

L2-7day7

Islamic Architecture

Art Discussed:

Interior rooms at the Alhambra 1354-1391

Taj Mahal 1632-1647

VOCAB:

Minaret

HW:

STUDY

The Alhambra, Granada

- Originally a military fortification
- Later reconstructed as a palace
- Slender columns set inside walls and abut window frames
- Finely chiseled marble gives the effect of transparency
- Marble cut in honeycomb pattern on ceiling
- Stone inset in ceilings hangs like stalactites, and double sets of windows provide light
- Small bubbling fountains provide relief
- Canals pass water among the buildings
- Calligraphy
- Arabesque
- Tessellation

The Taj Mahal, Agra

- Burial place of Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to her 14th child
- Enclosed by a large red sandstone wall to provide a focused view
- Vast symbolic image of Islamic paradise
- Symmetrical
- Harmonious
- Minarets act to balance the composition
- Typical of Islamic architecture: one large central arch, framed by two smaller arches one above the other
- Square plan with chamfered corners
- Small kiosks around dome
- Dome has an onion shape
- Intricate floral and geometric inlays
- Calligraphy across façade and on interior