, in the northern side of the wall, we find the earliest appearance of the arched portal, set within a **rectangular frame rising above the walls (pishtaq)**.

This gateway leads into a **pointed barrel-vaulted hall** made of seven transverse arches. The vault incorporated **slits** defending the entrance from the room above.



# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace

Through the entrance hall one progresses into a **square chamber** covered by a **fluted dome**, the **first of its type in Iraq**.

This is followed by a **narrow corridor** and a set of **internal curtain walls** protecting the palace proper.

Following **this corridor**, towards the west, one reaches a larger open space extending the whole **length of the palace**.

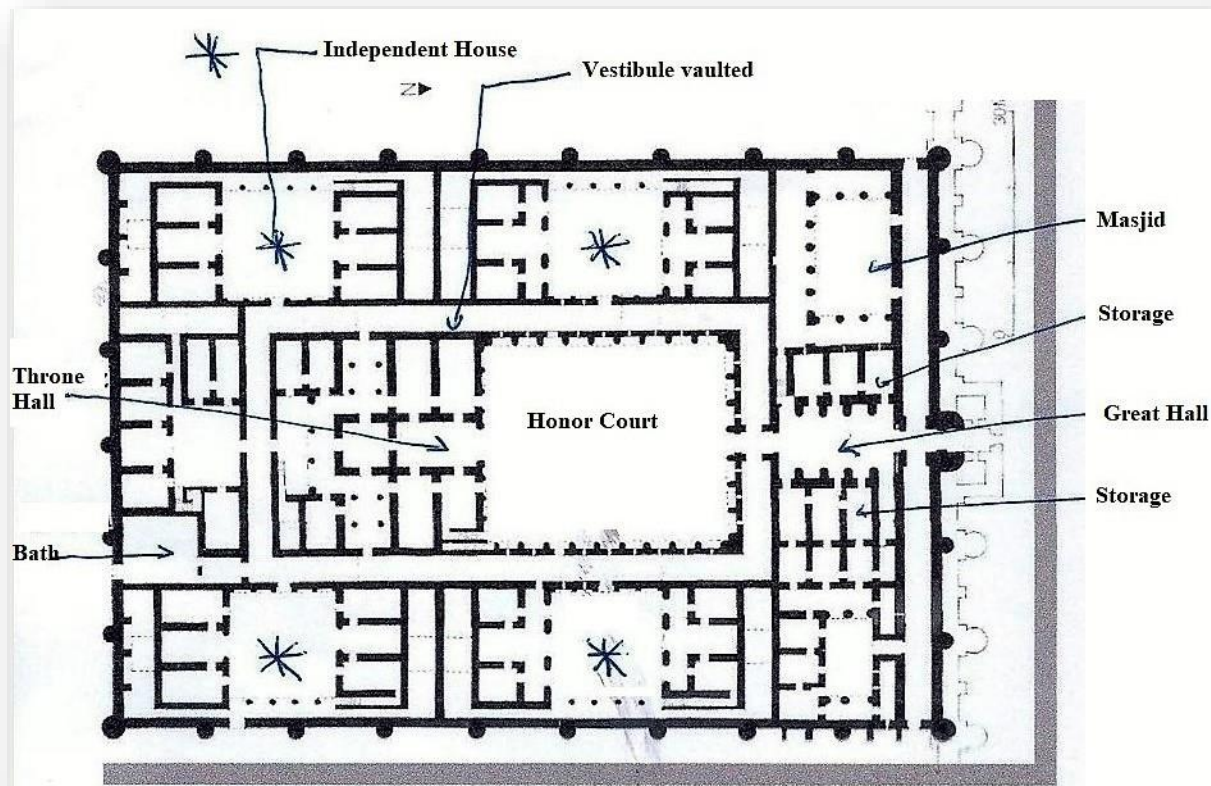
The fluted dome supported on triangular slabs bridging the corner of the square is an early version of erecting domes on a square bay.



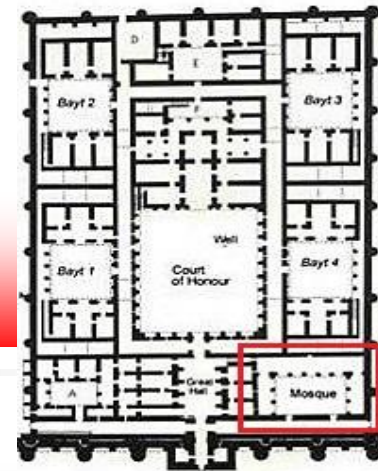


# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace

The **palace complex** consists of series of functional units; the **great hall**, **Masjid**, court of **honor**, **audience** or **throne halls** and four **domestic** compounds called **bayts**.



# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace



West of the **great hall** and to the right of the **main entrance**, there is the **palace Masjid**, a **hall consisting of a single aisle of five arches** raised on **cylindrical piers** made of limestone and mortar.



The vault of the Masjid portico showing the innovative flattened arches used as both decorative and support for the vault

# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace

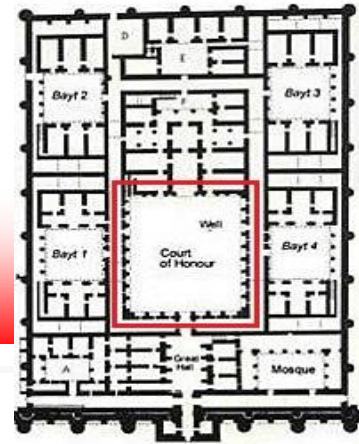
The **architects** and masons of Ukhaidir introduced, for the **first time**, an elaborate **technique** based on the construction of **elliptical (pointed) barrel vaults** with **bricks** in **similar technique to building a wall** which therefore made the **way vaults** were built considerably **easier**.



The pointed barrel vault and arches of the great hall



# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace



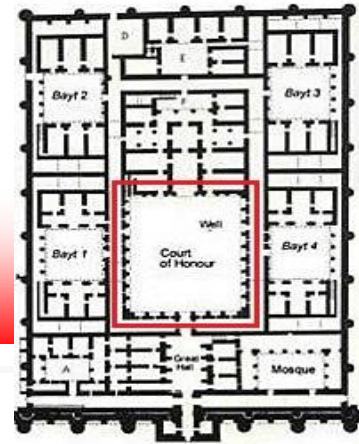
The **center of the palace** is occupied by the **court of honor**, a large court decorated with **blind arcades**, incorporating in its **top sections brick decoration of geometric patterns**.



**Court of honor** showing the **pishtag gate** of the **Audience Hall**, the **well** in the center, and the **blind arch decoration** on the **walls**.



# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace

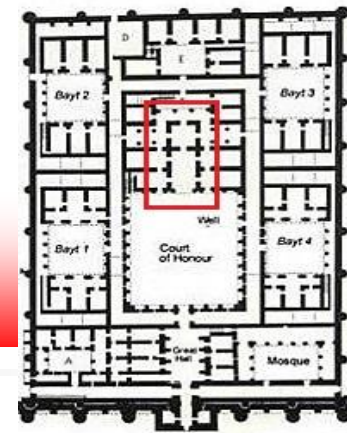


The **northern side** of the court is a 6 m high **wall arcades** on round **engaged columns**, above which a **second storey** block with **blind pointed arches**, and rising still further above **a set-back wall** crowned by a **parapet frieze** of **recessed niches**.



The northern side of the Court of Honor, showing the upper floor

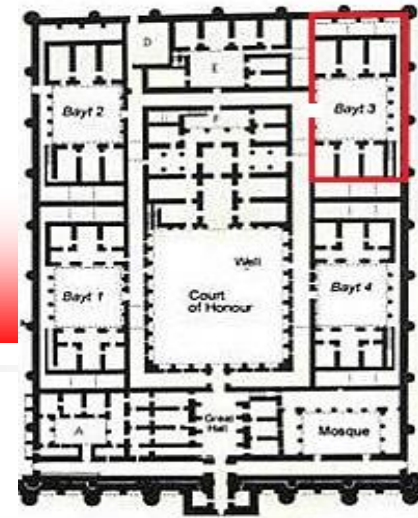
# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace



The **south side** once incorporated a **vaulted iwan** framed by a **rectangular elevation** in the form of ***pishtaq***. Behind it, there was a **long chamber** for **private audience** connecting with **a square room** fitted with **four doors**, one in the center of each side; this must have been the **throne room**.



# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace

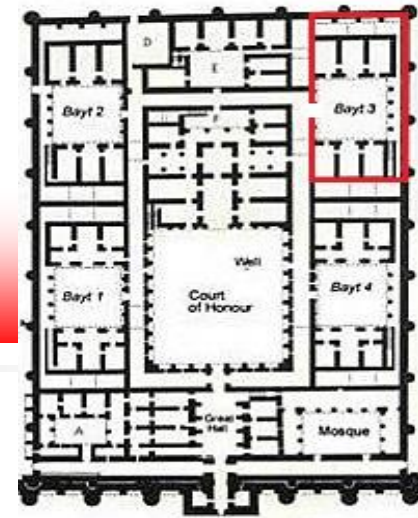


The **four living compounds** "Bayts" were **self-contained units** consisting of a **courtyard** flanked by **two symmetrical built sections** (north-south) containing **three rooms** each.





# The Abbasid Style, Ukhaidir Palace



They were **distributed in pairs** on the east and west sides of the **court of honour**, but kept in **isolation** from its **ceremonial function** by a **tunnel-vaulted corridor encircling** both the **court** and the **audience hall**.







# The Abbasid Style

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## Fundamental changes

A - The use of **bricks** instead of **stone** .

B - The use of the **buttresses** instead of **columns**.

C - Preferred the **stucco decoration** instead of **stone decoration**.

D - The use of **rectangular planning**.

E -On urban planning level **circular design** appeared for the first time (caliph al-Mansur) assigned to **Persian engineer** to build his **new capital**.

F- The **Abbasids transfer** the idea of **fortifying** the city **walls**, supported by guard **towers** from the **walls of Babylon fortified city** .



# The Abbasid Style

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## Fundamental changes

G - Unique and new **minarets** are appeared (**spiral minaret**) and built minarets **outside the Masjid**, those minarets reminds us of the **Babylonian towers** ( ziggurat ),may have derived its idea from the **Persian( temples of fire)**,

This shape of minarets **have not used outside of Iraq** except in the **Masjid of Ibn Tulun in Egypt**.

H-The **roof of the Masjid** is covered by **domes of bricks** and **plaster**, contain **ornament** like the Samarra , Ibn Tulun Masjid.

I - **Abbasid Art** affected by the **arts of Turks** who appeared in the Abbasid period where he gained Islamic art motifs **derived from Central Asia** were **not known** in the **Sassanid or Byzantine art**.