

# **Islamic Interior and Exterior**

## **Ninth Lecture**

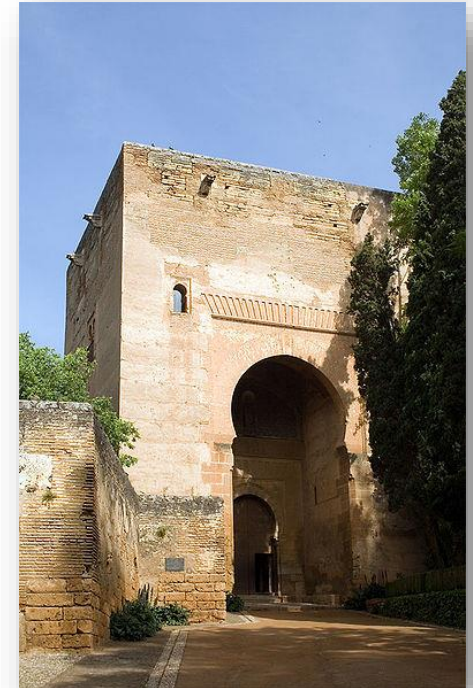
**Supervised by  
M.Sc. Nazik Jamal  
2018-2019**

# Granada, Alhambra Citadel



The Alhambra's **Moorish palaces** were built for the **last Muslim Emirs** and **Nasrid dynasty** in Spain. It's 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.

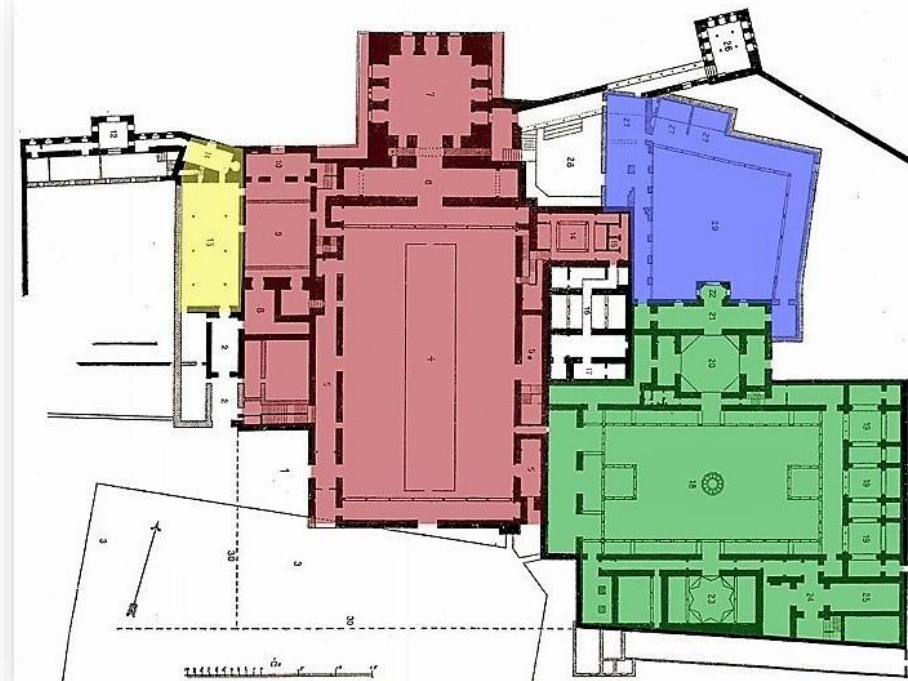
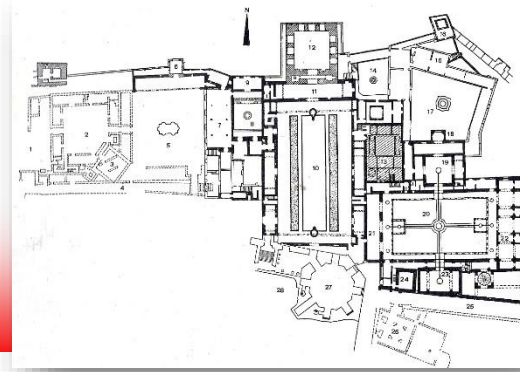
# Granada, Alhambra Citadel

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**".

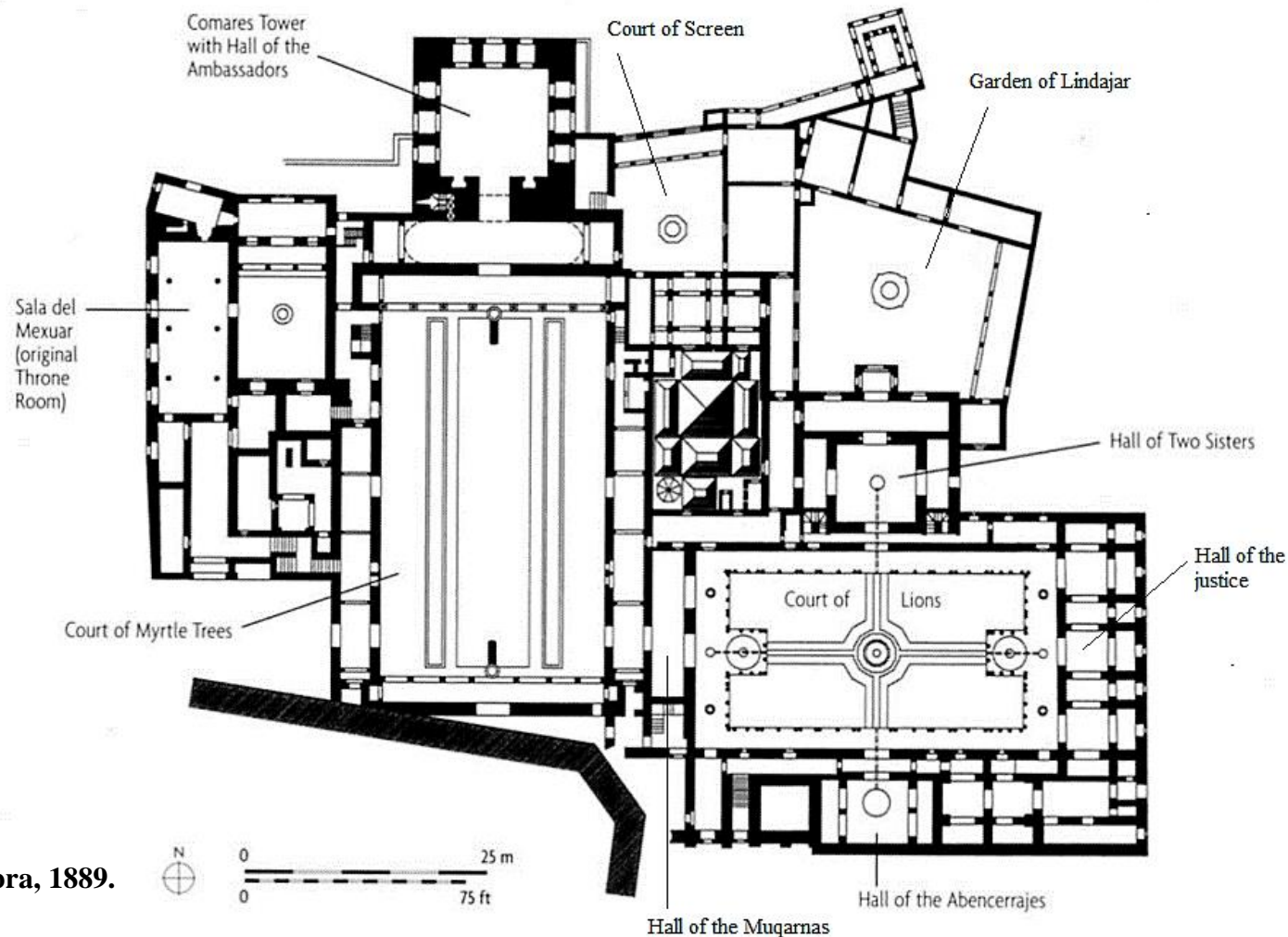
The majority of the palace buildings are **quadrangular in plan**, with all the **rooms opening** on to a **central court**; and

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



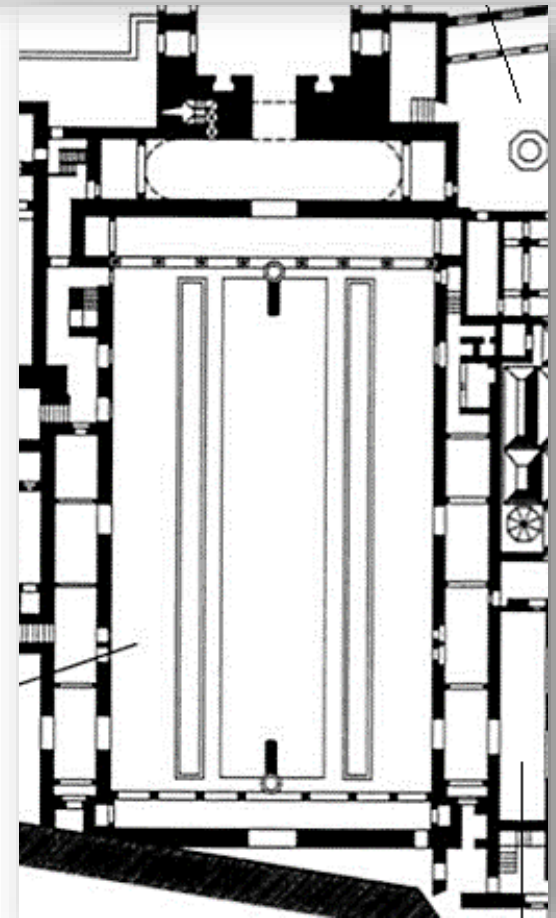
Plan of the Nasrid Palaces, Alhambra, 1889.



# 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**.



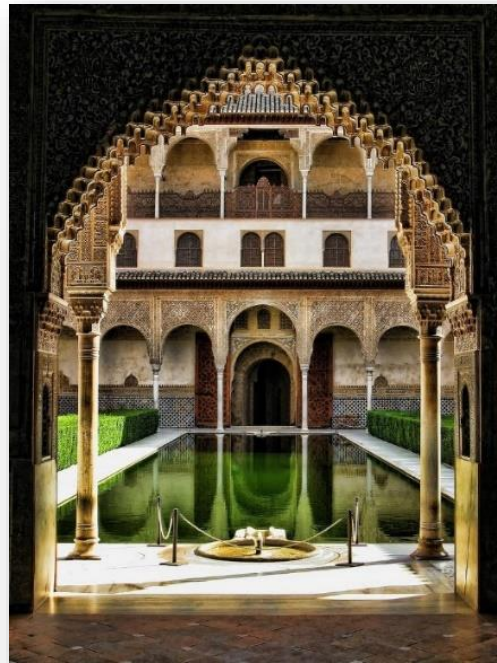


# Granada, Alhambra Citadel

## 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**.



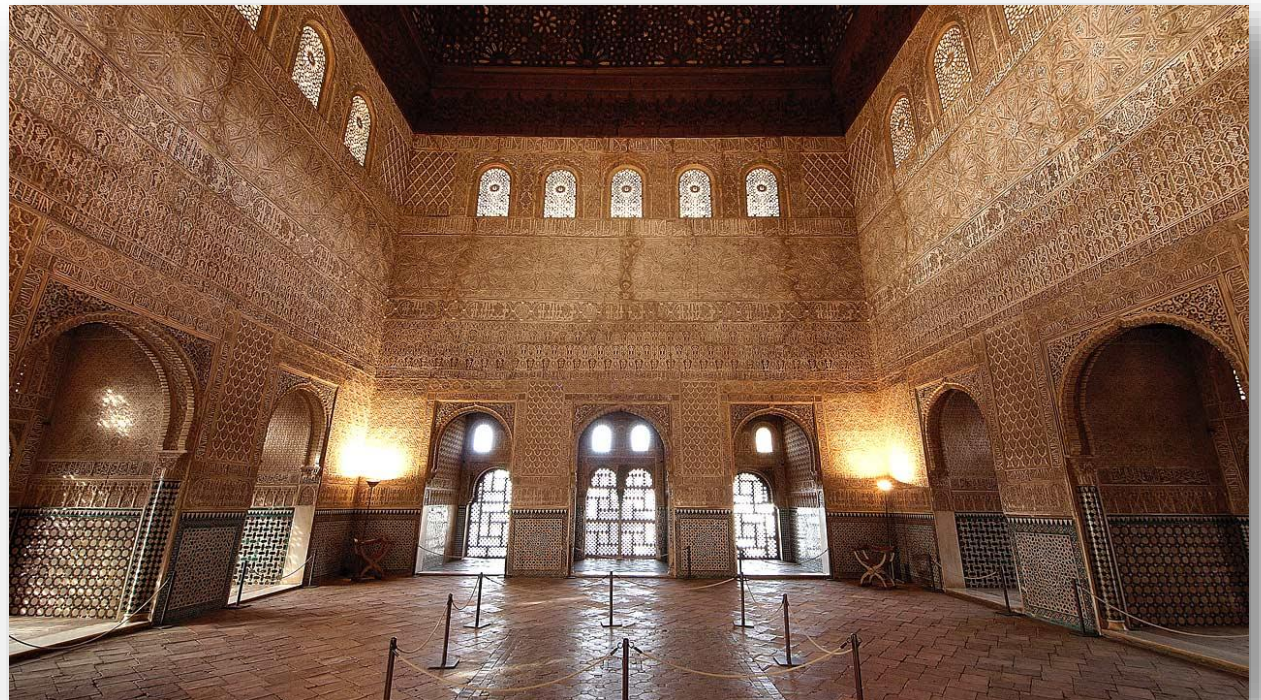
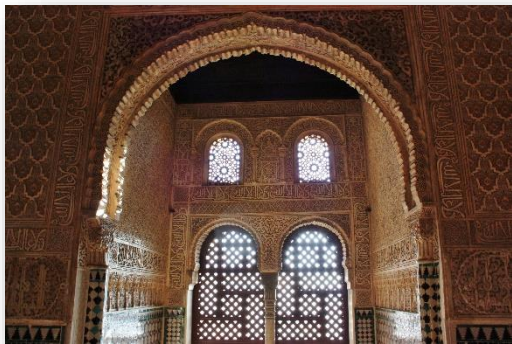


# Granada, Alhambra Citadel

## Hall of the Ambassadors

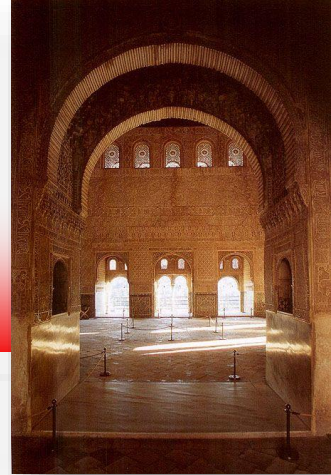
The Hall of the Ambassadors is the **largest room** in the Alhambra and **occupies all the Comares tower**.

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





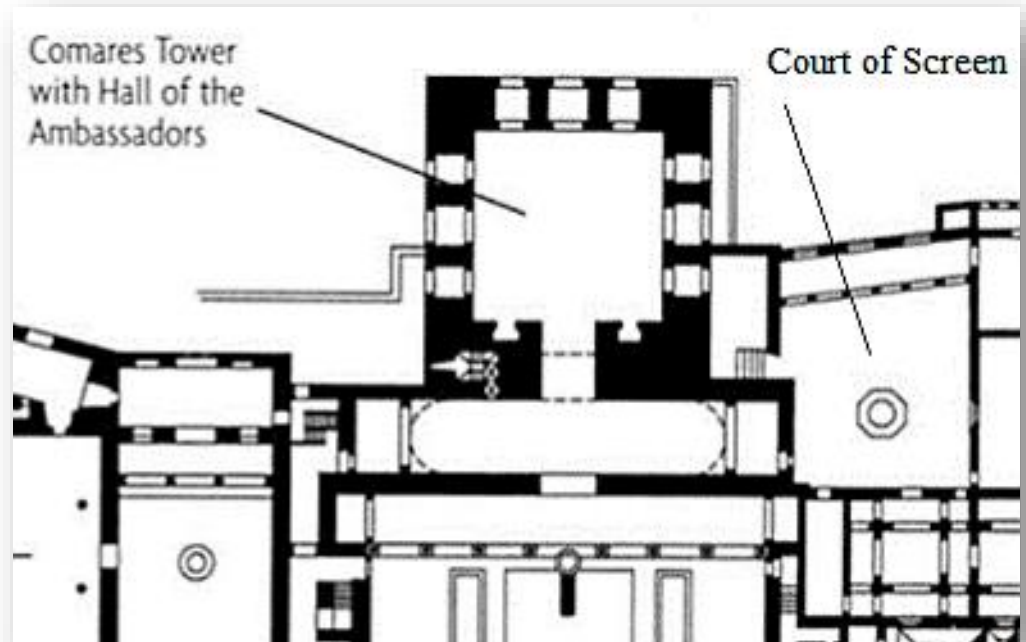
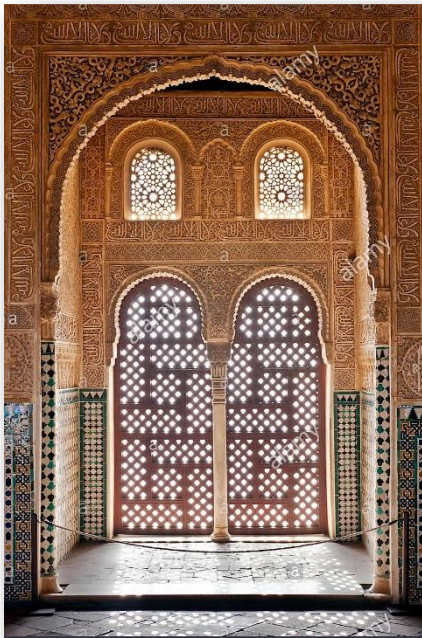
# Granada, Alhambra Citadel



## 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.

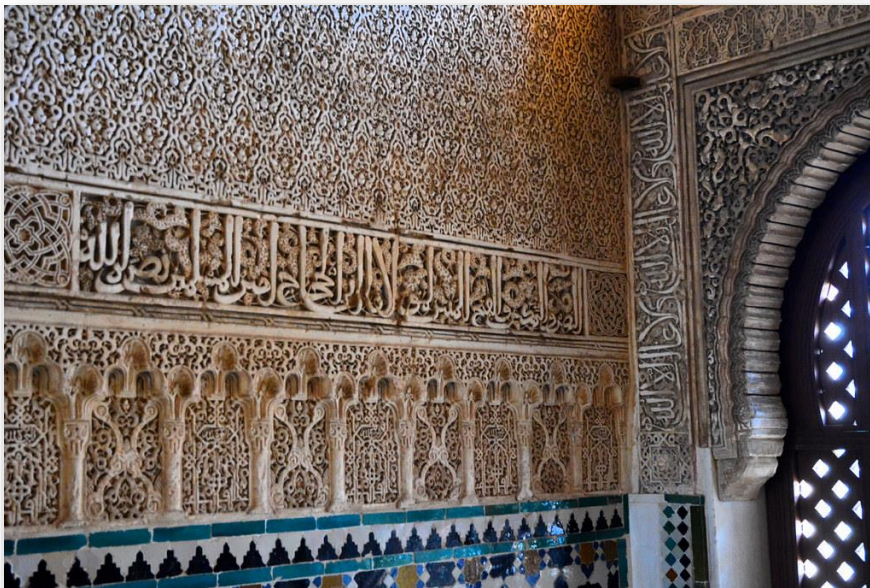


# Granada, Alhambra Citadel

## 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.



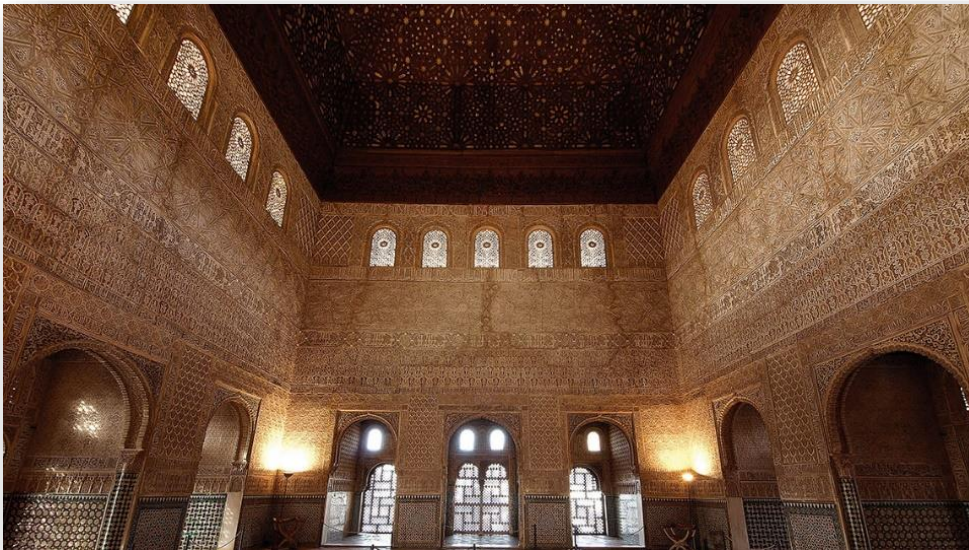


# Granada, Alhambra Citadel



## 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

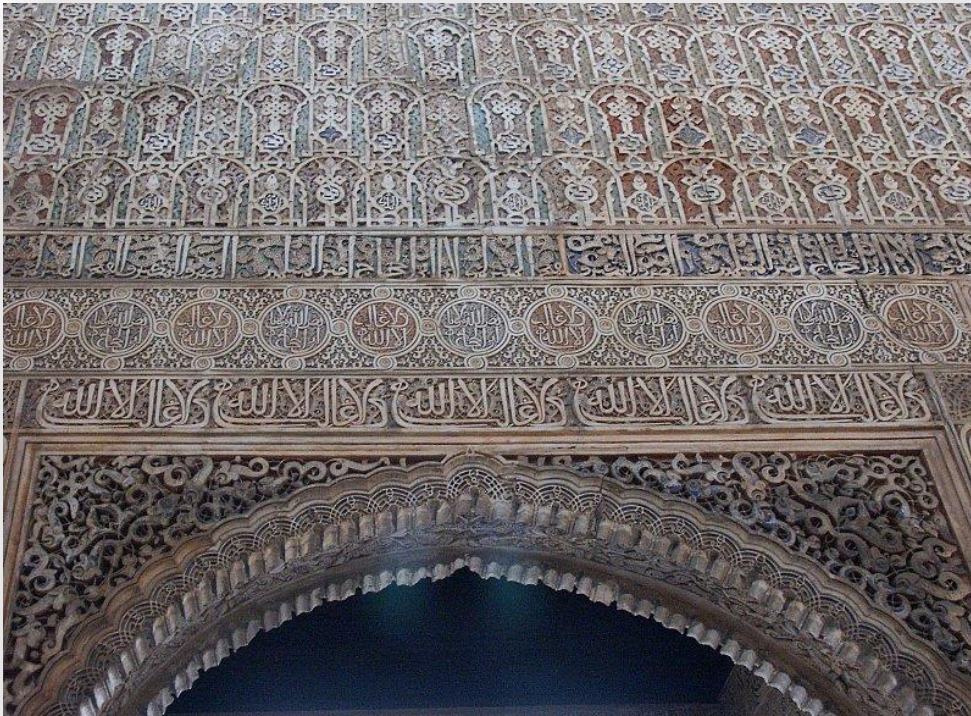


# Granada, Alhambra Citadel



## Hall of the Ambassadors

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

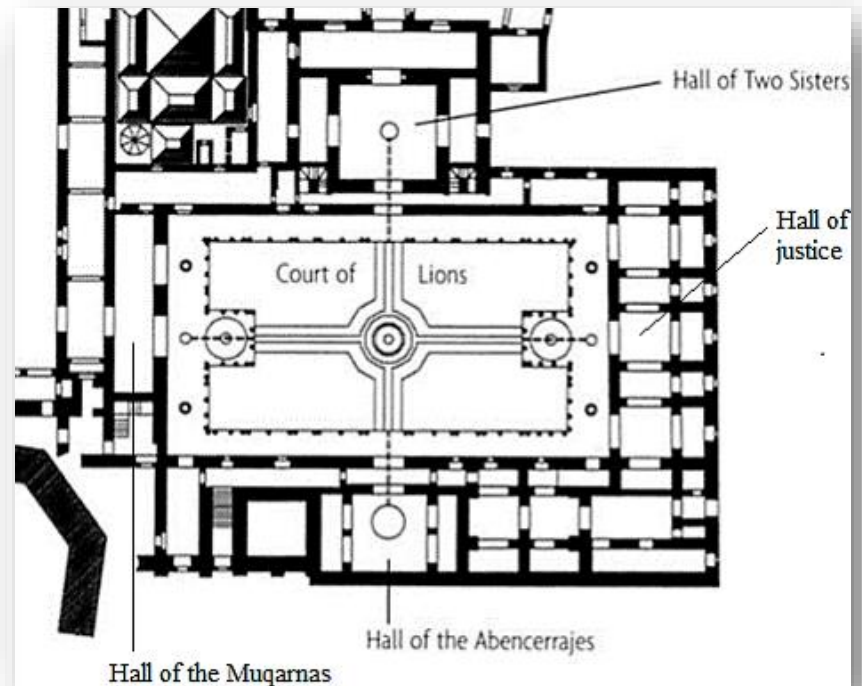




# Granada, Alhambra Citadel

## 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**.

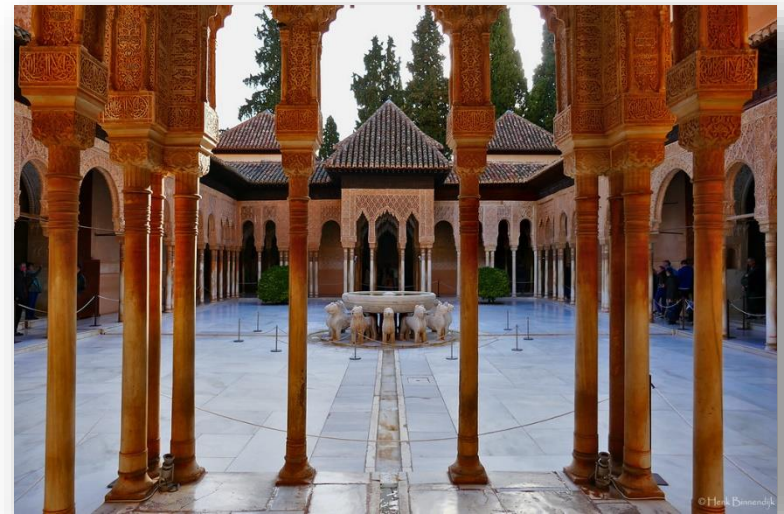
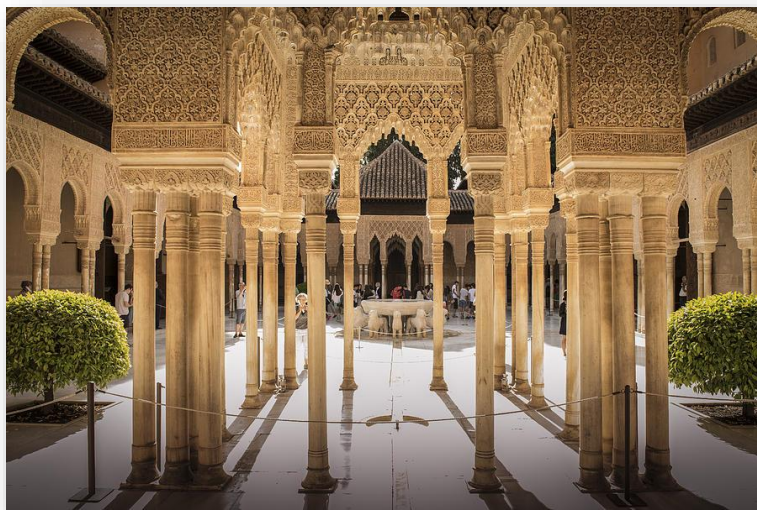
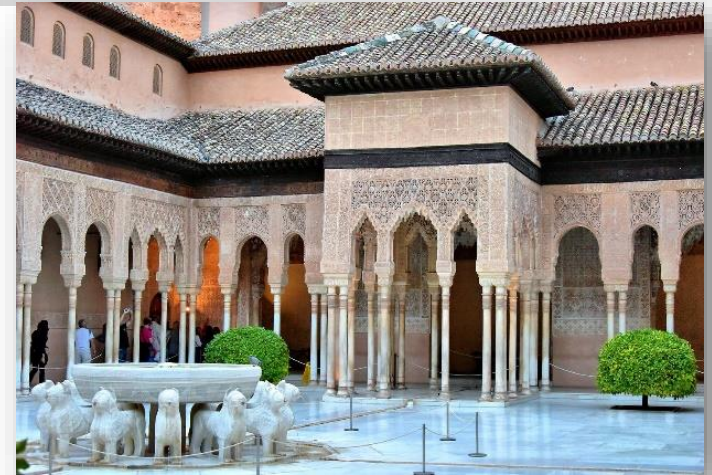




# Granada, Alhambra Citadel

## Court of the Lions

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

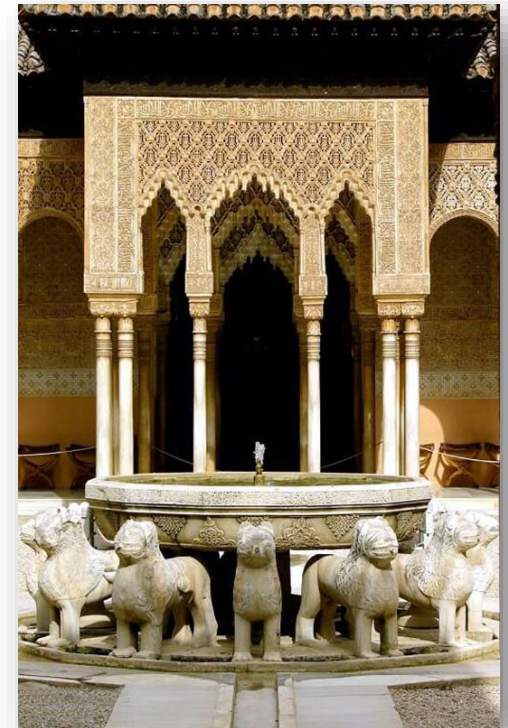




# Granada, Alhambra Citadel

## 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**.

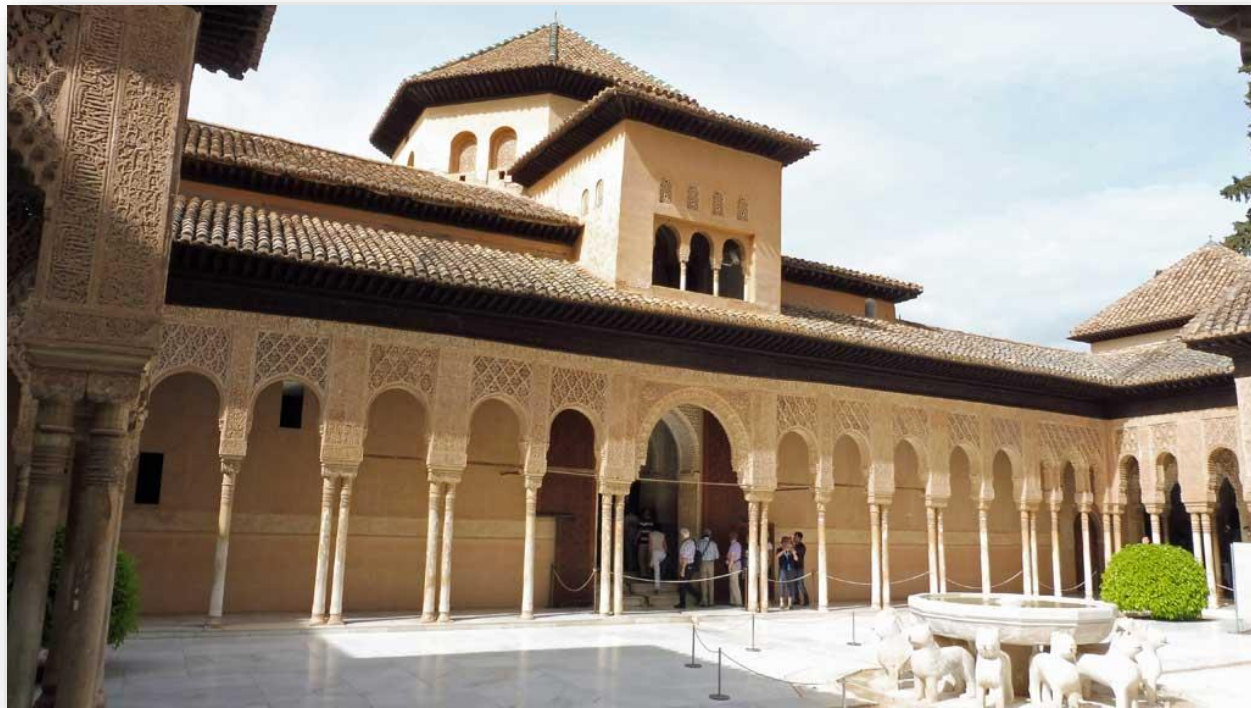


# Granada, Alhambra Citadel



## Court of the Lions

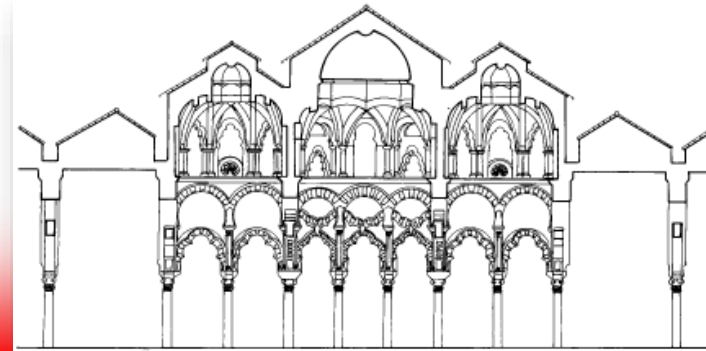
The **columns** supporting the **roof and gallery** are **irregularly placed**. They are **adorned** by varieties of **foliage**, about **each arch** there is a large **square of stucco arabesques**; and over the **pillars** is another **stucco square** of **filigree** work.







## 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

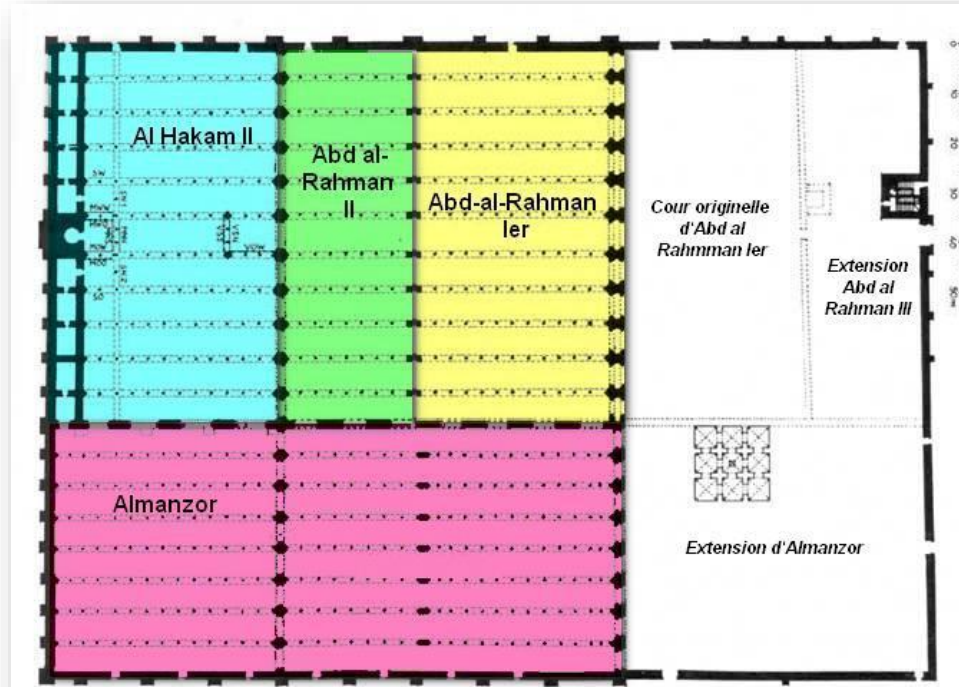
The **main hall** of the Masjid was used for a **variety of purposes**. It served as a **central hall** for **teaching** and to **manage law** and **order** within al-Andalus during the rule of Abd al-Rahman.



# 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**.

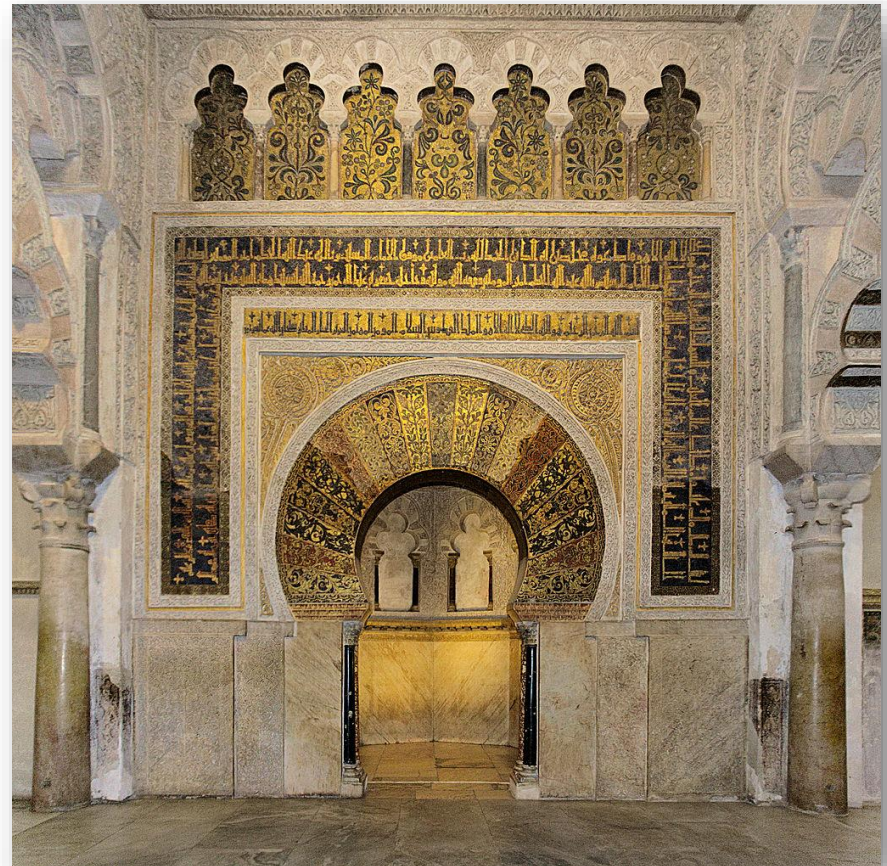


# The Great Masjid of Córdoba

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.

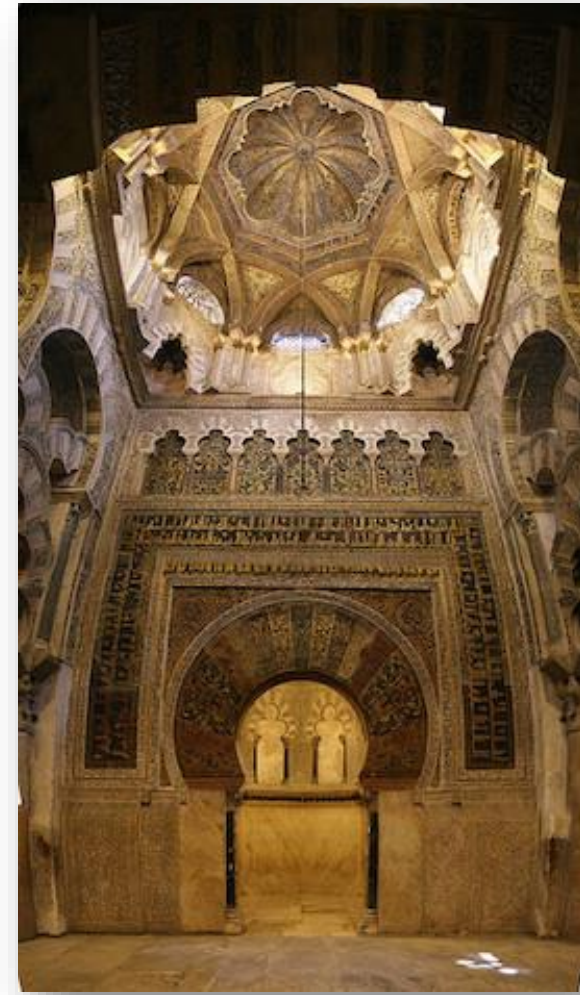
Small pieces of **glass** with **gold** and **color backing** create an amazing combination of **dark blues**, **reddish browns**, **yellows** and **golds** that form **complicated calligraphic bands** and **floral motifs** that adorn the **arch**.





# 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.

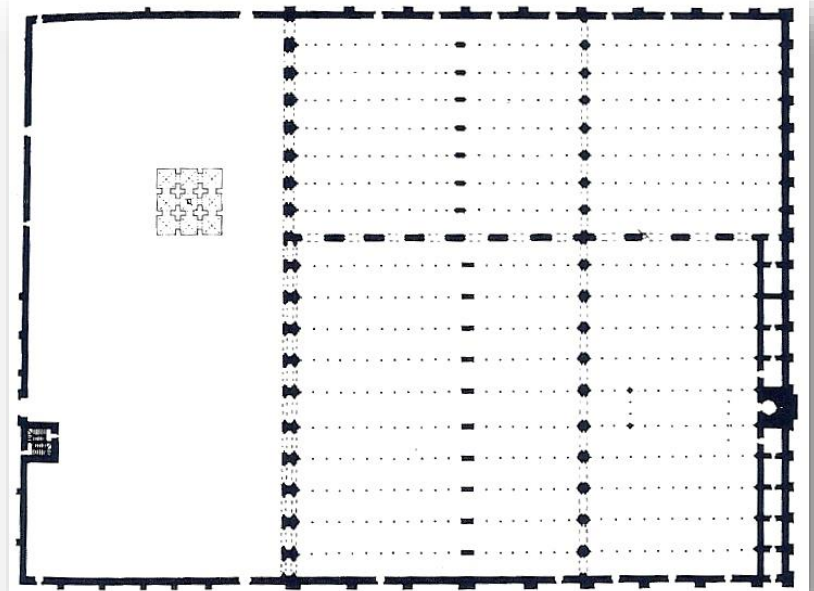
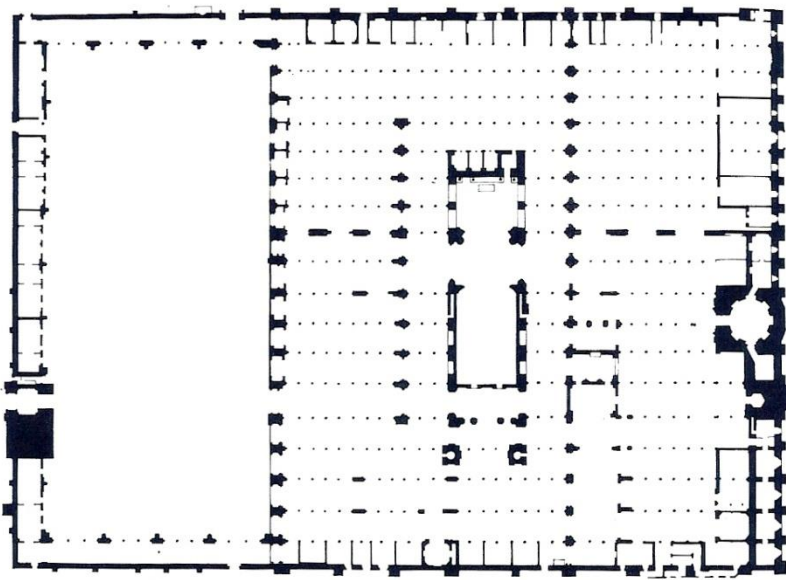




# The Great Masjid of Córdoba

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**.

