

Islamic Interior and Exterior

Seventh Lectures

Supervised by
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2018-2019

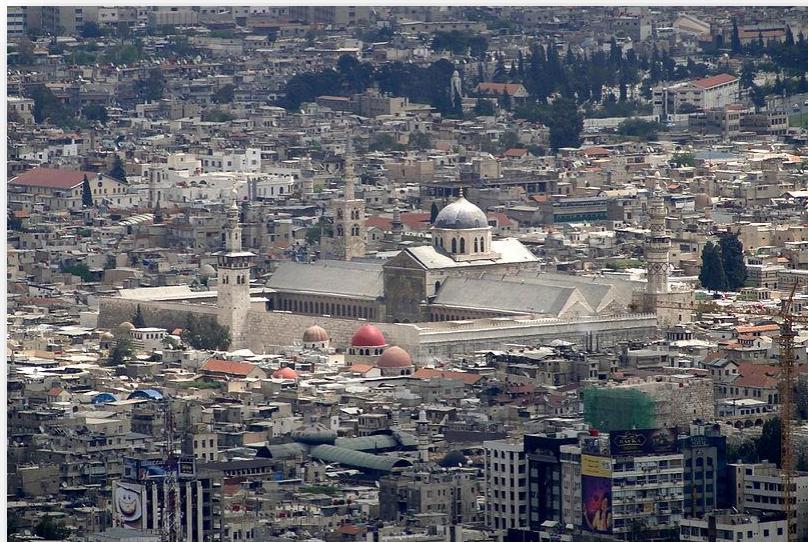
The Great Masjid of Damascus [Umayyad]



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.

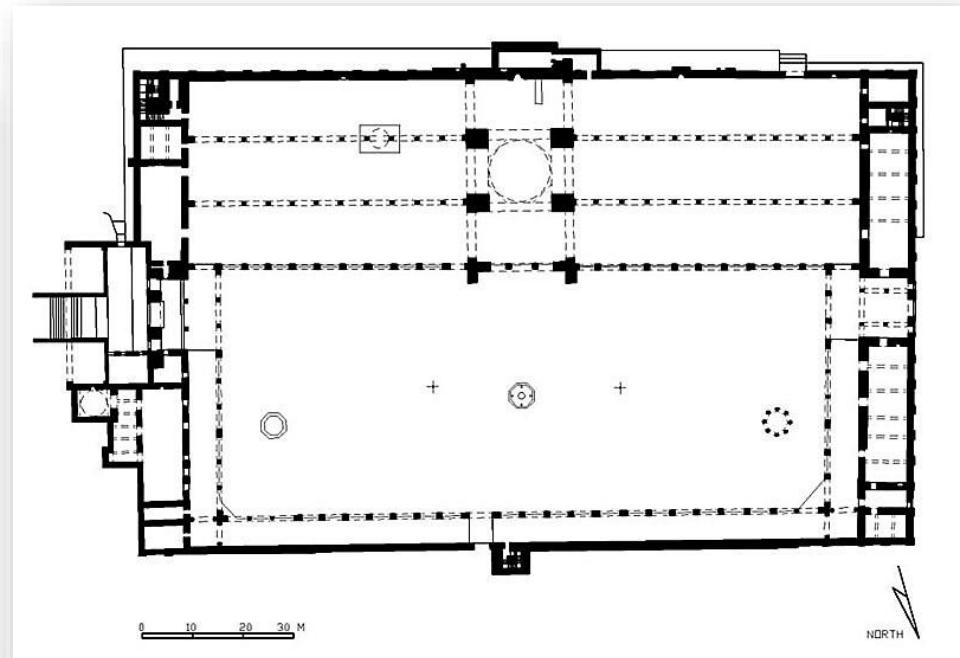
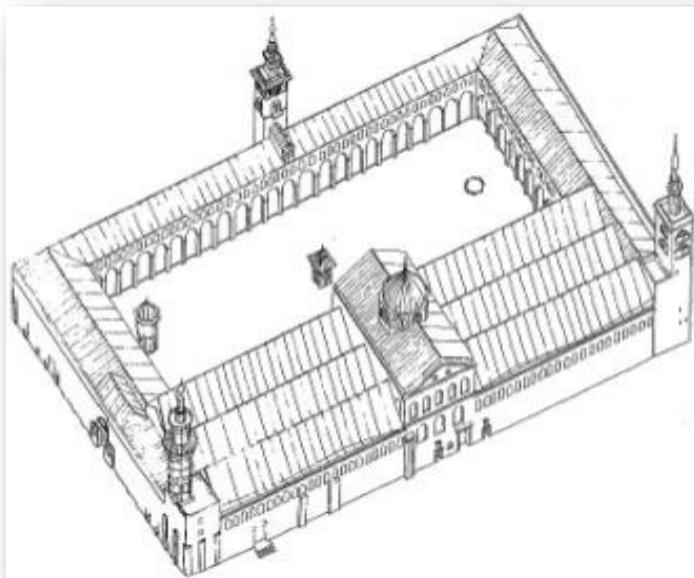
workers found a cave-chapel which had a box containing the head of St. John the Baptist, or Yahya ibn Zakariya in Islam.



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.

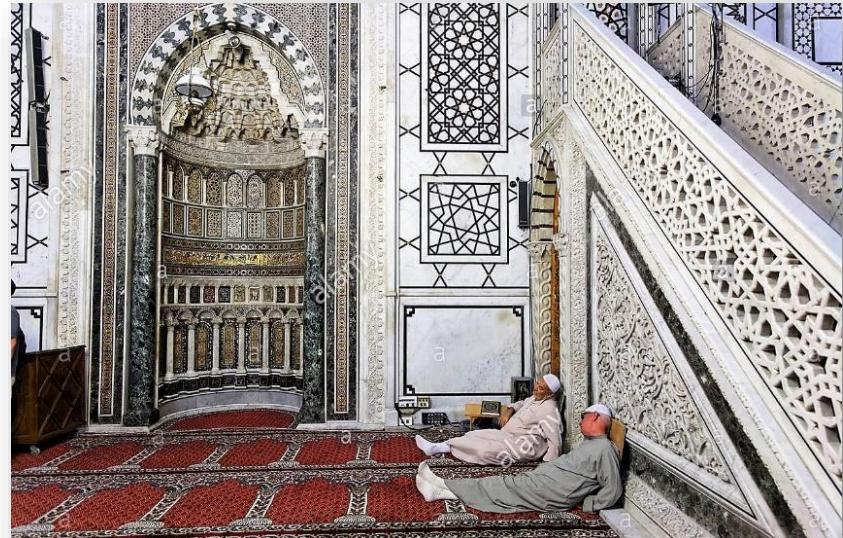
The entire prayer hall measures 136 m by 37 m and takes up the southern half of the Masjid complex.





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.

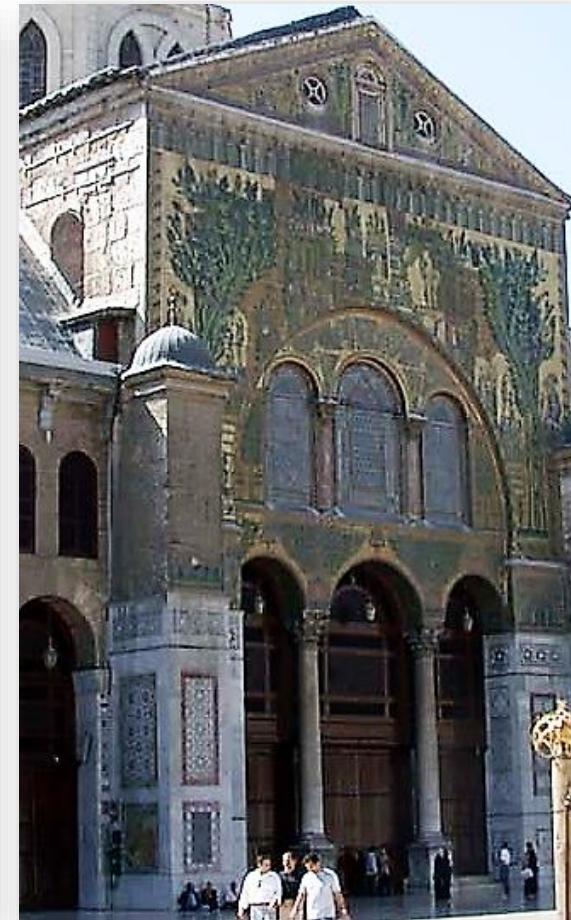
It receives its name because it is thought to **resemble an eagle**, with the **dome** itself being the **eagle's head** while the **eastern** and **western** flanks of the prayer hall representing the **wings**.

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.



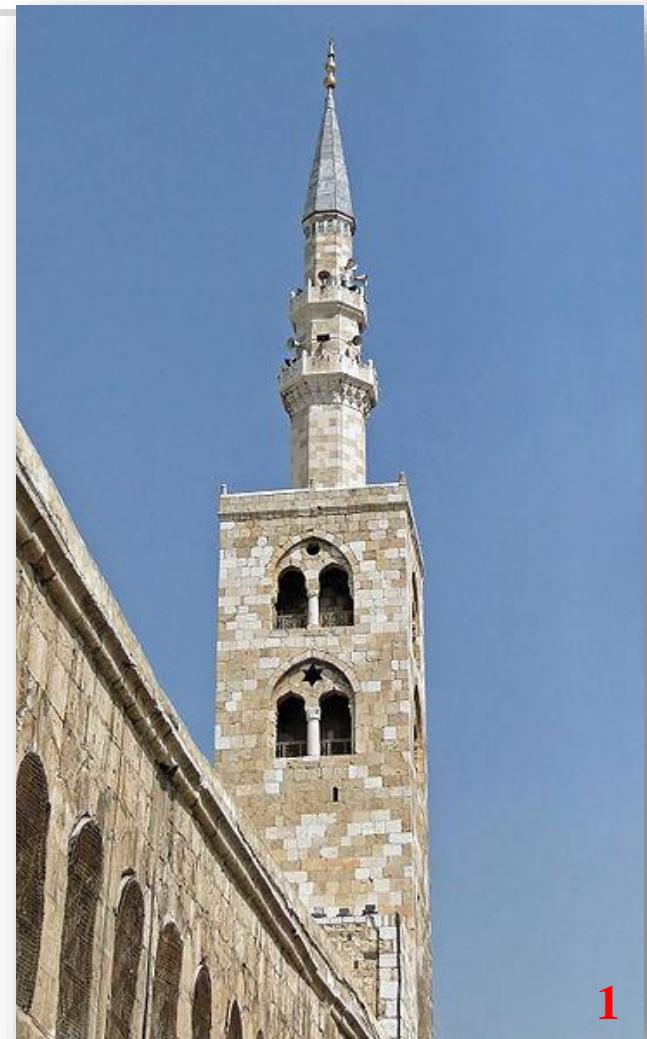
Main entrance for prayer hall

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)

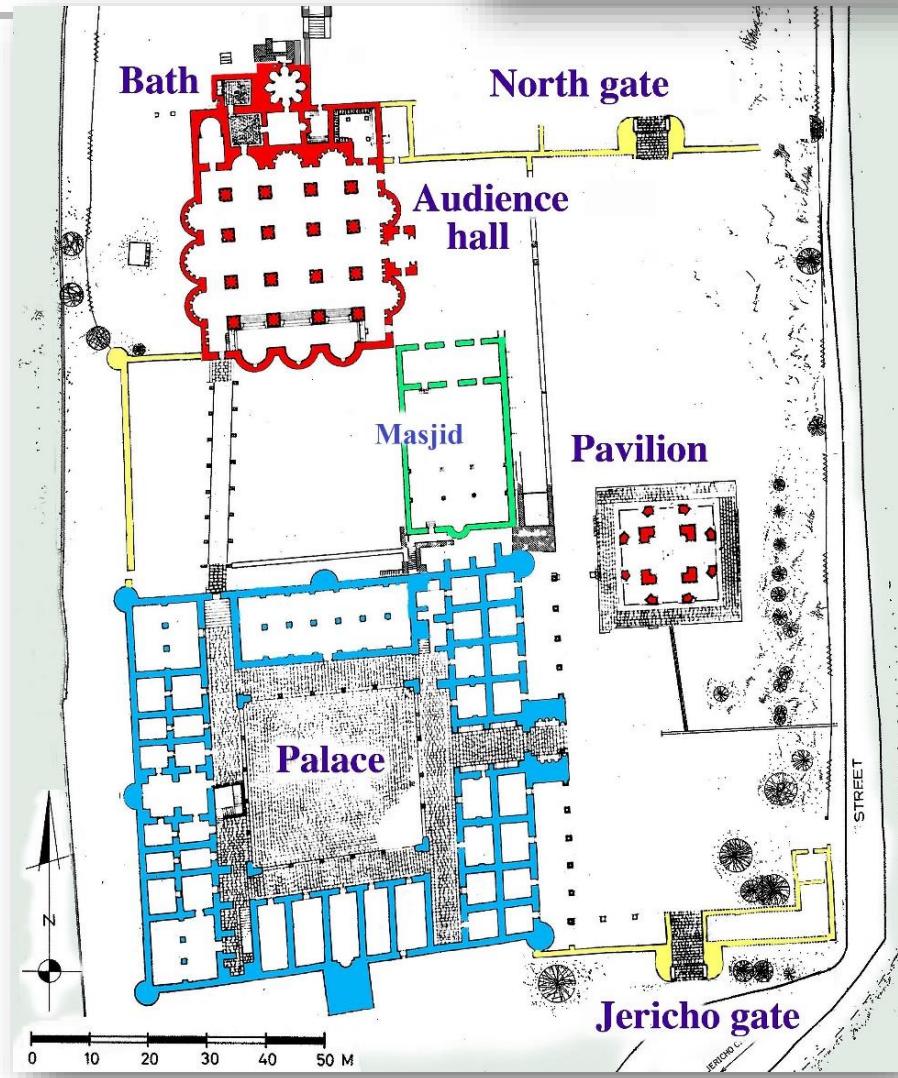
Umayyad palace located in the Jordan valley near the ancient city of **Jericho**.

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**.

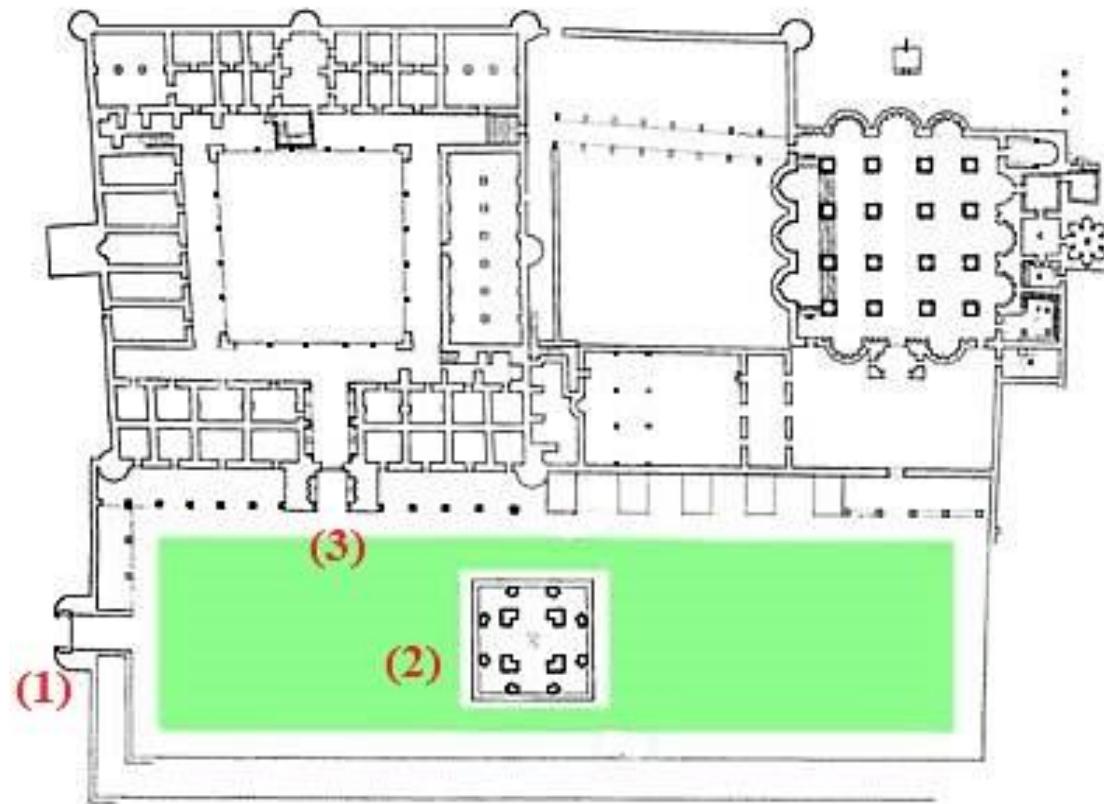
These are all set within a large enclosure entered by a main **gateway** in the outer enclosure wall. This gateway is set between two quarter-circular solid buttress towers.



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**.



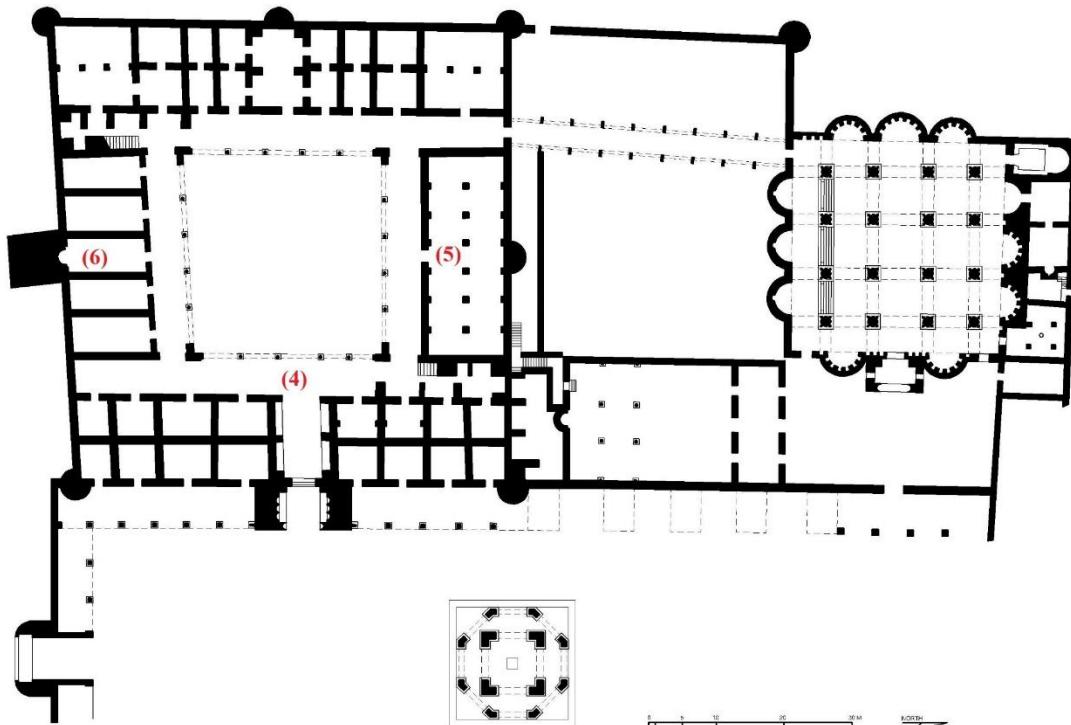
Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style]

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 one **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**

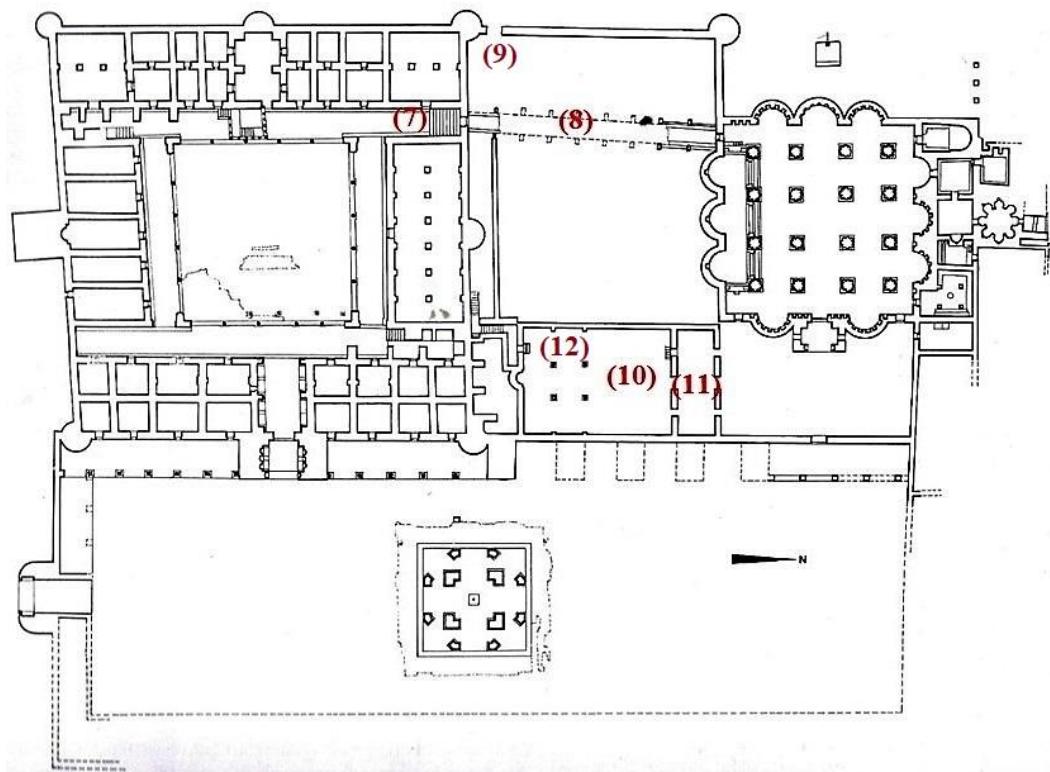
8- Which gives **access** to a **rectangular courtyard** connecting the **palace** to the **bath house or audience hall**.

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** .

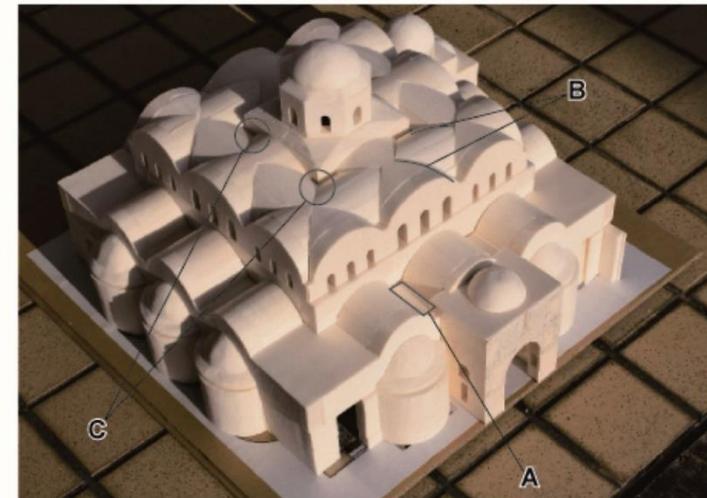
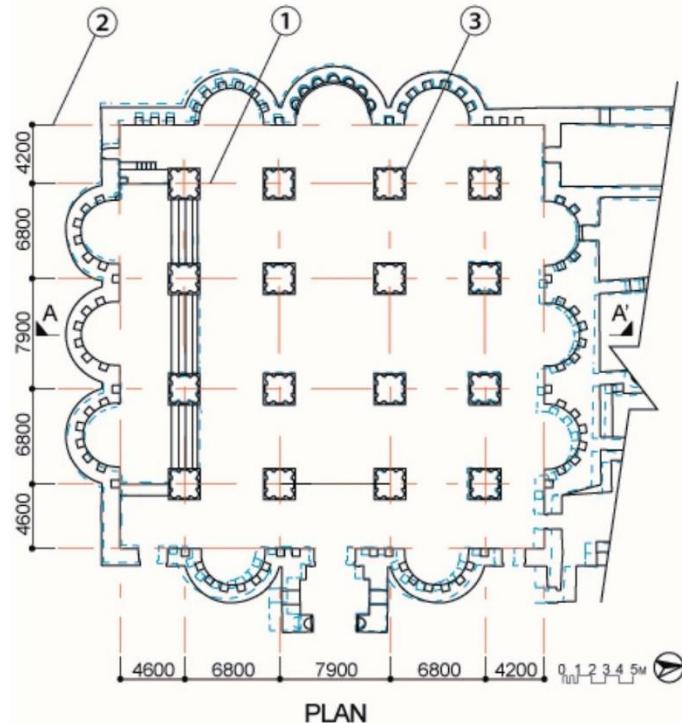


Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style]

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.

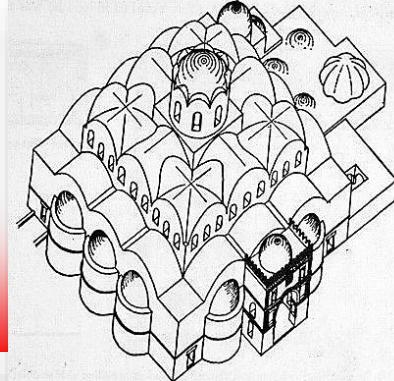
This was a highly **sophisticated building** consisting of a **nine-domed** hall supported on sixteen

piers and flanked
on all four sides
by barrel-vaulted
terminating in
semi-circular
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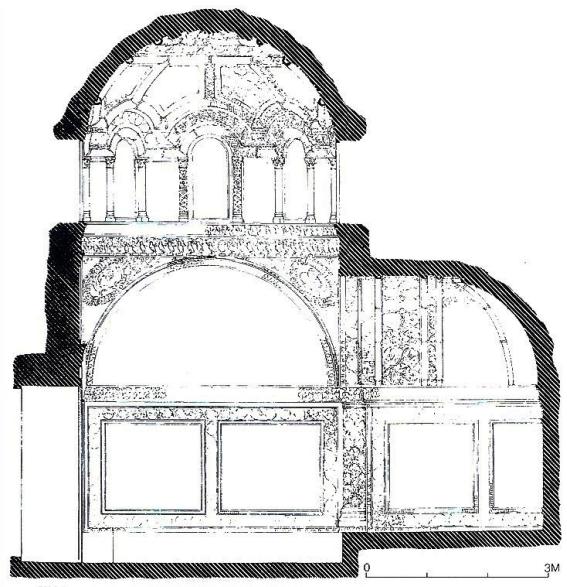
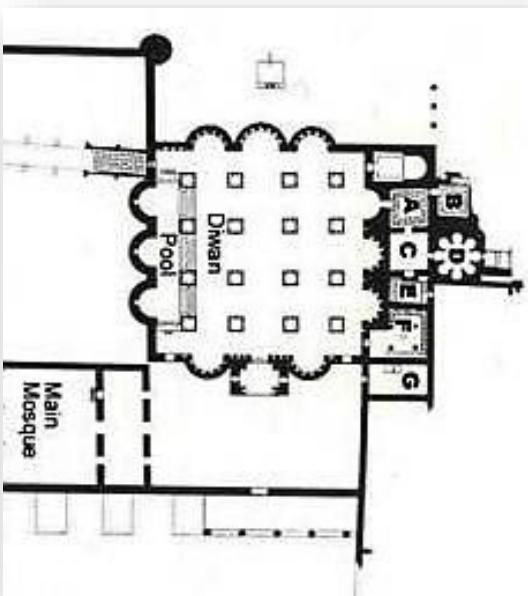
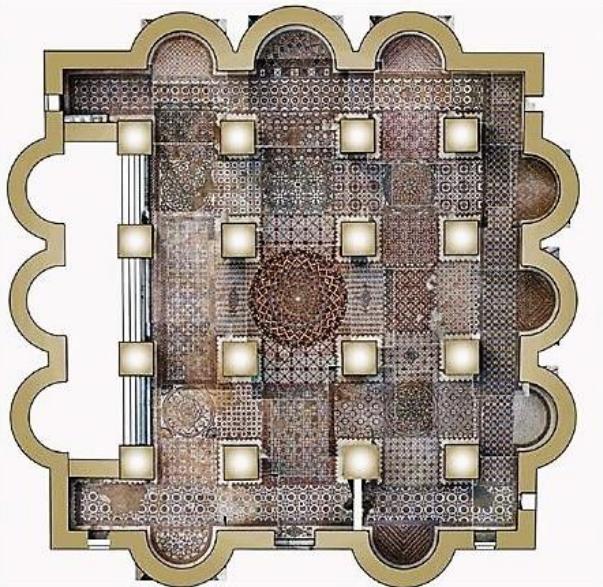
EXTERIOR PHOTO

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.



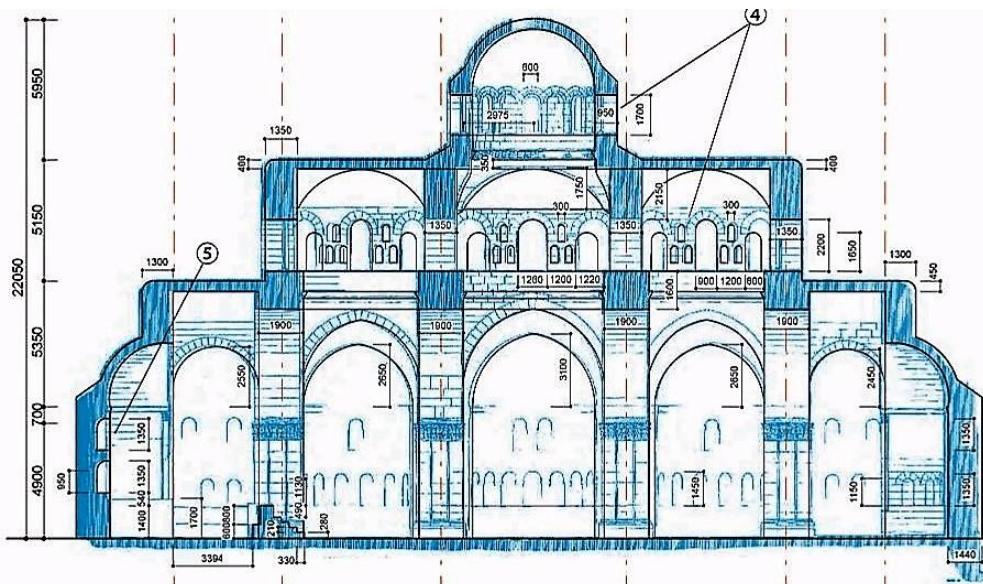
Khirbat al- Mafjar [Umayyad Style]



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)

