

Islamic Interior and Exterior

Ninth Lecture

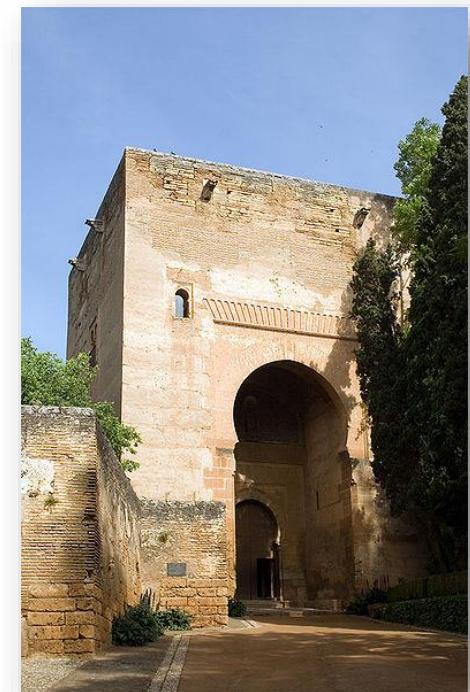
Supervised by
M.Sc. Nazik Jamal
2018-2019

Granada, Alhambra Citadel



The Alhambra's **Moorish palaces** were built for the **last Muslim Emirs** and **Nasrid dynasty** in Spain. Its one of the most elaborate and richly decorated of Muslim Palaces.

The Alhambra did not have a **master plan** for the **total site design**, so its **overall layout** is **not organized**. As a result of the site's many **construction phases**, from the original 9th century **citadel**, through the 14th century **Muslim palaces**, to the 16th century **palace of Charles**.



The **Tower of Justice** is the original **entrance gate** to the Alhambra, built by Yusuf I in 1348.

Granada, Alhambra Citadel

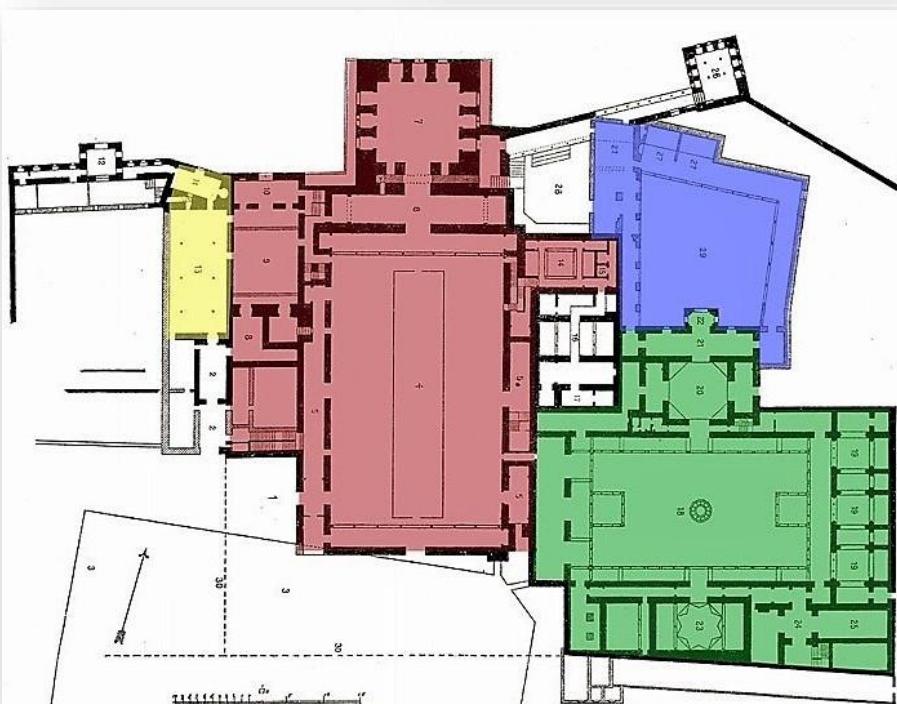
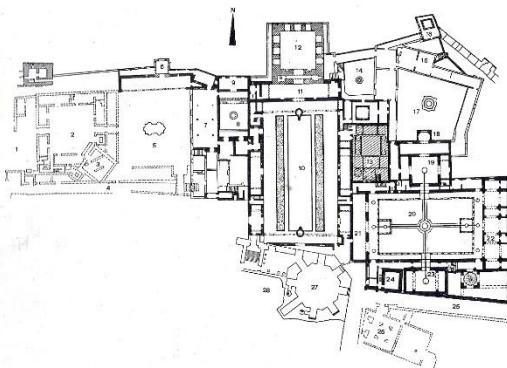
The Alhambra was **extended** by the different Muslim rulers who lived in the complex.

However, each new section that was added followed the **consistent theme** of "**paradise on earth**".

The majority of the palace buildings are **quadrangular in plan**,

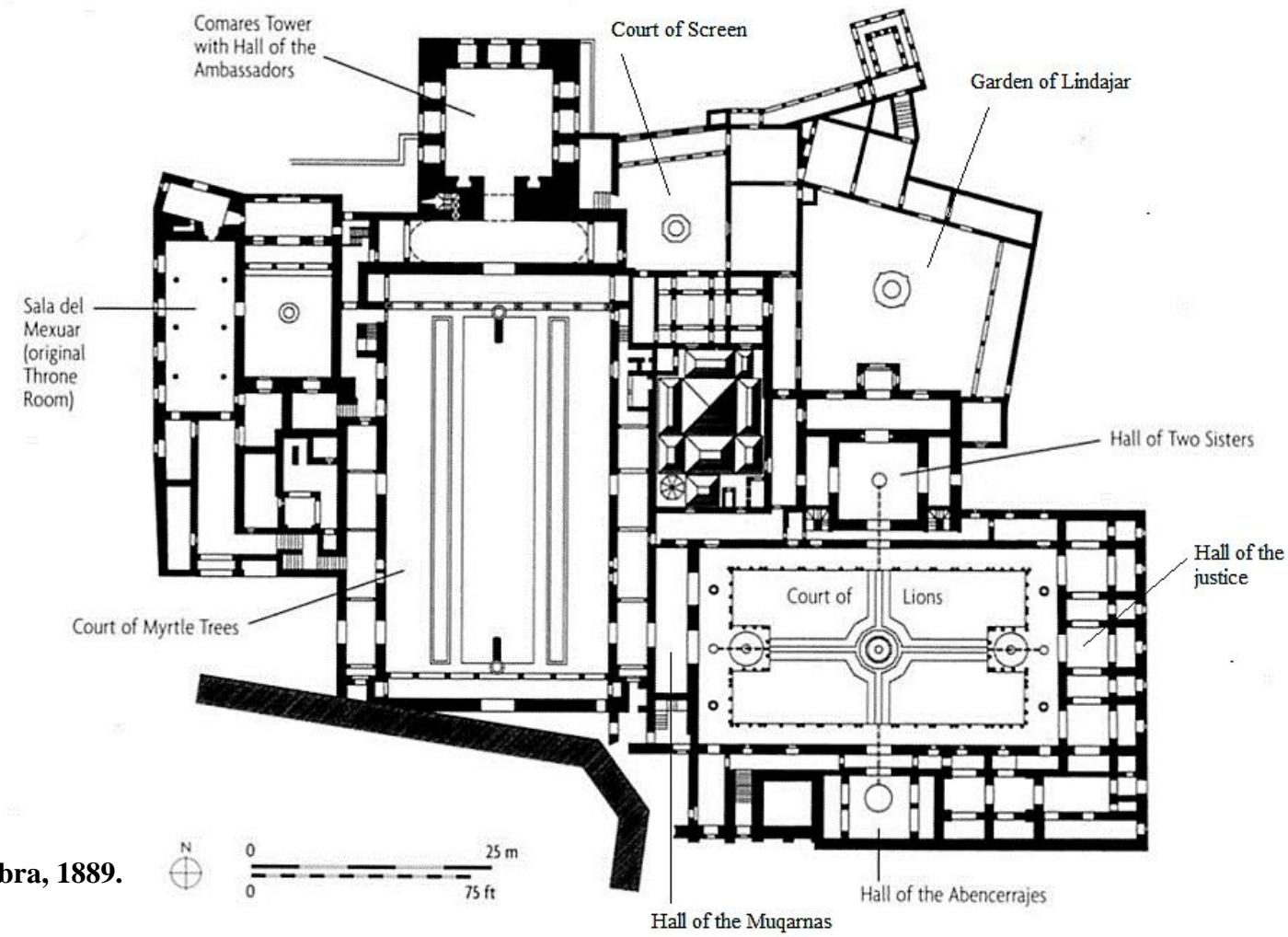
with all the **rooms opening** on to a **central court**; and

the **whole** reached its present size simply by the **gradual addition** of new **quadrangles**, designed on the **same principle**, though **varying** in **dimensions**, and **connected** with each other by **smaller rooms** and **passages**.



- Palaces of the Ambassadors
- Palace of the Lions
- Mexuar
- Garden of Lindajar and later habitation of the Emir

Granada, Alhambra Citadel

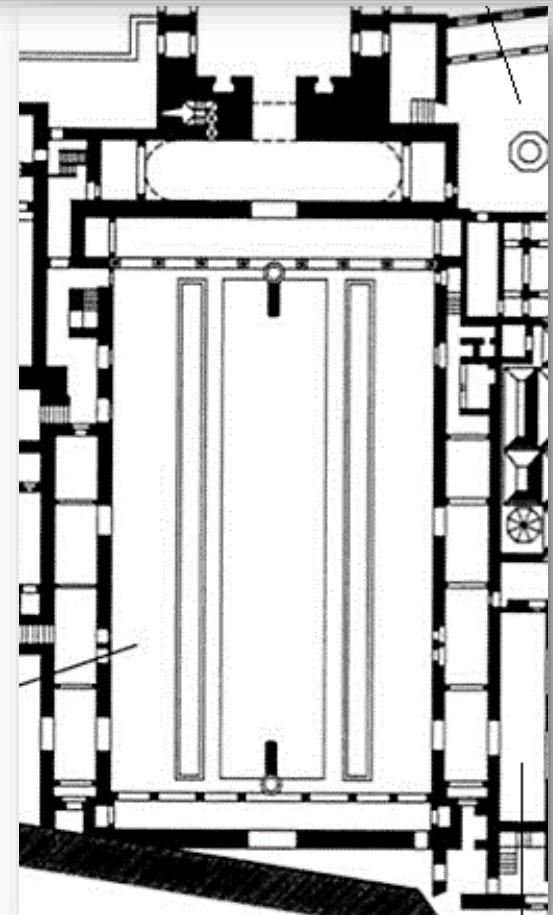


Granada, Alhambra Citadel



Court of the Myrtles

The present entrance to the Arab palaces by a small door from which a corridor connects to the Court of the Myrtles, also called the Court of the Blessing or Court of the Pond, the (Arabic birka). The birka helped to cool the palace and acted as a symbol of power.



Granada, Alhambra Citadel



Court of the Myrtles

This court is 42 m long by 22 m width, and in the **center** there is a large **pond** set in the **marble pavement**, full of **goldfish**, and with **myrtles** growing **along its sides**.

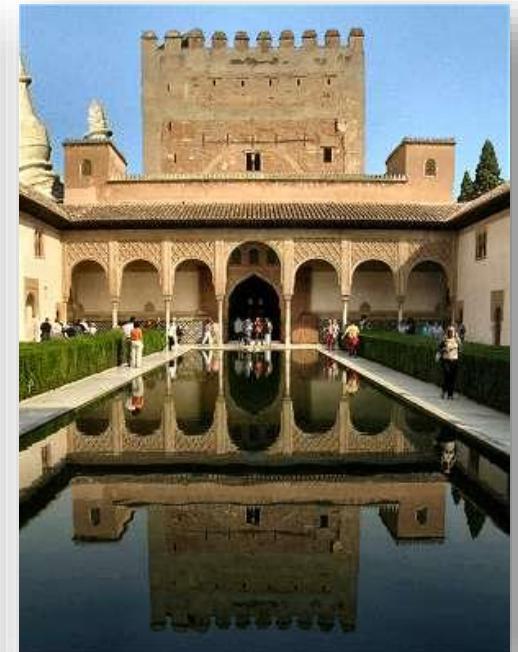
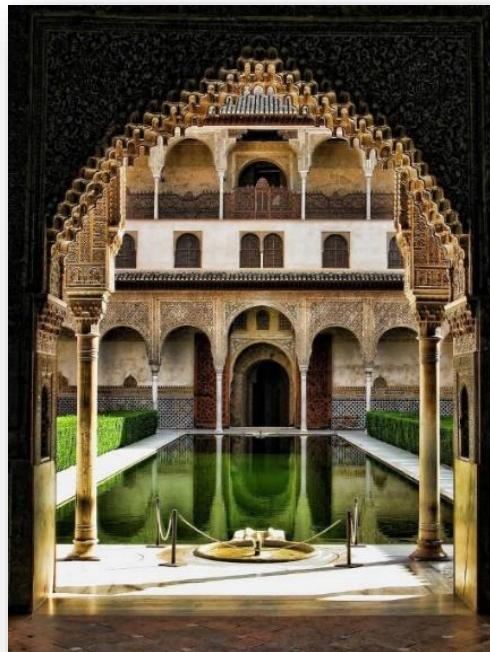


Granada, Alhambra Citadel



Court of the Myrtles

There are **galleries** on the **north** and **south** sides; the **southern gallery** is 7 m high and supported by a **marble colonnade**. Underneath it, to the right, was the **principal entrance**, and over it are **three windows with arches** and small **pillars**. From this court, the **walls of the Comares tower** are seen rising **over the roof** to the north and **reflected in the pond**.



Granada, Alhambra Citadel

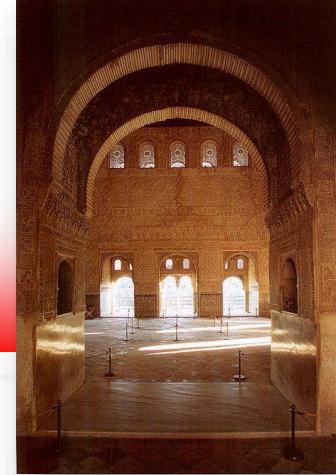
Hall of the Ambassadors

The Hall of the Ambassadors is the **largest room** in the Alhambra and **occupies all the Comares tower**.

This was the **grand reception** room, and the **throne of the sultan** was placed opposite the entrance.



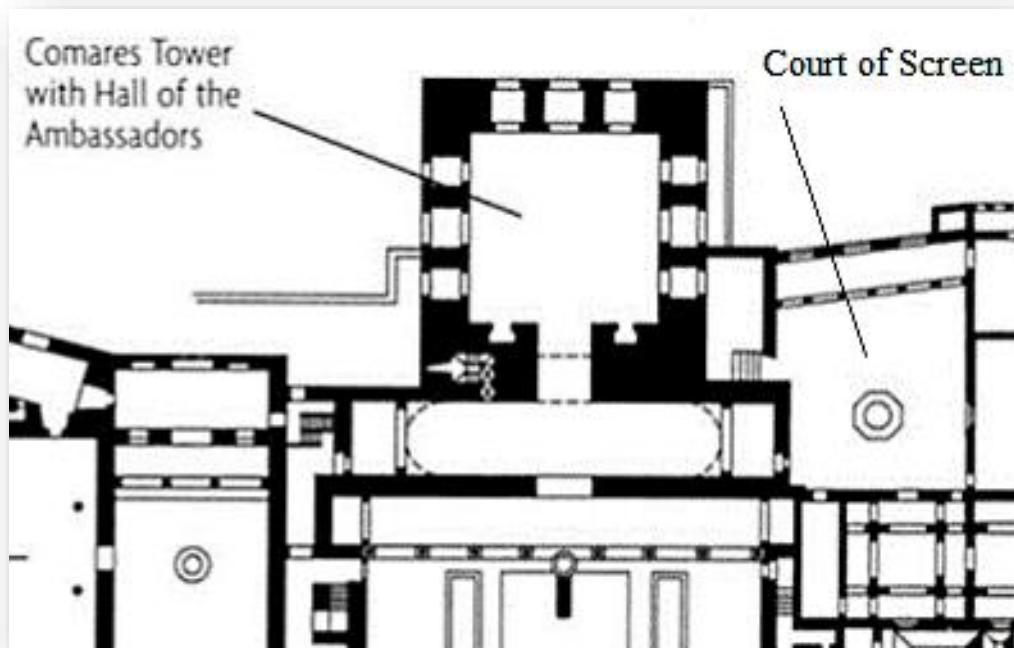
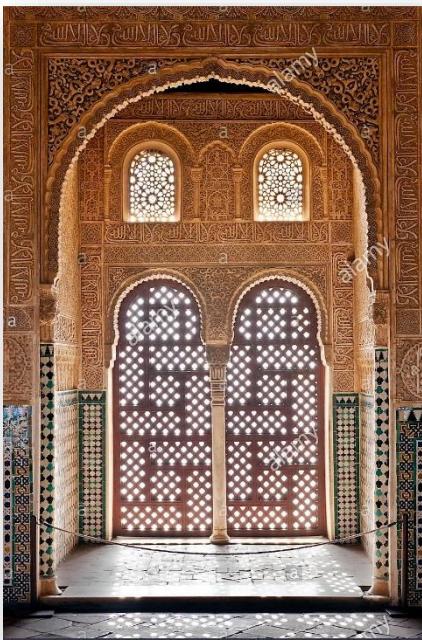
Granada, Alhambra Citadel

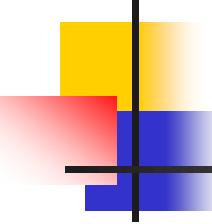


Hall of the Ambassadors

The grand hall **projects** from the **walls of the palace**, providing **views** in **three** directions.

It is a **square room**, the sides being **12 m** in length, while the center of the **dome** is **23 m** high.





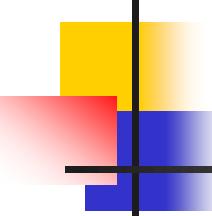
Granada, Alhambra Citadel

Hall of the Ambassadors

The **tiles** are nearly 1.2 m high **all round**, and the **colors** vary at **intervals**.

Over them is a series of **oval** medallions with inscriptions, interwoven with flowers and leaves.



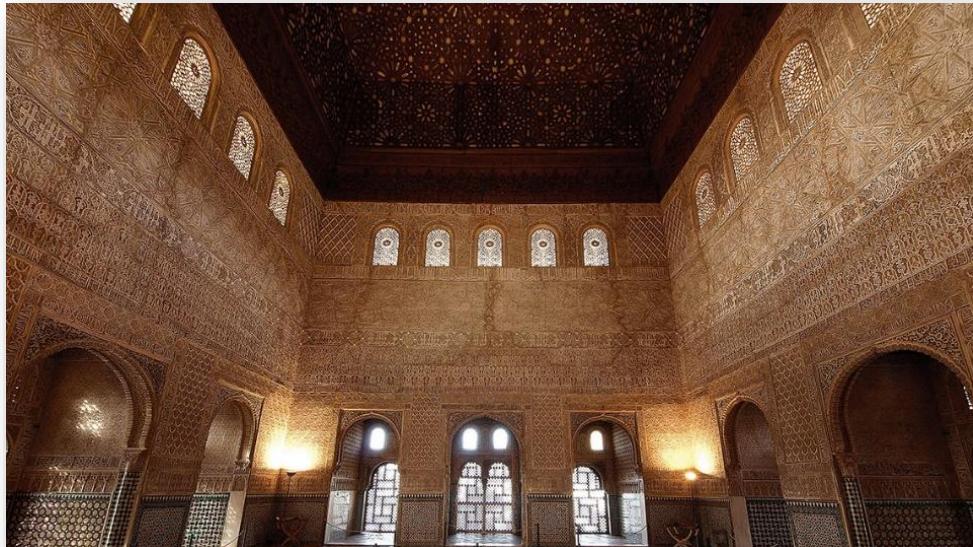


Granada, Alhambra Citadel

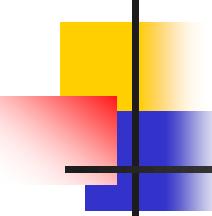


Hall of the Ambassadors

There are **nine windows, three on each facade**, and the **ceiling** is decorated with **white, blue and gold inlays** in the shape of **circles, crowns and stars**.



Ceiling of the Hall of the Ambassadors

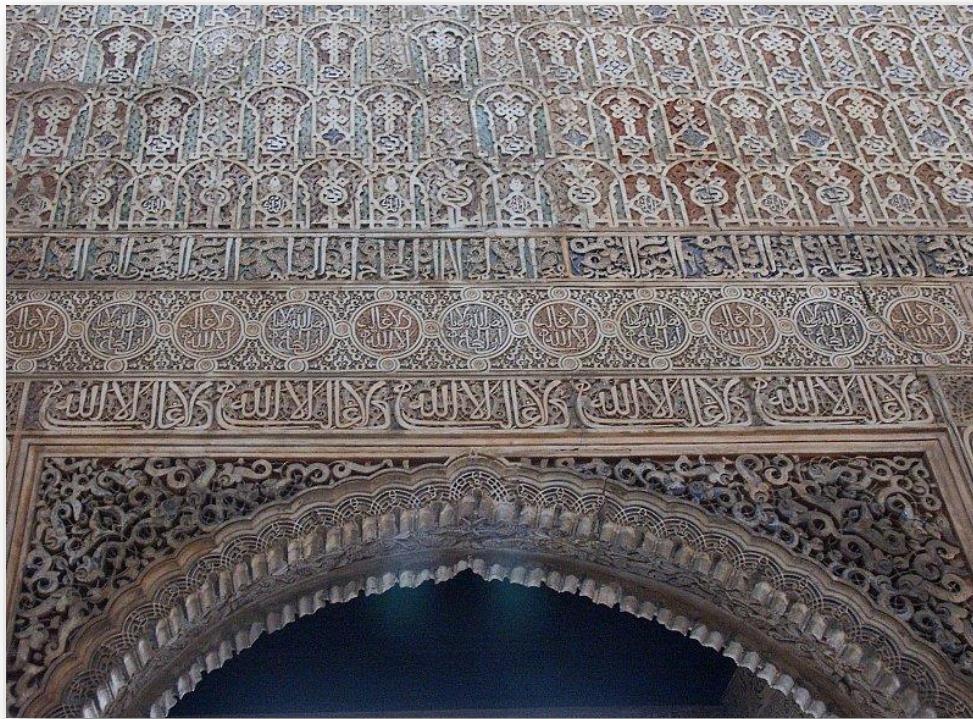


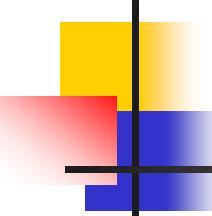
Granada, Alhambra Citadel



Hall of the Ambassadors

The **walls** are covered with **varied stucco works**, surrounding many ancient **escutcheons**.



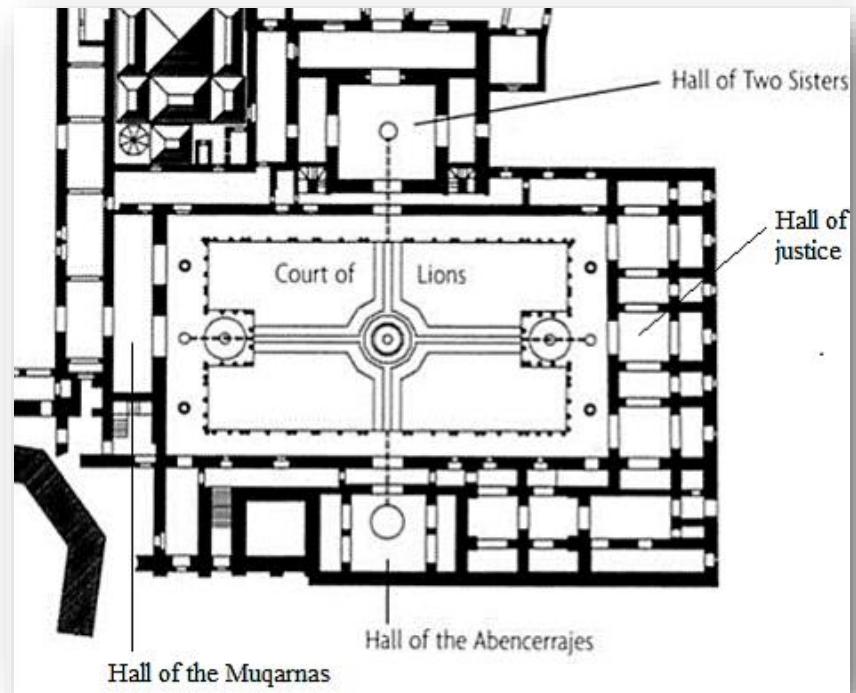


Granada, Alhambra Citadel



Court of the Lions

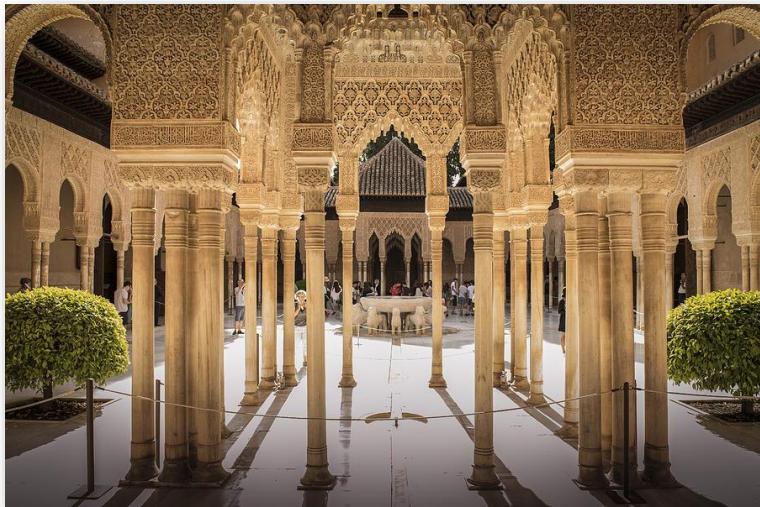
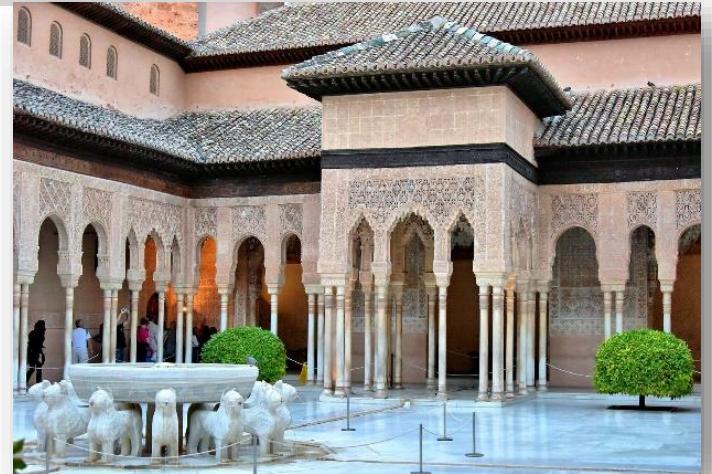
The court of the Lion is **an oblong** courtyard 35 m in length by 20 m in width, surrounded by a **low gallery** supported on 124 **white marble columns**.



Granada, Alhambra Citadel

Court of the Lions

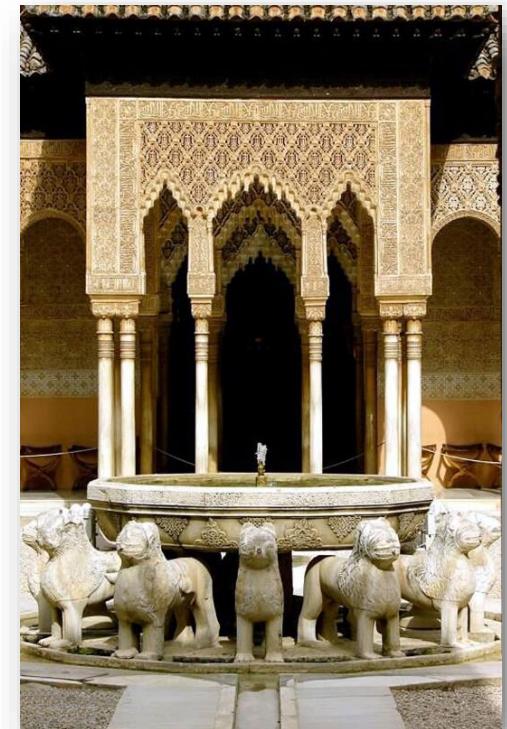
A **pavilion** projects into the court in both width side, with **filigree walls** and a **light domed roof**.

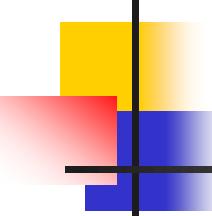


Granada, Alhambra Citadel

Court of the Lions

The square is **paved with colored tiles** and the **colonnade with white marble**, while the walls are covered 1.5 m up from the ground with **blue and yellow tiles**, with a **border above and below** of enamelled **blue and gold**.



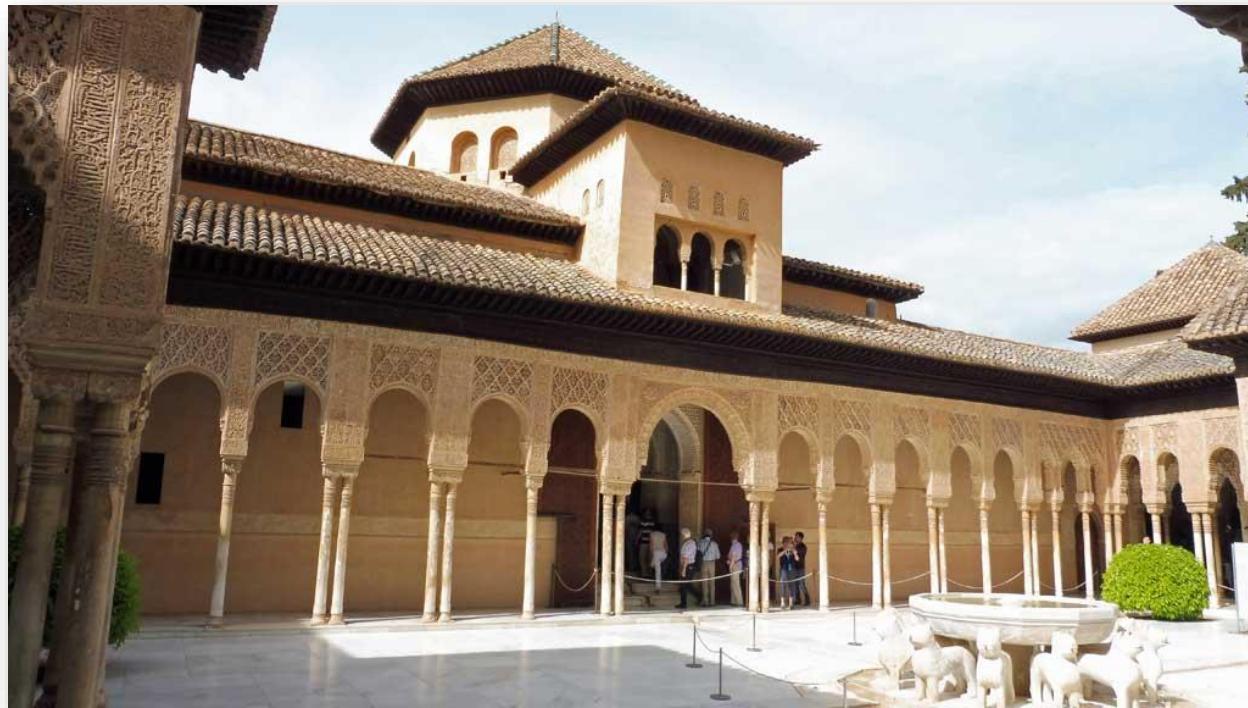


Granada, Alhambra Citadel

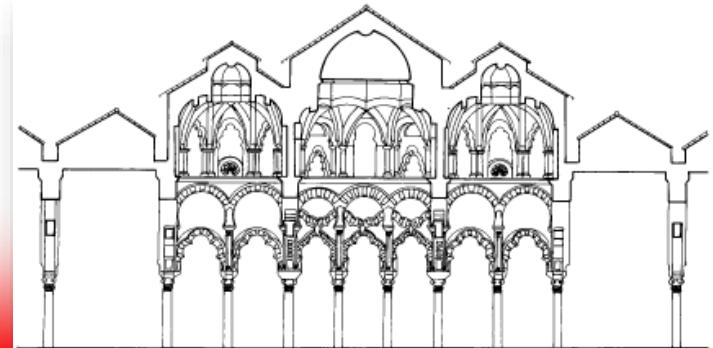


Court of the Lions

The **columns** supporting the **roof and gallery** are **irregularly placed**. They are **adorned** by varieties of **foliage**, about each arch there is a large **square of stucco arabesques**; and over the **pillars** is another **stucco square of filigree work**.



The Great Masjid of Córdoba



The Great Masjid of Córdoba held a place of **importance** amongst the **Islamic** community of **al-Andalus** for three centuries

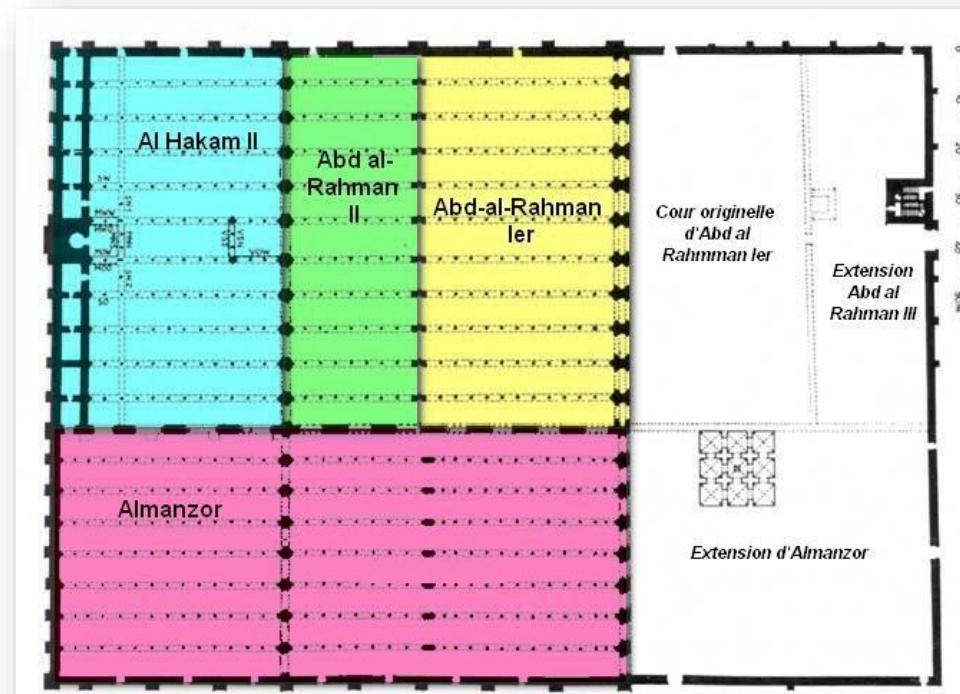
The **main hall** of the Masjid was used for a **variety of purposes**. It served as a **central hall** for **teaching** and to **manage law** and **order** within al-Andalus during the rule of Abd al-Rahman.



The Great Masjid of Córdoba

The Masjid's floor plan is seen to be parallel to some of the earliest Masjid built from the very beginning of Islam.

It had a rectangular prayer hall with aisles arranged perpendicular to the qibla. The prayer hall was large in size, flat, with timber ceilings held up by arches of horseshoe.



The Great Masjid of Córdoba

The double arches were a new introduction to architecture, permitting higher ceilings than would otherwise be possible with relatively low columns.

The double arches consist of a lower horseshoe arch and an upper semi-circular arch.

Both arch levels are polychrome, composed of white stone set alternately with red brick ones. The famous alternating red and white of the arches were inspired by those in the Dome of the Rock.

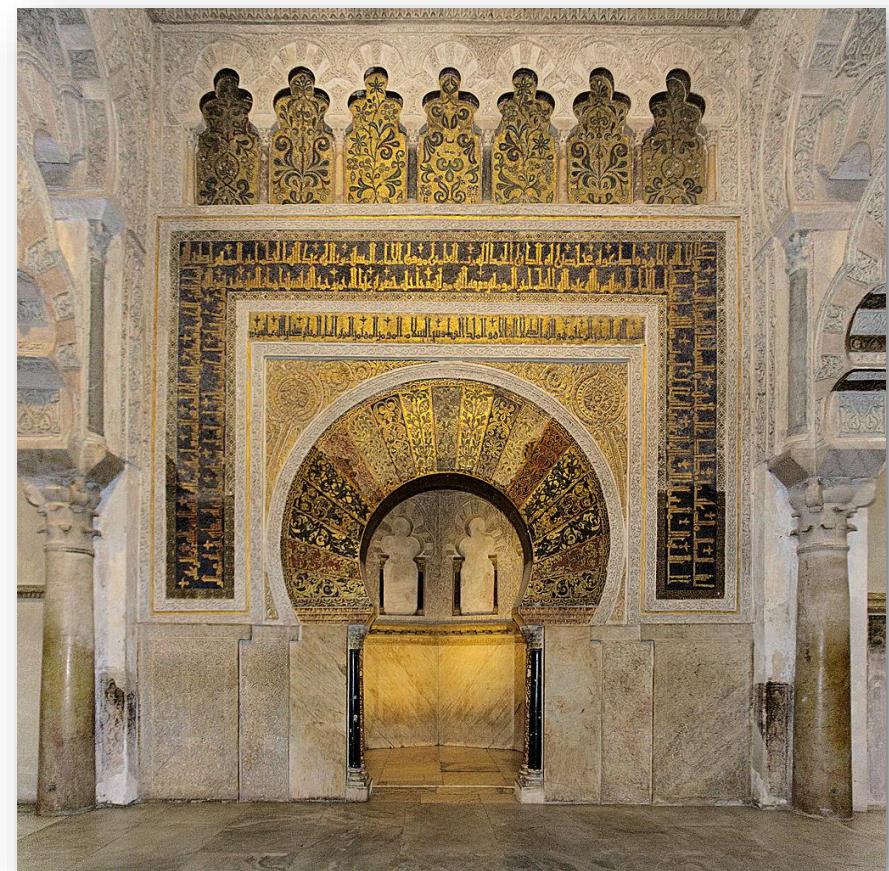


The Great Masjid of Córdoba

The **focal point** in the **prayer hall** is the famous **horseshoe arched mihrab** or **prayer niche**.

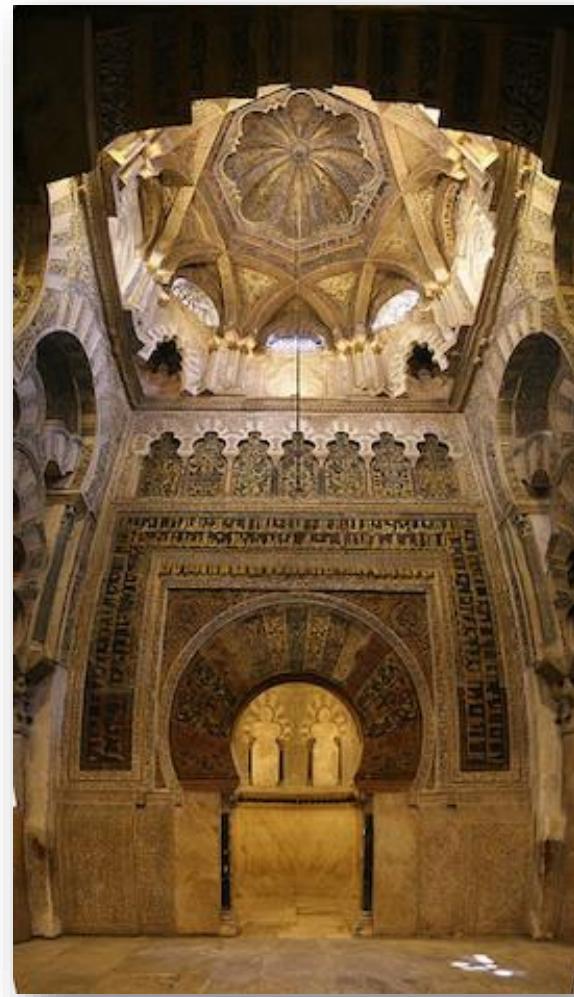
The mihrab in the Great Masjid of Cordoba is **framed** by a wonderful **decorated arch** behind which is an **unusually large space**, the size of a **small room**.

Small pieces of **glass** with **gold** and **color backing** create an amazing **combination of dark blues, reddish browns, yellows and golds** that form **complicated calligraphic bands** and **floral motifs** that **adorn the arch**.



The Great Masjid of Córdoba

Above the **niche**, is an equally amazing **dome**. It is built of **criss crossing ribs** that create **pointed arches** all lavishly **covered** with **gold mosaic** in a **radial pattern**. This astonishing building **technique** anticipates later **Gothic rib vaulting**, though on a more **modest scale**.



The Great Masjid of Córdoba

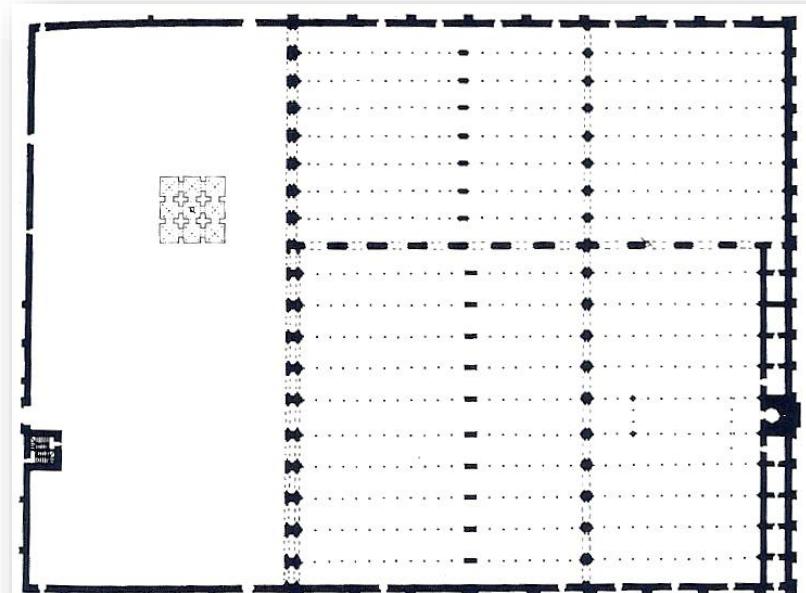
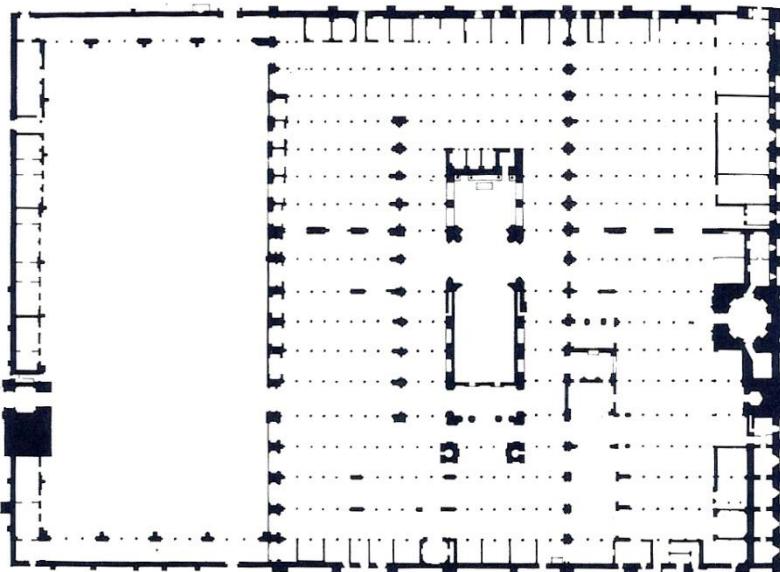
The building is **most notable** for its **arcaded hypostyle hall**, with **856 columns** . These were made from **pieces** of the **Roman temple** which had **occupied the site previously**, as well as other **destroyed Roman buildings**.



The Great Masjid of Córdoba

In the **first construction period** the Masjid occupied a nearly **square plan**, **half** comprising the **court** and the other **half the prayer hall**.

The **salvaged Roman columns** on which they rest are of **various design** some **fluted** and some **plain**, with **Corinthian capitals**.



Cordoba, Great Masjid, sequence of construction , 784- 987

The Great Masjid of Córdoba

In 1236, Córdoba was captured by King Ferdinand III of Castile ,and the
was turned back into a Christian church.

The minaret of the Masjid was also converted to the bell tower of the cathedral.

