

Learning from Experience: Lessons from New Museums of Islamic Art

Workshop on the Assalam Museum
Yenbu, Saudi Arabia
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Some Major Museum Collections of Islamic Art:

New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art*	Berlin, Islamisches Museum*
New York: The Brooklyn Museum	London, British
Library*	London, Victoria and
Boston: Museum of Fine Arts	
Albert Museum*	
Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art*	Cambridge: Fitzwilliam Museum
Cambridge: The Harvard Art Museums*	Oxford, Ashmolean Museum
Los Angeles: County Museum of Art*	Paris, Grand Louvre (with UCAD Collections)
*Chicago: The Art Institute of Chicago	Paris, Bibilothèque
Nationale	
St. Louis: The St. Louis Art Museum*	Madrid, Museo Arqueológico
Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum*	Lyon, Musée Historique des Tissus
Cincinnati: The Cincinnati Art Museum	Lisbon, Gulbenkian
Museum	
Washington DC: The Textile Museum*	Florence, Museo Nazionale del Bargello
Washington DC: The Freer Gallery of Art*	Milan, Museo Poldi Pezzoli
Philadelphia: The Philadelphia Museum of Art	Copenhagen, C. L. Davids Samling*
Istanbul: Turk ve Islam Eserleri Museum*	Toronto: The Aga Khan Museum*
Cairo, Museum of Islamic Art	Doha, Museum of Islamic
Art*	

* Islamic Collections housed in recent new, reorganized, or reconstructed buildings or galleries

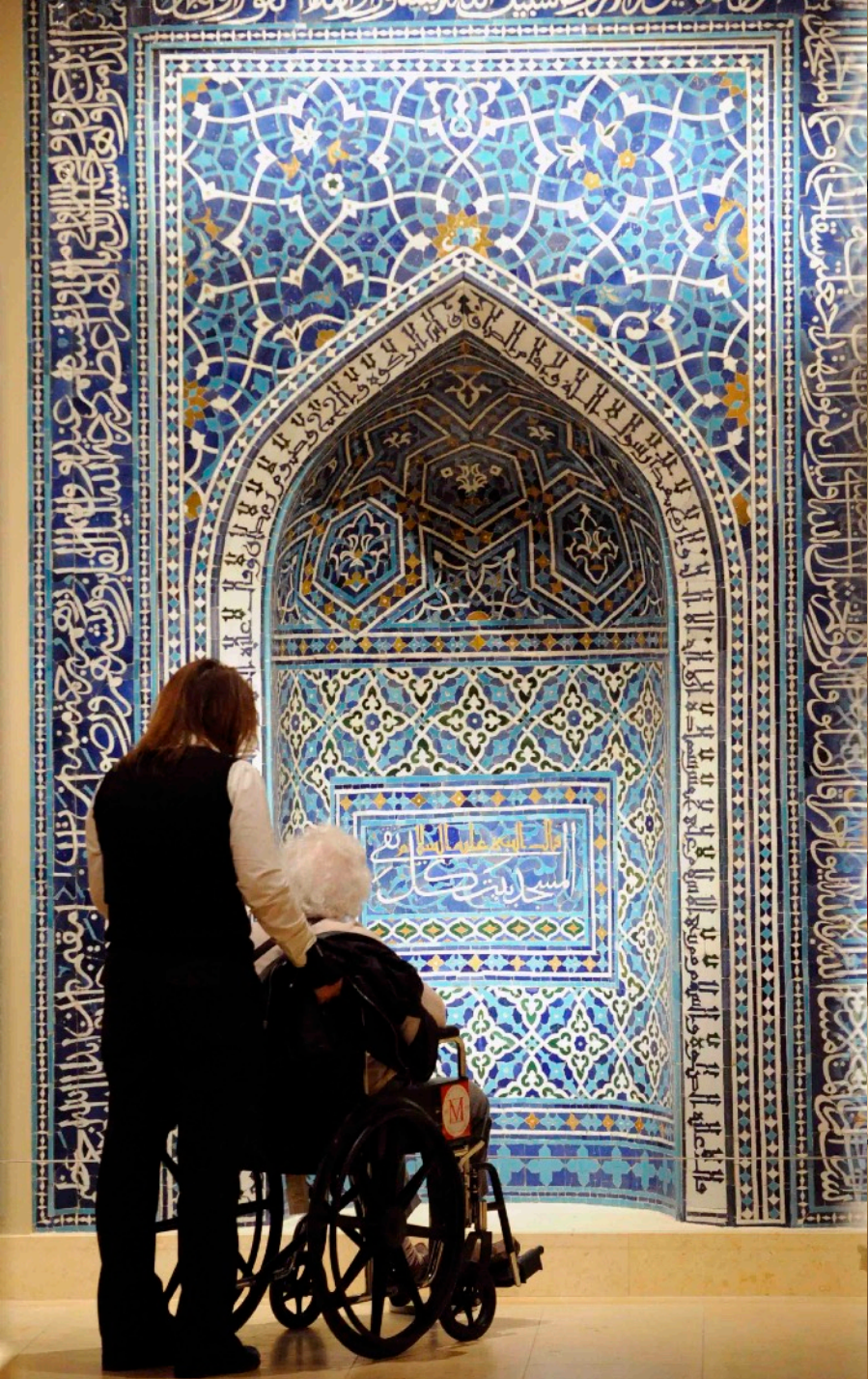
New or completely re-conceptualized museums and museum galleries of Islamic art and culture have recently opened in London, New York, Detroit, Qatar, Brunei, Paris, Toronto, Istanbul, Vienna and Houston, and Berlin will join the parade in a few years. Some of these efforts have been applauded as great successes, while others have met with less enthusiasm from critics and the public. What can we learn from these experiences?

ONE

Understanding the Audience:
Languages, Age, Experience, Knowledge Level

Why are they Here?
What do they Expect?
What do we want them to Know?





A photograph of the 'ISLAMIC ART' gallery at the British Museum. Four visitors are seen from behind, looking at various Islamic art pieces displayed in glass cases. The gallery features a white balustrade with a repeating geometric pattern in the foreground. The art includes framed calligraphy, a large gold-leafed mirror, a ceramic vase, and a stone head sculpture.



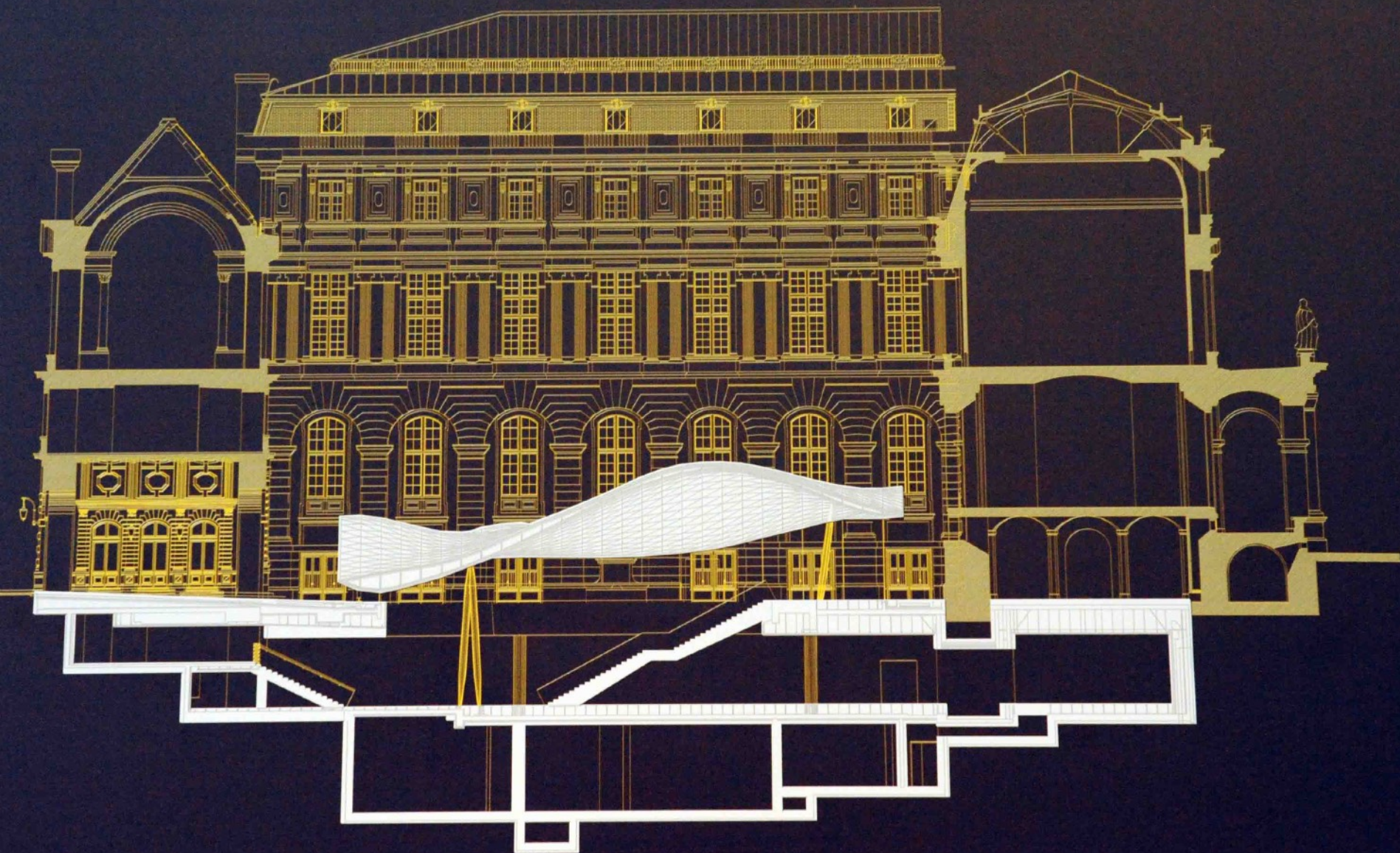


TWO

Mediating between the Architect/Designer and the Works of Art and other Visual Material on Display:

Managing this natural and omnipresent tension is the central factor determining a new museum's success or failure

MARIO BELLINI, PIERRE KICCIOTTEY, RENAUD PIÉREU
ARCHITECTES









(Note the placement of the text panels in the shadows,
not the light)



THREE

Keeping Learning Technology Simple:

Over-reliance and Mis-use of New Technology
can cause a Museum to Fail





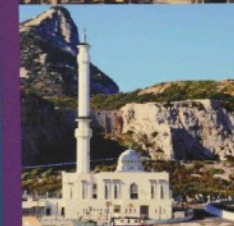
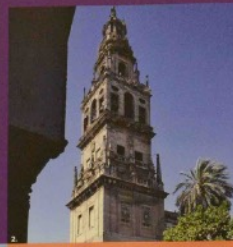
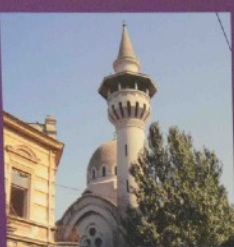


622, Tomb of Mohammed, Al-Masjid an-Nabawi, Medina, Saudi Arabia

Photograph by hikren/Shutterstock.com



EUROPE



1. 1910, Constanta, Romania
Minaret of Carol I Mosque
Photograph by CC BY-SA 3.0

3. 1884-86, Seville, Spain
La Giralda
Photograph by Walter Denny

6. 1997, Gibraltar, British Overseas Territories
King Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Mosque
Photograph by Aerial Photo UK / Shutterstock.com

4. 1609-16, Istanbul, Turkey
Sultan Ahmed Mosque
(The Blue Mosque)
Photograph by Walter Denny

2. 786-1236, Cordoba, Spain
Mosquita de Córdoba
Catedral de Nuestra Señora
de la Asunción
Photograph by Walter Denny

5. 1936, Ufa, Russia
Minarets of Lina Tulpan
(Ulp in Bismillah) Mosque
Photograph by Art Konovalov / Shutterstock.com

7. 2009, Cologne, Germany
Minarets of Cologne
Cotton Mosque
Photograph by Tim E. Klein / Shutterstock.com



WONDROUS WORLDS

ART & ISLAM THROUGH TIME & PLACE

The intercontinental reach of *Dar al-Islam*, or the Islamic world today touches all continents. This exhibition follows the diverse geographical and temporal legacies of works of art—not only in regions where Islam is or has been the majority religion, (such as present-day Afghanistan, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Zanzibar), but also from artists and

makers who hail from traditions that have become suffused with so-called "Islamic" aesthetics (like China, Holland, India, France, Nigeria, Spain and the United States). Works in the exhibition were created as recently as 2016 but also as early as the 9th century. Enjoy and explore the fabulous diversity and profound meaning of spectacular works of art that exemplify interactions between art and Islam throughout the centuries and spanning the globe.



FOUR

Effective Management of Verbal Communication:

The Challenges of Diverse Languages
and Cultures within the Islamic World

Audio Guide



The Rasulids of Yemen (c. 1228-1454)

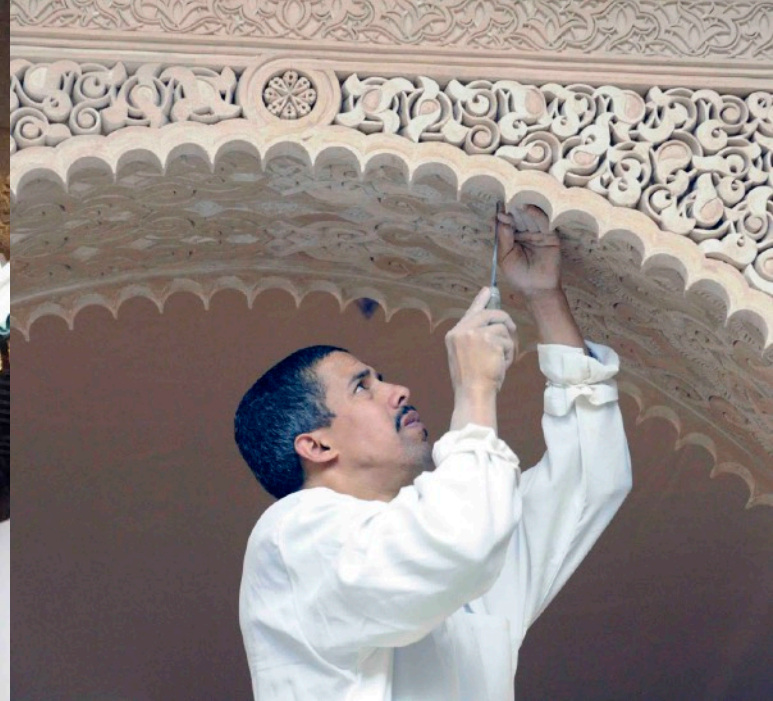
During the period of Rasulid control of Yemen, the Rasulid family served as administrators when the last Abyssinian governor departed, the Rasulids took control of the region and established the Rasulid dynasty.

Location of Electronic Resources



Problems of Showing and Interpreting Period Spaces





FIVE

After the Visit:

Keeping the Museum Experience Alive in Memory

