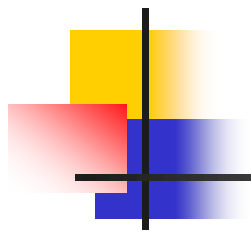


**University of Tishk  
College of Engineering  
Department of Interior Design**



# **Islamic Interior and Exterior Seventh Lectures**

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

# The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad]



**The Great Masjid in Damascus built by the caliph al-Walid in 705 CE. This building is modelled on Syrian churches, which after the conquest were used as Masjids.**

**Churches were converted to Masjids by blocking up the west door and piercing the north wall with doorways, creating a building with a lateral axis perpendicular to the direction of prayer.**

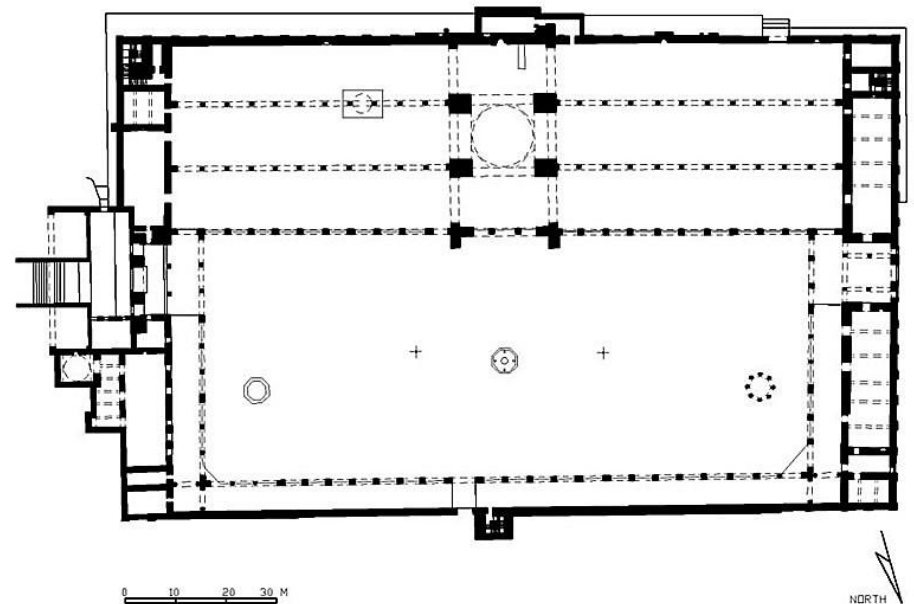
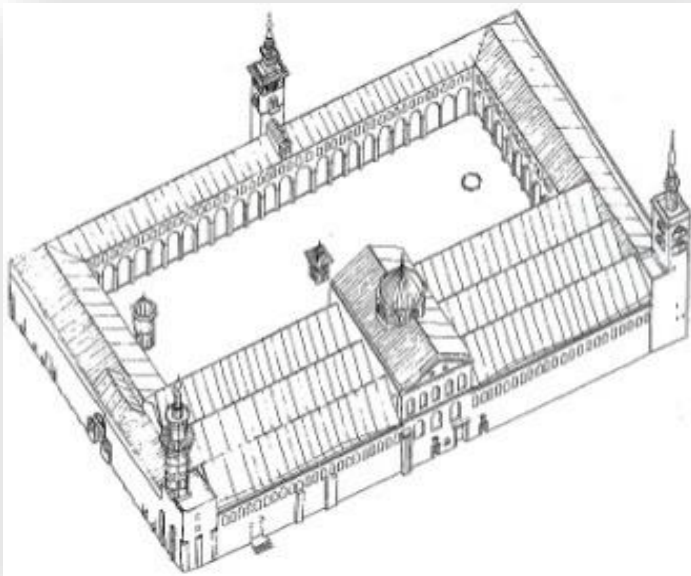
**workers found a cave-chapel which had a box containing the head of St. John the Baptist, or Yahya ibn Zakariya in Islam.**



## The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad Style ]

The ground plan of the Umayyad Masjid is **rectangle** in shape and measures 97 m by 156 m.

A large **courtyard** occupies the **northern part** of the Masjid complex, while the **prayer hall** covers the **southern part**.



Outline plan of the Masjid



# The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad]



The **arcades** are supported by **two rows** of stone **Corinthian columns**.

Each of the arcades contain **two levels**.

The **first level** consists of large **semi-circular** arches, while the **second level** is made up of **double arches**.

This pattern is the **same repeated** by the arcades of the **courtyard**.





## The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad Style]



The **three interior arcades** intersect in the **center** of the prayer hall with a **larger, higher** arcade that is **perpendicular** to the qibla wall and faces the niche in the wall (which indicates the qibla) and the pulpit .

The central **transept** divides the arcades into **two halves** each with eleven arches.

The entire prayer hall measures 136 m by 37 m and takes up the southern half of the Masjid complex.







## The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad Style]



Four **niches** line the prayer hall rear wall,  
(**Great Mihrab** in the center of the wall).  
The Mihrab of the **Companions** of the Prophet .

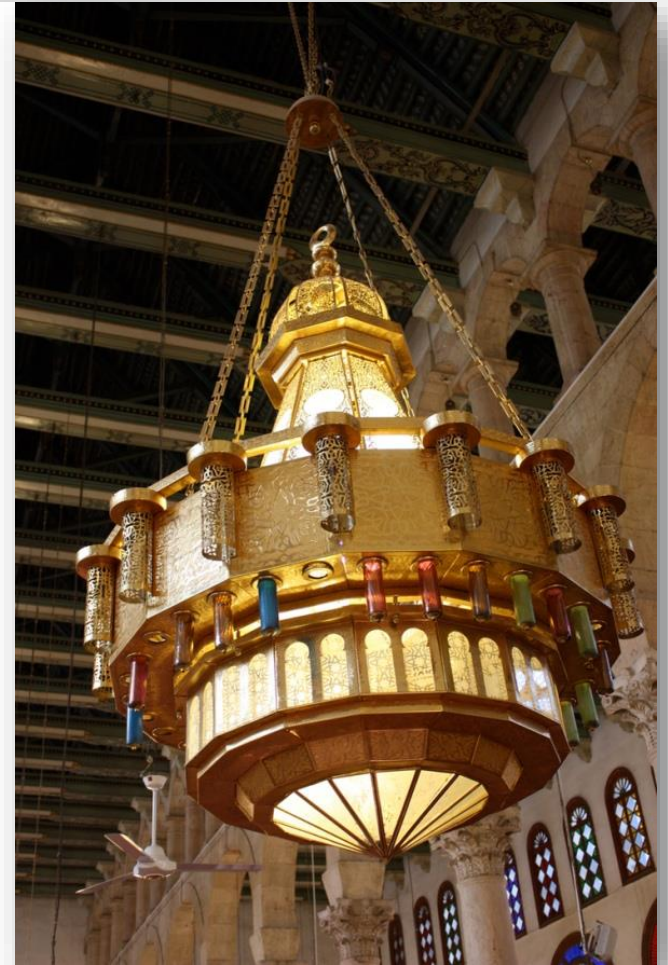




## **The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad Style ]**



**Stained glass windows in the prayer hall**



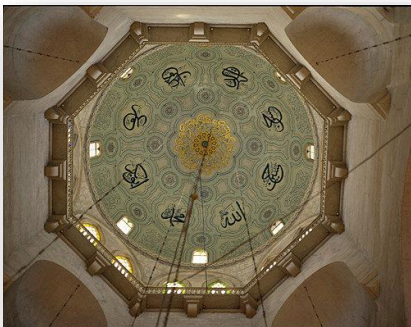
**Chandelier hanging in the prayer hall**

# The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad Style ]

The **largest dome** of the Masjid is known as the "Dome of the **Eagle**" **top** the **center** of the **prayer hall**. The original **wooden** dome was replaced by one built of **stone** following the 1893 fire.

It receives its name because it is thought to **resemble an eagle**, with the **dome** itself being the **eagle's head** while the **eastern** and **western** flanks of the prayer hall representing the **wings**.

With a height of 36 m ,the **dome rests** on an **octagonal** substructure with **two arched windows on each of its sides**.





# The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad]

The **walls** of the Masjid were once covered with more than an **acre** of **mosaics** depicting a fanciful **landscape** thought to be the **Quranic paradise**, but only **fragments** survive.



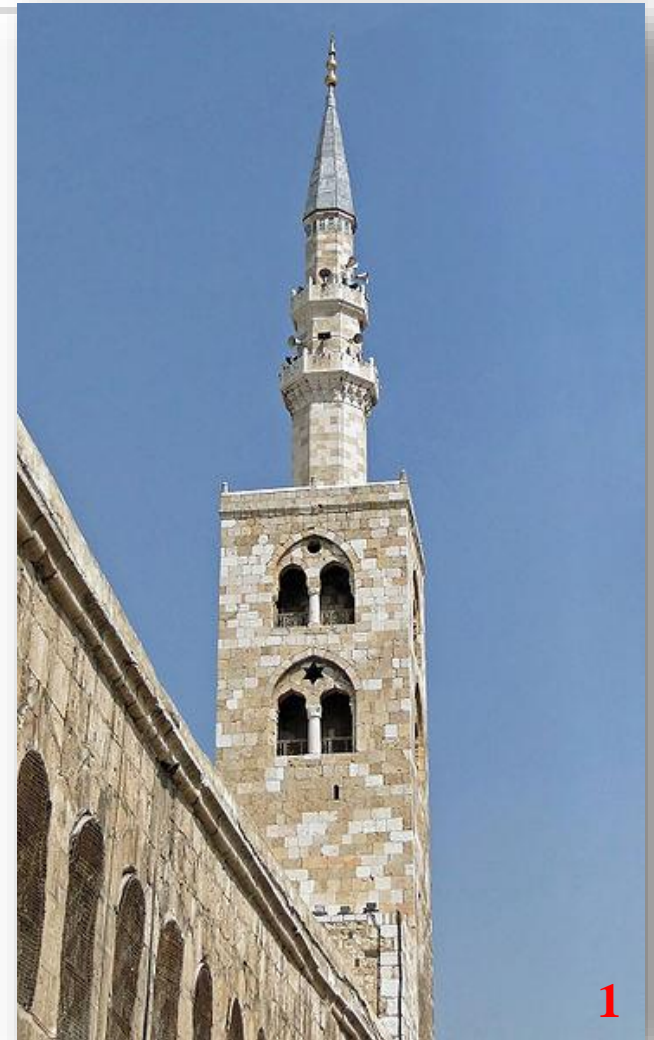
Main entrance for prayer hall



# The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad Style ]

The great Masjid of Damascus has three minarets :-

1- **The Minaret of Jesus(Isa)** located on the **eastern** corner of the Masjid complex, is around 77 meters in height is the Masjid's **tallest minaret**. According to local Damascene tradition, **Jesus** will **reach earth** via the Minaret of Jesus, **hence its name**.





## The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad Style ]

2- **The Minaret of Qaitbai** was constructed in 1488 on the orders of Mamluk sultan Qaituby.

**Located** on the **western corner** of the Masjid complex.



3- **The Minaret of the Bride** was the **first minaret** built for the Masjid located on the Masjid's **northern wall**. and there is a **spiral staircase** of 160 stone steps that lead to the **muezzin's calling position**.



# Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style ]

## Khirbet al-Mafjar (Qasr Hisham)

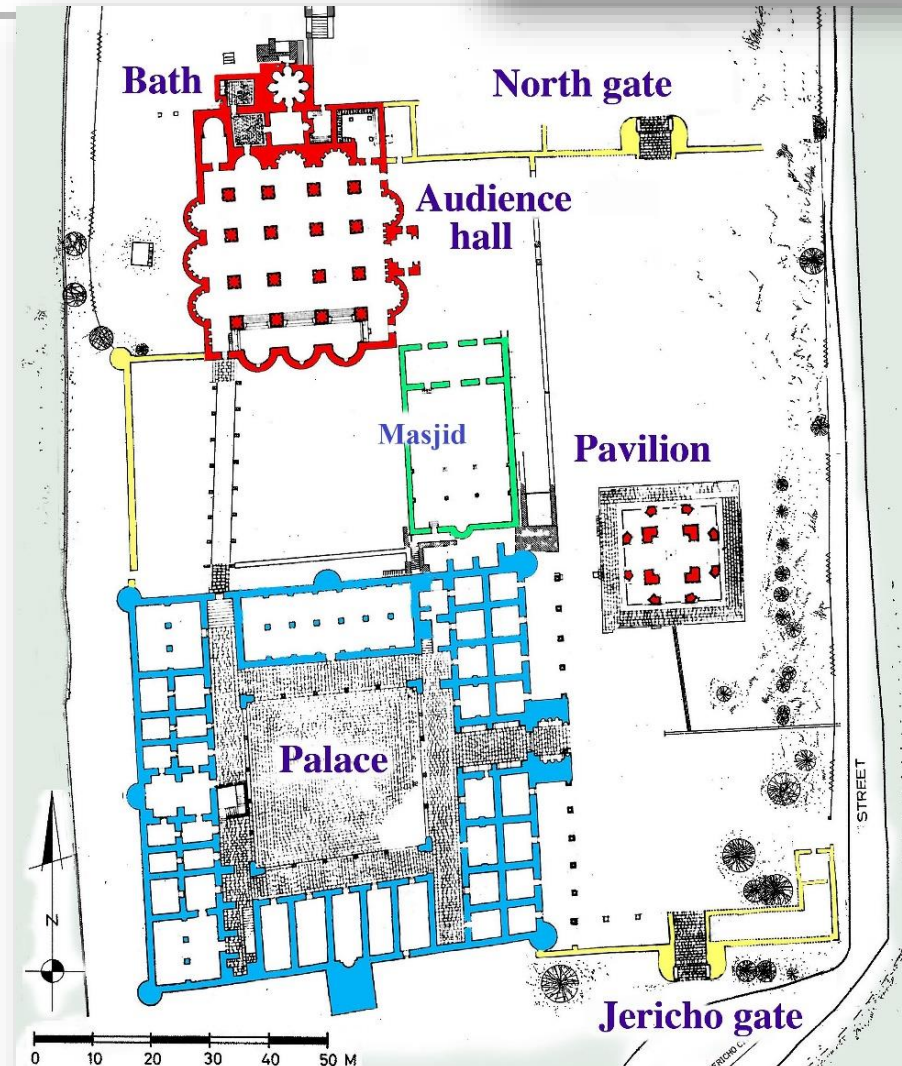
**Umayyad palace** located in the Jordan valley near the ancient city of **Jericho**.

The complex is mostly **built** out of finely dressed **ashlars blocks**.

The palace at Khirbet al-Mafjar is a **large complex** comprising three main architectural elements:

The **Masjid**, the **palace**, and the **bath house** or **audience hall**.

These are all set within a large enclosure **entered by** a main **gateway** in the **outer enclosure wall**. This gateway is **set between two quarter-circular solid buttress towers**.

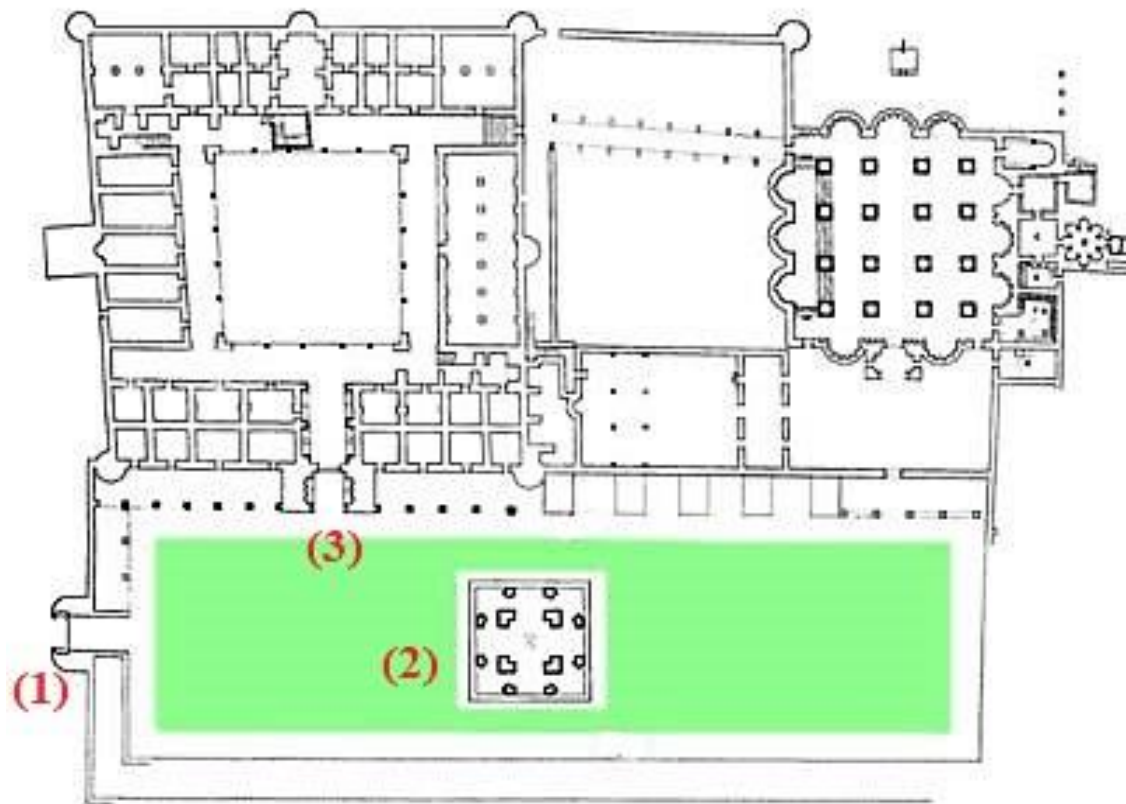




# Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style ]

## Khirbet al-Mafjar (Qasr Hisham)

- 1- The **gateway** leads into a **long rectangular courtyard** which runs the whole length of the western side of the palace.
- 2- In the **center of the courtyard** is a **square pool or fountain**.
- 3- While towards the **south end** of the **west wall** there is **another gateway** leading into the **central palace complex**.



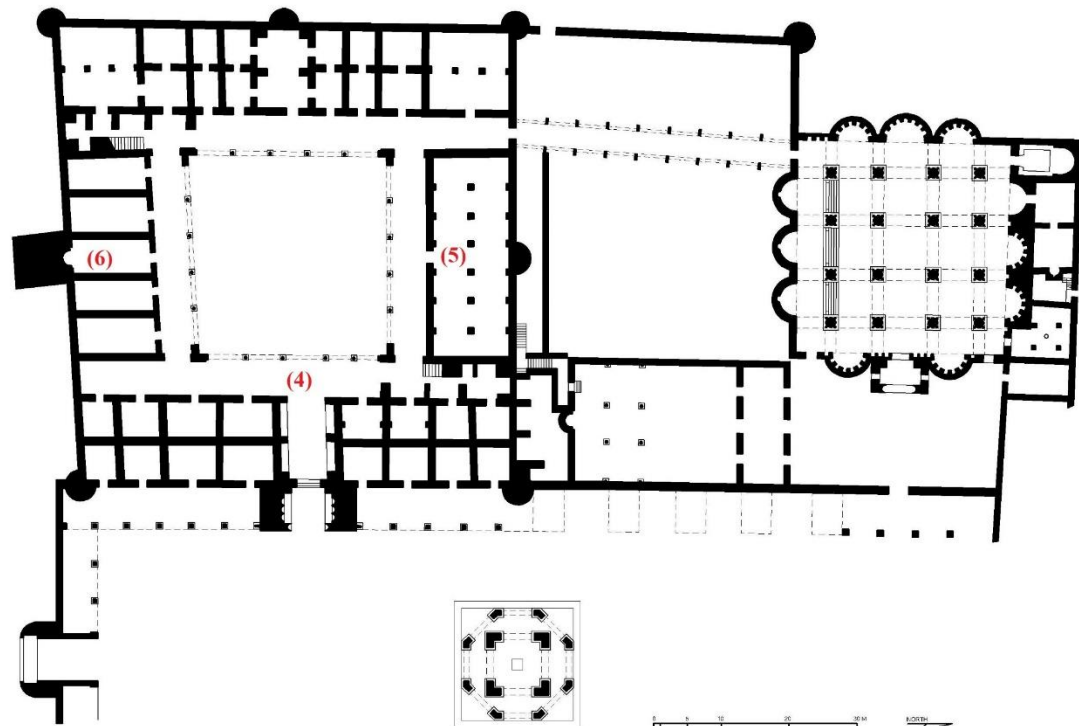
# Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style ]

## Khirbet al-Mafjar (Qasr Hisham)

4- In the **center of this palace** area is a **square colonnaded courtyard** with access to the ground-floor rooms.

5- The **north** range consists of on **large rectangular room** divided into fourteen bays (two bays wide and seven long).

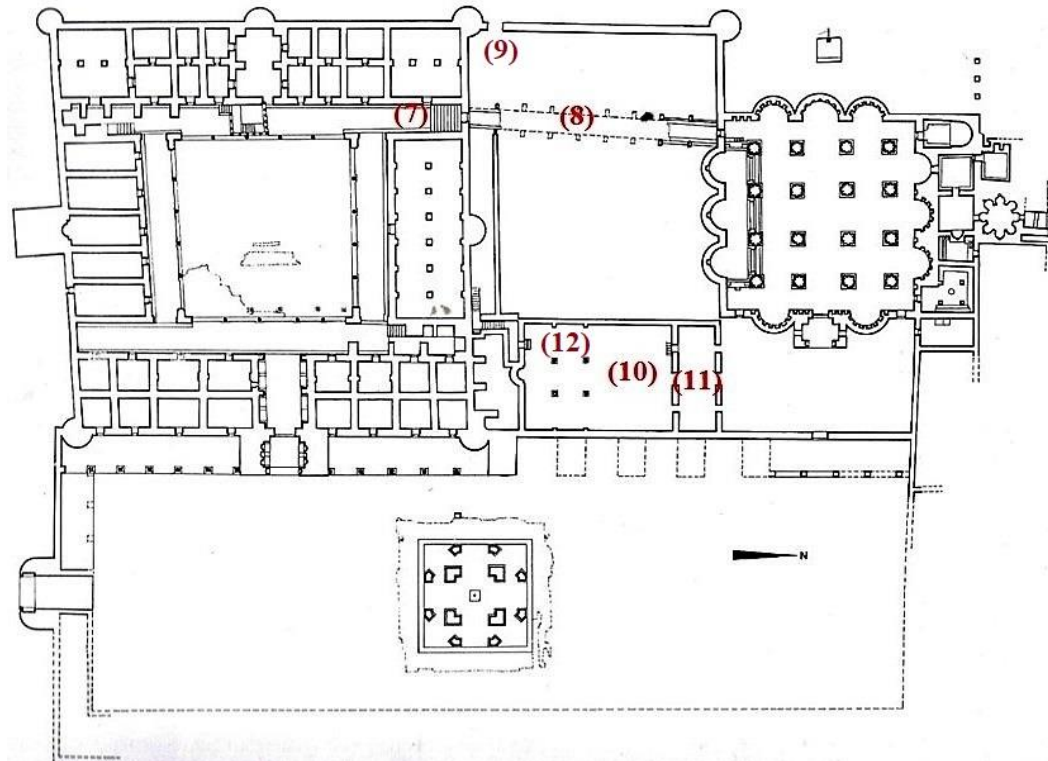
6- The **south** range consists of **five long rooms** oriented north-south; in the **south wall** of the **central room** is a large **concave niche** which may have functioned as a niche.





# Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style ]

- 7- In the **north-west corner** of the **central palace** is a **staircase** leading to a **gateway**
- 8- Which gives **access** to a **rectangular courtyard** connecting the **palace** to the **bath house or audience hall**.
- 9- In the **west wall** there is a **small opening** to the **outside**, whilst on the east side there is a **Masjid**.
- 10- The **Masjid** is a fairly **simple rectangular** structure aligned north-south and
- 11- **Entered via** a **rectangular entrance vestibule** on the north side.
- 12- In addition there is **another entrance** to the **Masjid** a **staircase** from the **upper floor** of the **palace** .

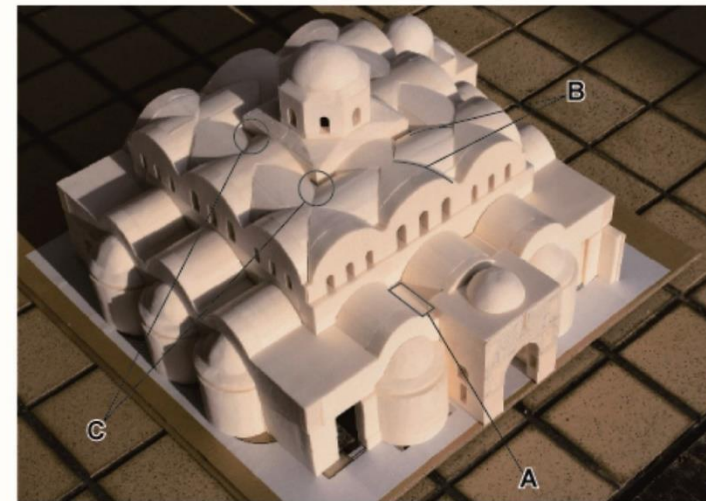
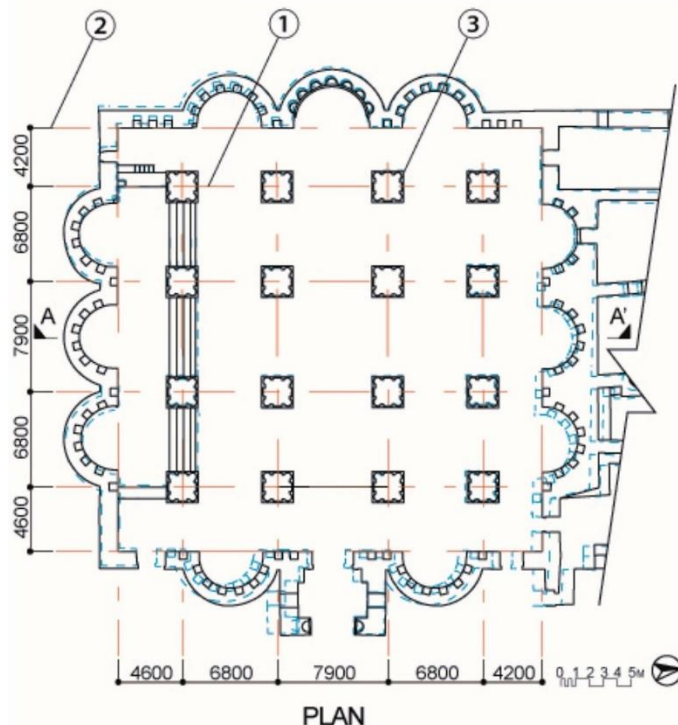


# Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style ]

Probably the most **famous part** of the palace is the **audience hall** or **bath house** which stands at the north-west corner of the complex.

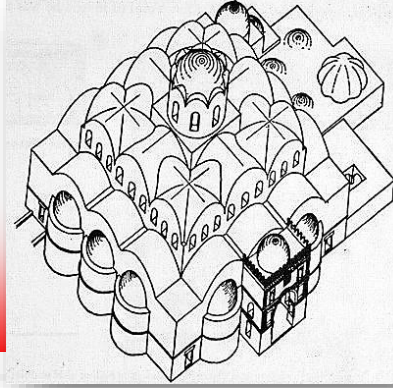
This was a highly **sophisticated building** consisting of a **nine-domed** hall supported on sixteen

piers and flanked on all **four sides** by **barrel-vaulted** terminating in **semi-circular** apses.



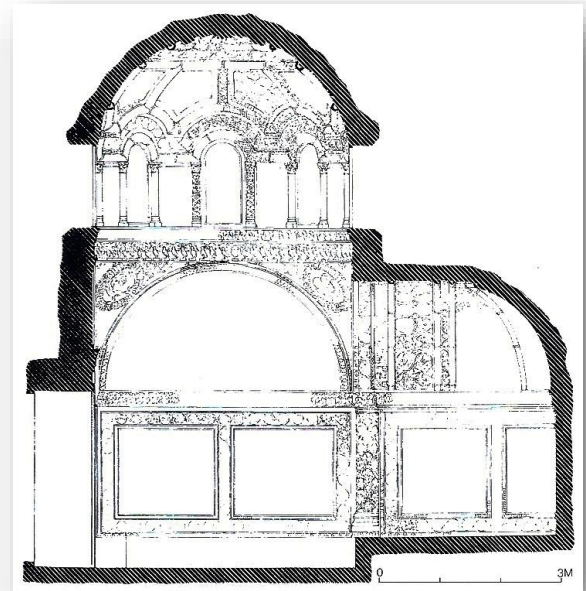
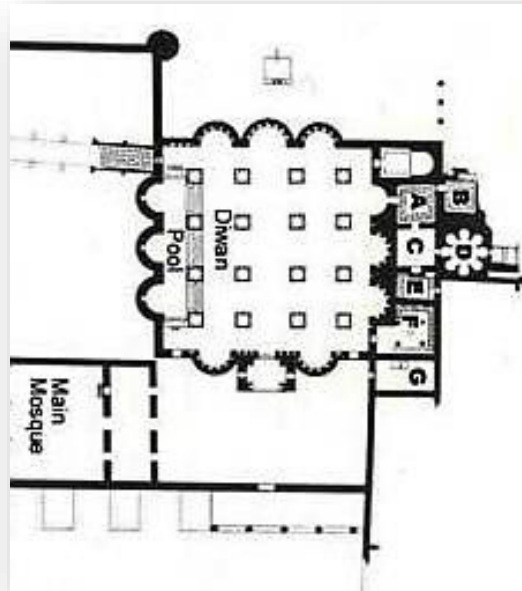
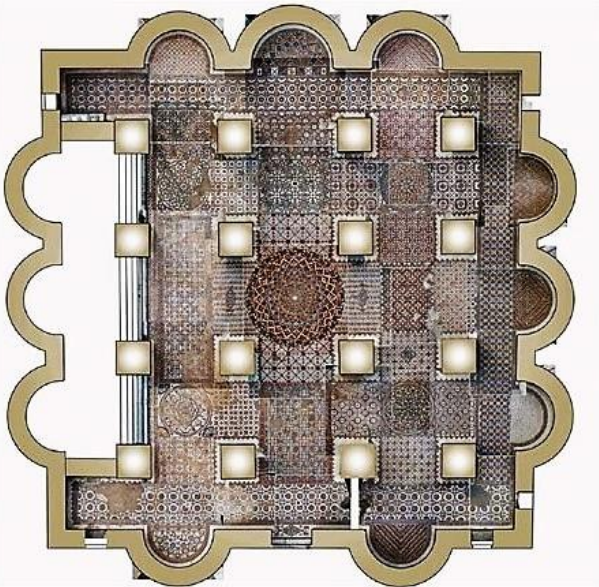
EXTERIOR PHOTO

# Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style ]



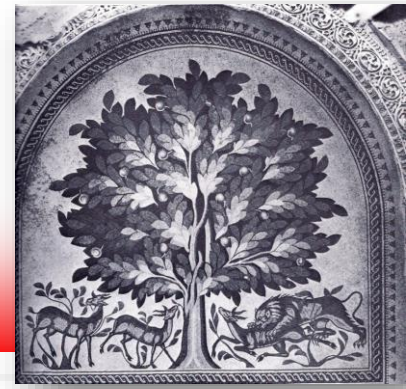
At the **south end** of the hall is a **pool** three aisles wide and filling the **three southern apses**.

In the center of the **east wall** is a **monumental doorway** which leads from a **small courtyard** in front of the Masjid.





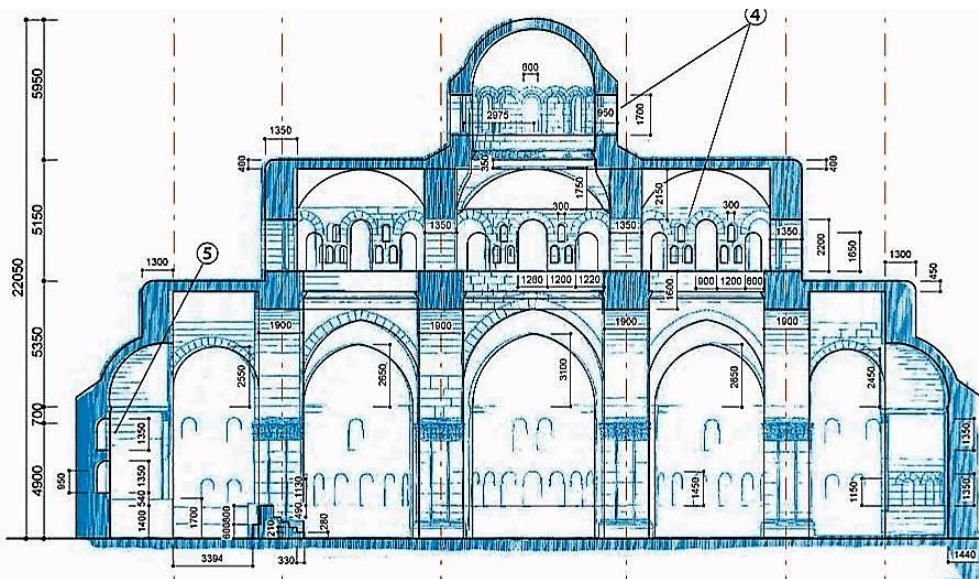
# Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style ]



In the **north-west corner** of the hall is a **doorway** leading into a **small rectangular room** with an **apse at the end**.

This room has been interpreted as the **caliph's private audience room** and is **decorated** with the **famous mosaic** of a **lion bringing down a gazelle** in front of **a large tree**.

A **baked brick** is used in the **bath complex**.



Small *Diwan* Mosaic  
(throne room or official reception room; locate on the plan)

