

Islam and Architecture

In Islam there are religious rulings that prohibit the depiction of people and animals, these prohibitions were set so that people would not create images that would then be worshipped. This is also a ruling commonly shared with the other monotheistic religions.

Islamic architecture has known many influences that shaped its innovative design, such as the Egyptian (Nubian), Byzantine, Mesopotamian, Indian and Persian.

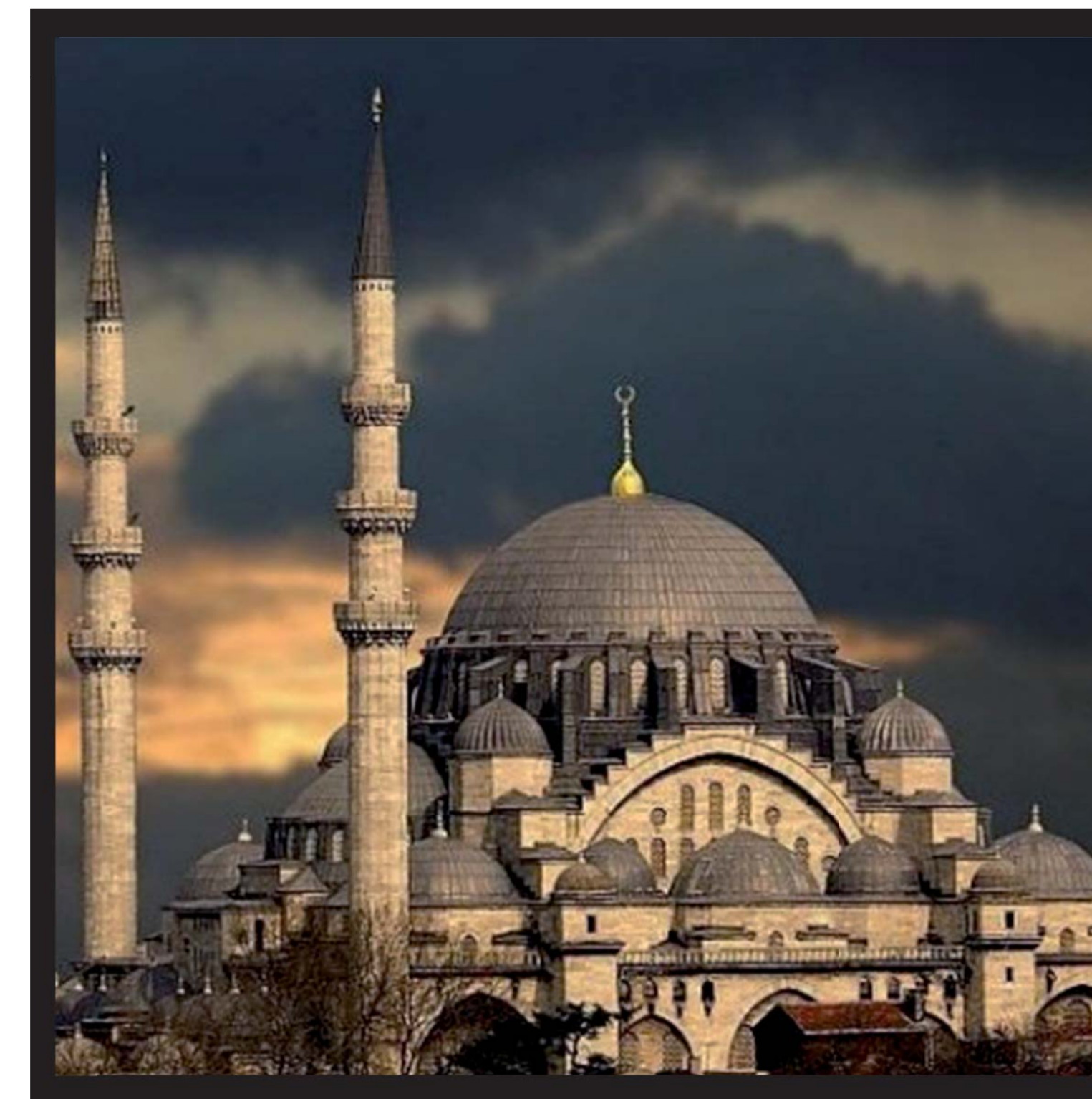
Because of the many influences in the rich cultural history of the many Islamic Empires, a unique form of Islamic architecture was developed.

The typical art in Islamic architecture is known as Arabesque. The trademark of these designs are the geometrical repeating patterns. The infinity in these patterns is a symbol for the Unity of God.

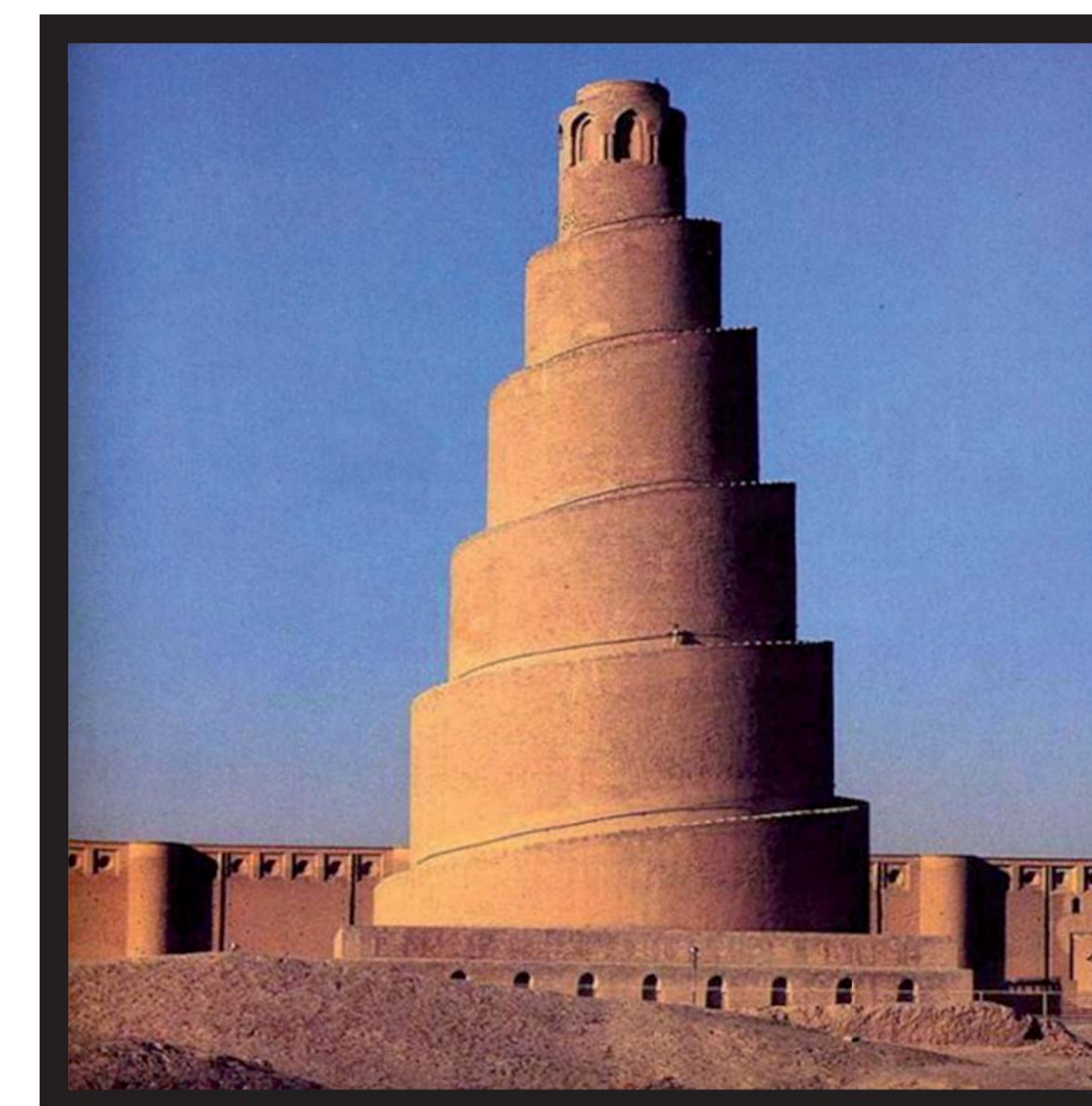
During the European Dark Ages this Islamic style of architectural and interior design was highly admired in Europe for intricate design, use of ingenious geometrical patterns which were part of the larger sophisticated mathematical pattern design. These designs were inspired to accentuate majestic and spiritual character of the structure. The finishing touch was often made with ornate calligraphy from Quranic text also giving the present visitors an inspiration for contemplation and further deepening their spiritual experience.

Historical examples:

- Taj Mahal, India, 1632 CE
- Alhambra Mosque, Spain, 1338 CE
- Shah Mosque, Iran, 1629 CE
- Al-Azhar Mosque, Egypt, 972 CE
- Djenne Mosque, Mali, 1200 CE
- Kairouan Mosque, Tunisia, 670 CE
- Samarra Mosque, Iraq, 847 CE
- Damascus Mosque, Syria, 715 CE
- Suleiman Mosque, Turkey, 1550 CE
- Xi'an Mosque, China, 742 CE



Suleiman Mosque, Turkey



Samarra Mosque, Iraq



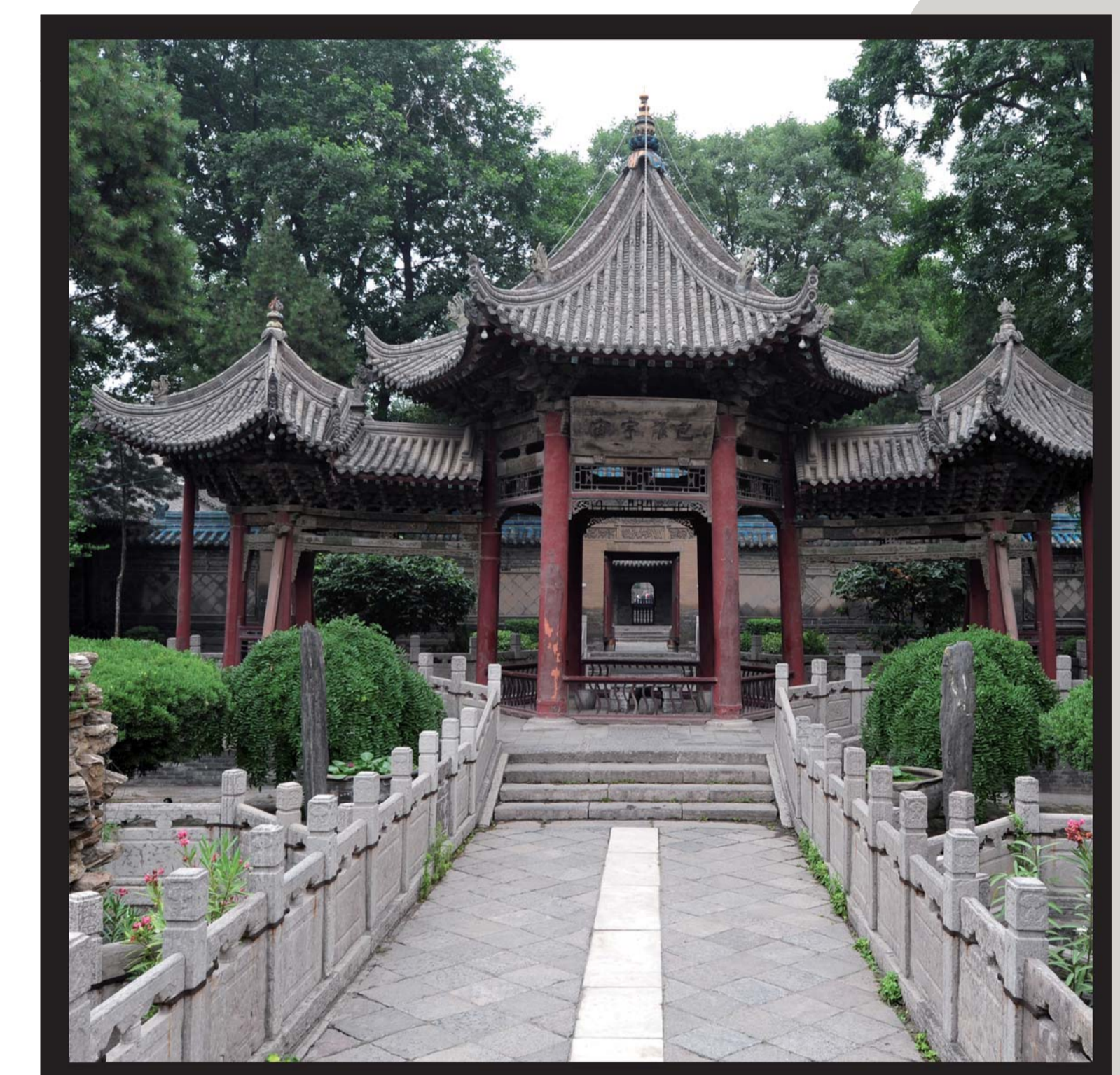
Taj Mahal, India. A Mosuleum.



Baitu Rahman Moskee, Indonesia



Djenne Mosque, Mali (West Africa)



Xi'an Mosque, China

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