



The Museum für Islamische Kunst in Berlin

The Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum Berlin is the largest institution of its kind in Germany. With ten thousands of items, it has one of the biggest collections of Islamic art, culture and craftsmanship anywhere in the world. Its broad spectrum of exhibits covers almost every area of cultural production to be found in Middle Eastern societies: architectural ornamentation, arts and crafts, jewellery, and rare illuminated and calligraphic manuscripts.

Architectural ornamentation is one of the main attractions, featuring typical environments and diverse concepts of space: the monumental façade of the caliph's palace of Mahatta/Jordan, dating from the mid 8th century (the largest artefact of Islamic Art in any museum); archaeological finds from the caliph's capital of Samarra/Iraq, providing evidence of global



Private reception hall from Aleppo, Syria, dated 1600-01, detail >

< Mosque Lamp, Syria or Egypt, early 14th century
<< Khalifa Palace of Mahatta, Jordan, mid 8th century

trade in the 9th century; spectacular 13th-century prayer niches from Kashan/Iran and Konya/Turkey, and the finely painted wooden panelling of an upper-class house from Aleppo/Syria from the early 17th century (the oldest surviving exemplar from the Ottoman World).

Starting with a donation of twenty-six carpets from the famous museum pioneer Wilhelm von Bode – the founder of the Islamic Art Department in 1904 and originator of carpet studies – the museum now has one of the most famous carpet collections worldwide. The internationally renowned Kair Collection will enrich the museum's collections.

The Pergamon Museum on the Museum Island is part of the UNESCO World Heritage.



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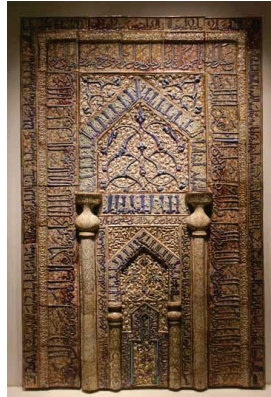
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Mission and Objectives

PERSPECTIVES: The museum will be moving within the Pergamon Museum – the most visited museum in Berlin – and re-open with an exhibition space of about 3,000 sq m. The layout and concept will explore new and innovative ways of presenting the cultural legacy of Muslim societies to an international audience: it has more than 1 million visitors a year and is well-covered by media. With its yearly Ramadan Festival, it invites Muslims and non-Muslims alike to explore the rich cultural legacy of Middle Eastern societies in the centre of Berlin.

CULTURAL MEMORY: The Museum preserves, studies, restores and communicates the cultural memory of Muslim societies from the Mediterranean to the Pacific, and from Antiquity to the Modern Ages. Its conservation workshops, with four permanent restorers, enjoy an international reputation.

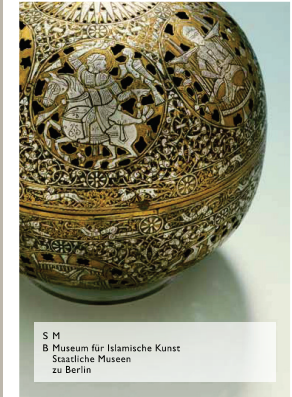


Incense burner, Syria, 2nd half of the 13th century >

< Prayer niche from Kashan, Iran, dated 1226
<< Miniature, Shahzad Shah-namaeh "Sam and Zay", fabric, around 1530

PARTNERSHIPS: The Berlin Museum operates within an extensive global network of museums, heritage activists, artists, and researchers at an institutional and personal level, and also collaborates closely with museums in the Muslim world (Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Kuwait, Tunisia, Malaysia etc.).

RESEARCH: The museum houses one of the largest specialised libraries on Islamic art, architecture, and archaeology. With its five permanent researchers and several visiting scholars, it is one of the foremost centres of research on the material culture of the Middle East and adjacent areas. It is member of several research networks (Excellence Cluster Topoi, EUME, and others) and co-operates with the leading international research institutions.



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