

Project glossary

abstract motif

A motif made up of shapes.

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arabesque

A design based on entwined flowers, leaves and stems that is especially found in Islamic art.

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calligraphy

Decorative handwriting or handwritten lettering.

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figurative motif

A realistic representation of a living thing or object.

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geometric motif

A motif made up of regular shapes, such as squares and triangles.

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high relief

A sculptural technique using moulding, carving or stamping to significantly lower the background, making the design look raised. Also called alto-relief.

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infinite

Limitless, endless or impossible to calculate.

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Islam

A religion founded on a belief in one God and the teachings of the prophet Muhammad.

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low relief

A sculptural technique using moulding, carving or stamping to slightly lower the background, making the design look raised. Also called bas-relief.

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mosque

A Muslim place of worship.

motif

A decorative image or design that can be repeated to form a pattern.

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Muslim

A person who follows the religion of Islam.

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pattern

A regularly repeated arrangement or design made from lines, shapes, colours or motifs.

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Qur'an

The Islamic sacred book that is believed to be the word of God.

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relief sculpture

A work where the image is raised from a surface.

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vegetal motif

A motif that represents a plant.

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Zellij tiles

A style of mosaic tilework made from individually chiselled tile pieces.