

### Discussion:

**As Islam was a new religion there were no architectural traditions to be followed. Identify 3 of the areas conquered by Islam and what architectural/design elements were adopted from those cultures and incorporated into Islamic architecture.**

The Islamic people conquered many territories and used their architectural and design elements. These combined techniques and forms accumulated into what we see now as Islamic design. These designs were formerly attributed to other regions, but the culmination of the mixture of these designs are pronounced Islamic.

**1. Luster- glaze from Italy.** Originally a Italian technique, this mineral based glaze could be applied over ceramic pieces to make them have an "Iridescent finish". <sup>1</sup>



Italy, Deruta (Umbria). Dish, c. 1520-25, earthenware with lustre glaze, 40 cm (Legion of Honor, Gift of Jakob Goldschmidt; museum photo)<sup>2</sup>

**2. Persia- Ogee Arch.** This arch is extremely layered and ornate. It has a stepping sensation that gives dimension and depth to an the arch. It can be used as a doorway or for a window exterior.



Beverley Minster in Yorkshire, England. Wikimedia Commons.<sup>3</sup>

**3. Geometric Patterns from the Egyptians.** Geometric patterns are used heavily throughout the Islamic design choices. This was used in combination with calligraphy and other representative images to "represent Allah's infinite nature". <sup>4</sup> Though they used many geometric patterns from the Egyptians, they did adapt the star to their own format, giving it 8 points (or sometimes 7 or 11 points). However, there is no doubt that the geometric design was an Egyptian design first.



Hexagonal Tile Ensemble with Sphinx <sup>5,6</sup>

### Sources Cited:

<sup>1</sup> *History of Interior Design*, by Jeannie Ireland, 2nd ed., Fairchild Books, An Imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Inc, 2018, p. 155.

<sup>2</sup> "Italian Lustre Glazes: Renaissance and Revival", *San Francisco Ceramic Circle*, <http://sfceramic.org/2018/08/06/italian-lustre-glazes-renaissance-and-revival/> (Links to an external site.). Accessed 21 September 2020.

<sup>3</sup> "Mabel Sykes: A Life Untold and an Architectural Geometry Book Rediscovered – Sykes' 1906 Persian Arch Construction", *Mathematical Association of America*, by Maureen T. Carroll and Elyn

Rykken, <https://www.maa.org/press/periodicals/convergence/mabel-sykes-a-life-untold-and-an-architectural-geometry-book-rediscovered-sykes-1906-persian-arch> (Links to an external site.). Accessed 21 September 2020.

<sup>4</sup> *History of Interior Design*, by Jeannie Ireland, 2nd ed., Fairchild Books, An Imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Inc, 2018, p. 152.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Islamic Art. "Geometric Patterns in Islamic Art." In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000–. [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/geom/hd\\_geom.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/geom/hd_geom.htm) (October 2001). Accessed 21 September 2020.

<sup>6</sup> "Hexagonal Tile Ensemble with Sphinx", *The Met* 150, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/452817>. Accessed 21 September 2020.