

# In Defence of Islamic Architecture, a Style of Beauty and Elegance

Islamic architecture is a style of architecture that has been developed over centuries by Muslims. It is a diverse style that encompasses a wide range of buildings, from mosques to palaces to schools. Islamic architecture is often characterized by its use of geometric patterns, arches, and domes.

In recent years, Islamic architecture has come under fire from some critics who argue that it is oppressive and outdated. However, this criticism is based on a misunderstanding of the style. Islamic architecture is not oppressive; it is a style of beauty and elegance that has been used to create some of the world's most iconic buildings.



## Style: In Defence Of... Islamic Architecture by Karl Sharro

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## The Origins of Islamic Architecture

The origins of Islamic architecture can be traced back to the 7th century when the Prophet Muhammad established Islam in the Arabian Peninsula.

The first mosques were built during this period, and they were simple structures that were used for prayer and religious instruction.

As Islam spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa, the style of Islamic architecture began to evolve. Mosques became more elaborate, and they began to incorporate elements from the local cultures. For example, the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria, was built in the 8th century and is one of the earliest examples of Islamic architecture that incorporates Byzantine elements.

### **The Golden Age of Islamic Architecture**

The golden age of Islamic architecture occurred during the 10th and 11th centuries. During this period, the Abbasid dynasty ruled over much of the Middle East and North Africa, and they were responsible for the construction of some of the most famous Islamic buildings in the world.

One of the most famous examples of Abbasid architecture is the Great Mosque of Cordoba, Spain. The mosque was built in the 10th century and is one of the largest mosques in the world. The mosque is famous for its beautiful arches and columns, and it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### **The Decline of Islamic Architecture**

The decline of Islamic architecture began in the 13th century when the Mongols invaded the Middle East. The Mongols destroyed many Islamic buildings, and they also disrupted the trade routes that had brought materials and ideas from other parts of the world.

After the Mongol invasion, Islamic architecture continued to decline. However, there were still some notable examples of the style built during

this period. For example, the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain, was built in the 14th century and is one of the most famous examples of Moorish architecture.

## The Revival of Islamic Architecture

The revival of Islamic architecture began in the 19th century. During this period, there was a growing interest in the style among European architects. This interest was fueled by the publication of books and articles about Islamic architecture, and by the construction of a number of new Islamic buildings in Europe.

In the 20th century, the revival of Islamic architecture continued. New mosques and other Islamic buildings were built all over the world, and the style became increasingly popular among architects and designers.

## The Future of Islamic Architecture

The future of Islamic architecture is bright. The style is becoming increasingly popular, and there are many new mosques and other Islamic buildings being built all over the world. Islamic architecture is a beautiful and elegant style that has a long and rich history. It is a style that will continue to be used for centuries to come.



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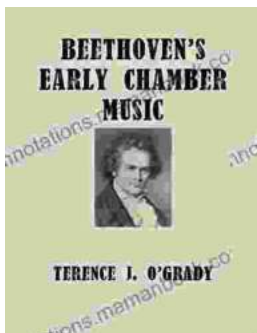
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