

Cities and Urban Spaces / Architecture and Construction

Architecture is the art of constructing individual buildings, integrating new buildings within existing architectural organisation and space, and constructing totally new urban or rural centres within the landscape as well. When designing a building, an architect defines its volume, orientation and height, decides on the number of windows and doors, as well as deciding on appropriate materials, surfaces and decorative features. In cities, the architect must harmonise the building with the rest of the urban web in order to maintain overall visual order. Provision must include public and private spaces as well as residential, religious and municipal areas. These all need to meet the different requirements of users and respond to the local environment and climate. Symbolic expression is seen commonly in palace, military, municipal and governmental architecture. How buildings appear depends very much on the building materials used, its purpose, and who commissioned it, but modes of fashion and advances in materials and techniques also impact on their appearance. In the 19th century new aesthetic canons, construction techniques and materials were employed by architects working in Europe as well as in the Arab and Ottoman world. European influences on Arab and Ottoman architecture are notable in several ways: the change to solid, high buildings constructed along wide, long axial streets and squares, and the integration of commercial centres and new residential complexes among traditional mosques, markets and family houses.



Working Number:	IT1 001
Name:	Villa Crespi
Holding Museum:	-
Date:	1897
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	Villa-type architecture is rooted in Italian architectural history, but here this style has been innovatively evoked while also reflecting the aesthetic of Arab and Ottoman architecture. A building inspired by the art and architecture of Baghdad, the minaret being one of the main architectural features, it has made use of many 19th-century technical developments as well. A small so-called “company town” was constructed near the Crespi factory and villa.



Working Number:	MC 007
Name:	House
Holding Museum:	-
Date:	19th century
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	With its construction, façades and decoration, the house is a good example of Macedonian urban architecture.



Working Number:	PT 008
Name:	Barbadinhos Steam pumping station
Holding Museum:	-
Date:	Built between 1871 and 1880
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	Built to accommodate a steam engine, a main force of the Industrial Revolution, this building was the result of international cooperation.



Working Number: DE 005
Name: Hijaz Railway Station, Damascus
Holding Museum: Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum, State Museums
Date: 1955; 1996
Materials: -
Curator Justification: -
The majestic station building integrates elements of Arab# Ottoman architectural vocabulary with European architectural elements. The railway revolutionised travel to the Holy Site of Mecca so that thousands more Islamic pilgrims had access to it; symbolically, of course, it also celebrated Ottoman power in Syria.



Working Number: ET1 013
Name: The England Hotel
Holding Museum: Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Date: 1900
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The hotel was built to accommodate European tourists, but also as a show of British power in the area.



Working Number: MO 008
Name: Hotel Excelsior
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1914–1916
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The hotel, designed by a Frenchman during the French Protectorate, displays features of Moorish revival architecture.



Working Number: TN 028
Name: The post office
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1891
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The architectural style, materials and location of the building all demonstrate the influence, power and presence of the French Protectorate in Tunis.



Working Number: IT1 095
Name: The Palace of the Poste Italienne (Ruins)
Holding Museum: Vallicelliana Library
Date: 1882
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The Palace of the Poste Italienne was a manifestation of Italy's power and presence in Alexandria. Here the building is in ruins

after “anti-foreign rioting”, marking a change in the political climate.



Working Number: LB 044
Name: Sursuq Palace
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1860
Materials: -
Curator Justification: This fascinating town-palace, now a museum, incorporates local Lebanese architecture with European.



Working Number: MO 017
Name: Dar al-Batha (Batha Museum)
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1897
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The former palace, which has two wings located at either side of a garden, follows local architectural traditions. Opened as a public museum in 1915, it was one of the first public museums to be founded in the country.



Working Number: LB 028
Name: 'Zahrat Al-Ihsan School
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1881
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The school was founded in response to new ideas and methods in teaching and in relation to the education of girls. Established in the 19th century, the architecture blends European styles with local traditions.



Working Number: LB 024
Name: Patriarchal College
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1865 (inaugurated)
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Following the canons of European architecture, the building was built as a higher education institution for priests of the Greek-Catholic community.
