

Chapter 13

In Praise of Allah – The Art of the Islamic World

Define:

arabesque

calligraphy

hejira

iman

iwan

Koran (Qur'an)

madrassa

muqarnas

Sinan the Great

qibla wall

mihrab

minaret

1. The Great Mosque of Kairouan is a typical hypostyle mosque. Draw a simple sketch of the plan from image 13-8 and label the forecourt, qibla wall, mihrab, minaret and prayer hall.
2. Islamic ornament is characterized by what elements.
3. Why were textiles so highly prized in the Islamic world?

Discussion Questions

4. After reading this chapter what do you feel are the essential qualities of Islamic art. How is it similar or different from Western art?
5. Discuss/describe a mosque floor plan and its relationship to the tenets (ideas/rules) of the Islamic faith.