Cities and Urban Spaces | The image of the city | The interconnection of design elements

Ornamental and structural elements are essential parts of an architectural language available to and characteristic of a certain era. There is always a canon for the use of these elements, which largely ensures that buildings and urban structures are harmonious and well proportioned.

Elements of architectural design include all the modules and motifs that together compose the form of a building or urban structure. From a different perspective, the interconnected elements of design and decorative motifs represent the cultural encounters and dialogues between the Arab and Ottoman world and Europe in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The many characteristic features that define local Islamic architectural traditions include: the minaret, dome and the form of arches; muqarna or stalactite corbels and glazed tiles and tile work with specific decorative elements; earthenware, marble, stucco and stonework decorated with geometric designs; stylised inscriptions and calligraphy; private, semi-private and public inner courtyards; as well as the use and organisation of space and many other factors. Elements of “Eastern” design were translated into European designs for architecture and arts and crafts. Taking an urbanistic approach, new methods of Arab and Ottoman urban planning and design as well as the growth of small settlements can be traced to the large cities.



Working Number: LB 063

Name: Mashrabiyya

Holding Museum: Lebanese Heritage Museum

Date: 19th century

Materials: Limestone; engraving

Curator Justification: The mashrabiyya, made from stone, glass or wood and seen throughout the Middle East and Southern Mediterranean countries, represents an important social observation: the separation of public and private space, seen ubiquitously in the architecture of the traditional Arab house.



Working Number: TR2 040

Name: Tile Panel

Holding Museum: Pera Museum

Date: Early 20th century

Materials: Ceramic

Curator Justification: Glazed tiles were used widely in the Arab and Ottoman world to decorate buildings or garden structures. Many specific types of glaze in different colours and a variety of motifs were used. This piece, which is decorated with geometrical motifs and has an inscription, was made in Kütahya.



Working Number: AT 117

Name: Tile fragment of the Omar Mosque in Jerusalem

Holding Museum: MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art

Date: c. 1600

Materials: Glazed ceramic, with floral decoration

Curator Justification:	This glazed panel, decorated with floral ornaments, was used to decorate a mosque. Tiles are significant design elements, not only as part of the building's fixtures and fittings, but for the motifs used on them as well.



Working Number:	AT 119
Name:	Tympanum made of 16 tiles from the palace of the grand vizier Piale Pasha (c. 1515-1578)
Holding Museum:	MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art
Date:	1573; acquired in 1885
Materials:	Frit ceramic with transparent enamel over white background with floral decoration in the colours darkblue, blue, turquoise and red (tomato red) with black contours
Curator Justification:	This tympanum was used to decorate the space above a door. Its type, form, material and decoration are all important elements of Ottoman art and architectural design.



Working Number:	MO 006
Name:	Ouled el-Hamra Mosque
Holding Museum:	-
Date:	18th century
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	This mosque represents many important design elements of Islamic architecture: its square-shaped minaret is similar to minarets of the Muslim West; the walls are decorated with green zellij; and the roof tiles have both a decorative and functional role.



Working Number:	PT 005
Name:	The Palace of Porto Trade Association Headquarters, the Arabian Room
Holding Museum:	-
Date:	1842
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	-



Working Number:	GR 001
Name:	Imaret
Holding Museum:	-
Date:	Construction: 1807–1821; restoration: 2001–2004
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	Building types or a group of interconnected buildings can also be considered as large-scale design elements of urban design. A

particular example of this can be seen in the imaret, a charitable and religious building complex. The imaret seen here is notable for the traditional Ottoman architectural and decorative elements employed.



Working Number: GR 001
Name: Imaret
Holding Museum: -
Date: Construction: 1807–1821; restoration: 2001–2004
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The domes seen from above.



Working Number: GR 001
Name: Imaret
Holding Museum: -
Date: Construction: 1807–1821; restoration: 2001–2004
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The cupola and façade seen from the side.



Working Number: GR 001
Name: Imaret
Holding Museum: -
Date: Construction: 1807–1821; restoration: 2001–2004
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Traditional elements of Ottoman architecture have an impact on European art and design.



Working Number: GR 001
Name: Imaret
Holding Museum: -
Date: Construction: 1807–1821; restoration: 2001–2004
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The form of the garden is notable as is the relationship between the garden and the murals.



Working Number: LB 058
Name: Al-Majidiyya Mosque
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1841
Materials: -
Curator Justification: As so-called “great-scale” elements of urban design, mosque domes and minarets are considered two of the most distinct features of Arab and Ottoman cities. However, they are also the most significant

as they determine the texture of the city and its skyline: the curved shapes of domes contrasting with the upright, vertical shapes of minarets, which like elegant exclamation marks stand within the complex mass of the mosque complex and the surrounding city.



Working Number: TR2 020

Name: Dolmabahçe Mosque and Square

Holding Museum: Pera Museum

Date: Late 19th century

Materials: Albumen Paper

Curator Justification: This photo, taken by the studio of Abdullah Frères, immortalises the Dolmabahçe Mosque that enriched the Istanbul skyline in the 19th century. It was designed by the famous Balyan family of architects, whose work integrates Ottoman architecture with elements of European Baroque, Rococo, Neoclassical and Empire style, and even uses some from the Chinese and Indian traditions.



Working Number: IT1 010

Name: The Hotel Excelsior at the Lido in Venice at the end of construction work

Holding Museum: Archivio Progetti – Università Iuav di Venezia

Date: 1907–08

Materials: -

Curator Justification: Domes and minarets, as basic design elements of Arab and Ottoman architecture, appear in European buildings of the 19th and early 20th century. This example illustrates the interface and connection between the art of Europe and the influence of Arab and Ottoman art in Italy, where elements of Arab#Ottoman architecture entered by way of the popularity of the “Liberty style” and Eclecticism.



Working Number: TR1 003

Name: Mihri#ah Sultan Fountain

Holding Museum: -

Date: Hegira 1221 / AD 1806

Materials: -

Curator Justification: Public fountains are among the most important elements of Arab and Ottoman urban design and play a special role in most European cities as well. This elegant example, which has a mosque-like decoration at the top with a dome and two minarets, is made from marble, a material frequently used in Arab and Ottoman architecture.



Working Number: LB 053

Name: Fountain

Holding Museum: Lebanese Heritage Museum

Date: 19th century

Materials: Marble; mosaic

Curator Justification: Throughout the Arab and Ottoman world, fountains are important design elements in private and public gardens, courtyards, and public squares. This water fountain was used in Ottoman majlis (councils) in Lebanon. The external walls are covered with a marble mosaic of different shapes and sizes and colours to create geometric patterns, which is a very particular design element of the Arab and Ottoman world.



Working Number: TR2 002

Name: Saliha Sultan Fountain

Holding Museum: Ömer M. Koç Collection

Date: 1857

Materials: -

Curator Justification: Public fountains are important urban design elements in the Arab and Ottoman world that are often built by royal patronage to provide a public water source. Fountains hold special significance in most European cities as well, where often they are built through the patronage of a royal or papal procurer.



Working Number: TR2 157

Name: Izmir Clock Tower

Holding Museum: Istanbul University, Nadir Eserler Kütüphanesi (Rare Books Library)

Date: Beginning of the 20th century

Materials: Photograph

Curator Justification: Clock towers, once they were introduced from Europe, became a fairly ubiquitous design element of Arab and Ottoman cities. Besides providing an eye-catching focal element in the city view, they also served a practical purpose: to mark time and underline the importance of routine in the ever-burgeoning, more industrialised world of trade and commercial activity. This clock tower is a manifestation not only of traditional architecture and ornamentation from various provenances of Turkey and beyond, but also a re-rendition, by a French architect, who reintroduced it into the recaptured city of the Ottoman Empire.



Working Number: UA 063

Name: Entrance to a Private Mansion, Cairo

Holding Museum: Sharjah Art Museum / Sharjah Museums Department

Date: 1849

Materials: Lithograph

Curator Justification: An example of the interconnected design elements of traditional Arab and Ottoman art and architecture: the walls are high and windowless to protect the privacy of its inhabitants; a delicately carved, openwork alcove or mashrabiyya projects above the entrance portal, which

allows air and light into the room behind it and provides those within the chance to observe outside life discreetly from within.



Working Number:	TR2 028
Name:	Ortaköy Mosque
Holding Museum:	Pera Museum
Date:	Late 19th century
Materials:	Albumen Paper
Curator Justification:	The Ortaköy Mosque demonstrates the intertwining elements of traditional Arab and Ottoman design and form and European art and architecture: a neo-baroque building decorated with a dome and minarets.
