

Arab Islamic Architecture in Iraq Until the End of the Abbasid period

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Course description and objectives

Islamic architecture includes many geographical and chronological examples, from Central Asia to Northern Africa and Spain. In this course, we are going to discuss features of architecture during the Abbasid period, focusing in particular on its heritage in Iraq. We are also going to understand how architectural developments of this period influenced other regions of the Islamic world.

The course will be focus on representative case study: the palace of Akhaydir and the cities of Samarra and Baghdad.

We are going to focus on public buildings in the city of Baghdad in its western and eastern sections (public houses, mosques, schools, Al Khan) to understand the evolution of architectural elements in the Abbasid period.

In addition, we are going to track the settlement in the city of Samarra and the city of Mutawakilah in the first half of third century AH / ninth century AC, identify the Grand Mosque, and make a comparison between the Grand Mosque and the mosque in Al-Mutawakili city.

Moreover, we are going to study the palaces built in the city of Samarra, and found the influence of architectural elements on the palaces built outside Samarra, such as: Al-Mashouq Palace, and the observation of the important architectural elements that emerged in the Abbasid period.

Methods

The purpose of these lessons is to give the information to students about the development of Islamic architecture in the Abbasid period, by studying some architectural examples of that period.

We will use two systems of research: single and team research. Thanks to the Academic Syllabus students will develop abilities in:

1. Scientific research.
2. Single work and collective work.
3. Use sources and references to search for information in the library.

The architecture and construction had developed significantly in that period. We will be in the scientific part of this lessons, we will be the visit of the Abbasid sites that carry the same architectural elements of that period, to registry the information closer from the students

This practical training will help students to develop scientific abilities in field research and use the observation and field documentation to collect data and interpret scientific research. In order to obtain optimal results in increasing students' knowledge of architecture of the Abbasid period, we are going to analyze plans and prospections of archaeological remains and buildings and to compare Abbasid heritage with other geographical contexts, for example in the Eastern Islamic world.

Reading and lectures

The readings are listed in the syllabus as required materials. The note class will have:

1. Power Point presentation of representations, some of which are not covered by the reading.
2. Use the new media (like YouTube), educational movies and educational visit to museum and archaeological sites.

Required Readings and materials

Students are required to read the following references:

1. Richard Ingersoll and Spiro Kostof (1994), *World Architecture: A Cross-Cultural History*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
2. Marcus Milwright (2010), *An Introduction to Islamic Archaeology*, Edinburgh University Press University of Victoria, Canada.
3. K. A. C. Creswell (1940), *Early Muslim Architecture, Part Two: Early Abbasids, Umayyad's of Cordova, Aghlabids, Tulunids, and Samanids*, Oxford, Clarendon Press.
4. Rajab, Mohammad (1989), *The Islamic of Arabic architecture in Iraq*. Baghdad. Iraq
5. Ernst Herzfeld (1948), *The Samarra excavation*.
6. Articles in journals
7. Reports of Field studies

Grade

Evaluation for this course will be based on a midterm, final a term paper and response papers. The grade breakdown is as follows:

Nr.	The details	Description	percent
1.	The first exam and quiz	Al-Akhaydir palace, the Round city of Baghdad (the defensive walls and	15%

		gates, the palace and the mosque, the houses of public and markets) The city of Oriental Baghdad (Rusafa)(the defensive walls and gates, the palaces, the mosques and the houses of public and markets,	15%
2.	The second exam and quiz	The city of Samarra (palaces and the Great Mosque in Samarra and the minaret Malawiya)	
3.	The Final exam		50%
4.	Paper, Reports, homework		10%
5.	Attendance and class participation		10%

The grade scale will be as follows:

Nr.	Evaluation.	Degree
6.	Excellence	90-98
7.	Very good	80-89
8.	Good	70-79
9.	Average	65-69
10	Acceptable	60-64

Attendance

Attendance to all the classes is strongly recommended. The teaching methodology is as follows:

Duration: 15 weeks, 45 hours in total

Lectures: 41 hours

Exams (first and second): 4 hours

Paper, Quizzes and Class Presentations

Each week students will have assigned readings (check the list). They have to be read them before the class. They will receive questions about these reading every week. They should have a separate journal, where they will write the response papers. They are also going to present a research paper (10-12 pages).

Course Academic Calendar

Basic and support material to be covered according to the Homework/reports and their due dates:

Week	Subject
Week 1	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Learn the vocabulary of the curriculum</p> <p>Identify sources of the curriculum such as: Richard Ingersoll and Spiro Kostof. (1994), <i>A History of World Architecture</i>; Marcus Milwright. 2010. <i>An Introduction to Islamic Archaeology</i>. K. A. C. Creswell, <i>Early Muslim Architecture, Part Two</i>.</p>

Week	Subject
	This is in addition to the systematic book <i>Islamic Arab Architecture in Iraq</i>
Week 2	Al-Akhaydir Palace: (history of excavation, the most important architectural elements in the Abbasid architecture) K. A. C. Creswell, <i>Early Muslim Architecture</i> Mahdi, Ali Muhammad, 1969, <i>Al-Akhaydir</i> , Baghdad, p. 31
Week 3	The Round City of Baghdad: (history of excavations, the most important elements of city's architecture) Rajab, Mohammad. 1989. <i>The Islamic of Arabic architecture in Iraq</i> Al-Ameid ,Taher Muzaffar, 1986, <i>Planning of Arab and Islamic Cities</i> , Baghdad, p. 348
Week 4	The defensive walls and gates of Round city of Baghdad Marcus Milwright. 2010. <i>An Introduction to Islamic Archaeology</i> Hamid, A. Issa Salman, 1985, "Urban Planning", Iraq Civilization, <i>Selected Iraqi Researchers</i> , Baghdad, Part 9, pp. 30-31
Week 5	The palace, the mosque, the houses of public and markets in Round Baghdad City. Richard Ingersoll and Spiro Kostof (1994), <i>A History of World Architecture</i> . Sameh, Kamal al-Din, 1982, <i>Architecture in the Origin of Islam</i> , Cairo, p61. First exam
Week 6	The city of oriental Baghdad (Rusafa): (history of excavations, the most important elements of city's architecture). Marcus Milwright. 2010. <i>An Introduction to Islamic Archaeology</i> Al-ameid, Taher Muzaffar, 1967, Baghdad, Al-Mansour Al-Madurah, Najaf Al-Ashraf, p18
Week 7	The defensive walls and gates of oriental city of Baghdad Rajab, Mohammad. 1989. <i>The Islamic of Arabic architecture in Iraq</i> Al-Sudani, Abdullah, Abdul Rahim, 1979, "The Walls of Baghdad," <i>Al-Mawred Magazine</i> , Baghdad, vol. 8, p. 4, pp. 47-48
Week 8	The palaces, the mosques and the houses of public and markets in oriental Baghdad City Al-Kubaisi, Hamdan Abdul-Majid, 1979, <i>Baghdad Markets until the End of the Buayhi Age</i> , Baghdad, p. 63
Week 9	The city of Samarra: (history of excavations, the most important elements of city's architecture) Ernst Herzfeld Papers. 1948. <i>The Samarra excavation</i>
Week 10	The Great Mosque in Samarra and the minaret Malawiya Rajab, Mohammad. 1989. <i>The Islamic of Arabic architecture in Iraq</i> Second exam
Week 11	Al-Mutawakilah City. The Abbasid Period (History of the City and the Mosque of Abu Dulaf)

Week	Subject
	<p>K. A. C. Creswell, <i>Early Muslim Architecture</i></p> <p>Francis, Awad, Mahmoud Ali, 1945, Abu Dulaf Mosque, <i>Sumer Magazine</i>, Issue 3, 1, pp. 60-76</p>
Week 12	<p>Palace of Al Mashouk (history and architectural elements)</p> <p>Hamid, Abdul Aziz, Palace of Al mashouk, <i>civilization of Iraq</i>, Baghdad, Part 9, pp. 376-378</p>
Week 13	<p>Al-Nathamia School (Abbasid palace): (date, description of the building and maintenance seasons)</p> <p>Haidar, Kamel Mohammed, 1995, <i>Abbasid Schools in Iraq Planning and Construction</i>, Lebanon, p. 65</p>
Week 14	<p>Al Mustansiriya School (date, description of the building and maintenance season)</p> <p>Awad, Korkis, The Mustansiriya School, <i>Sumer Magazine</i>, Issue 1, Volume 1, pp. 77-130</p>
Week 15	<p>Final exam</p>