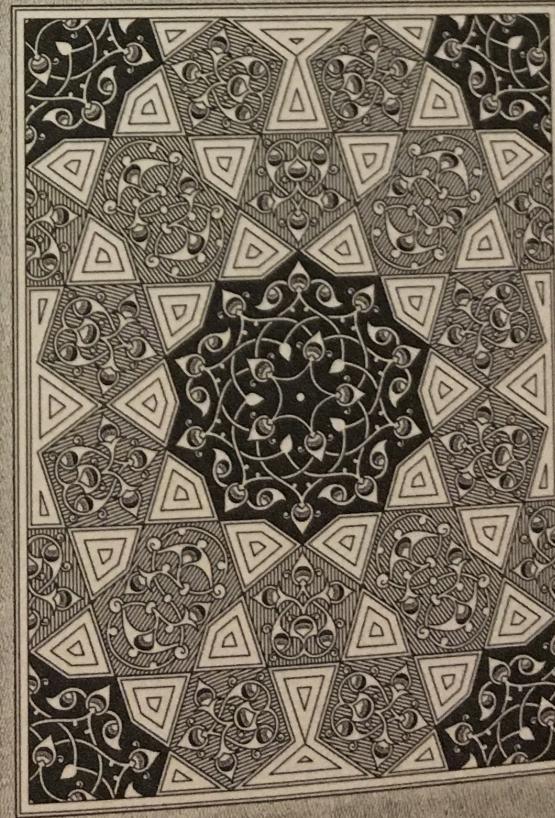
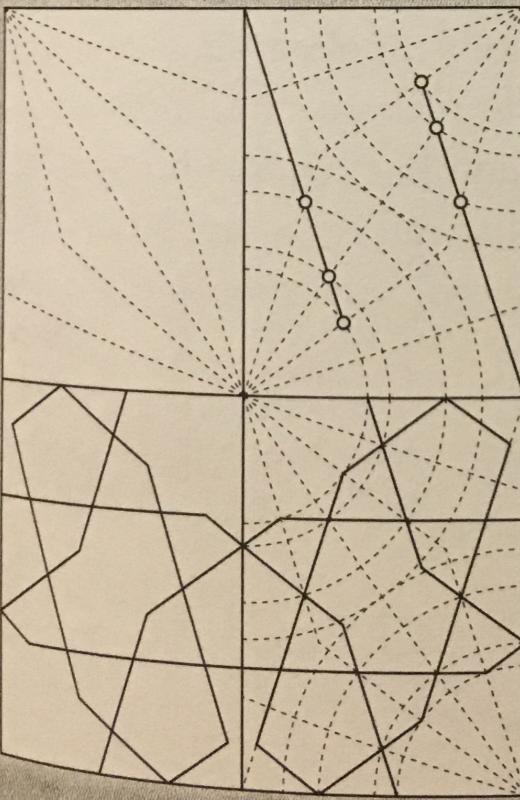
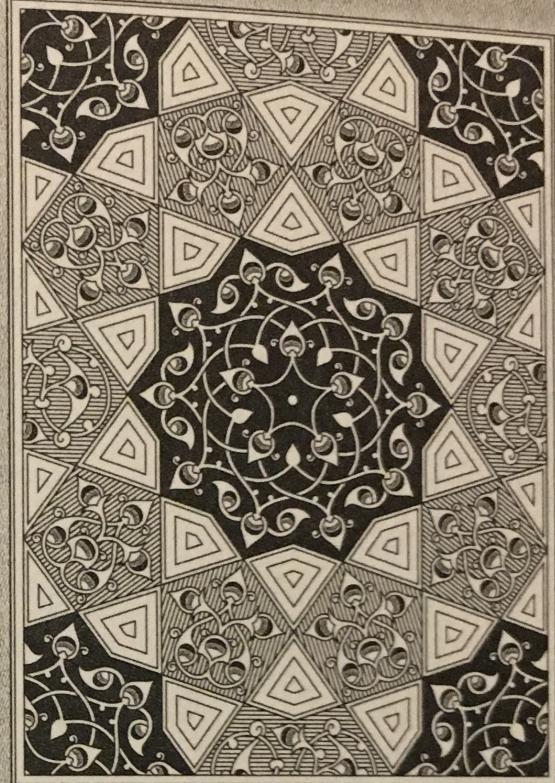
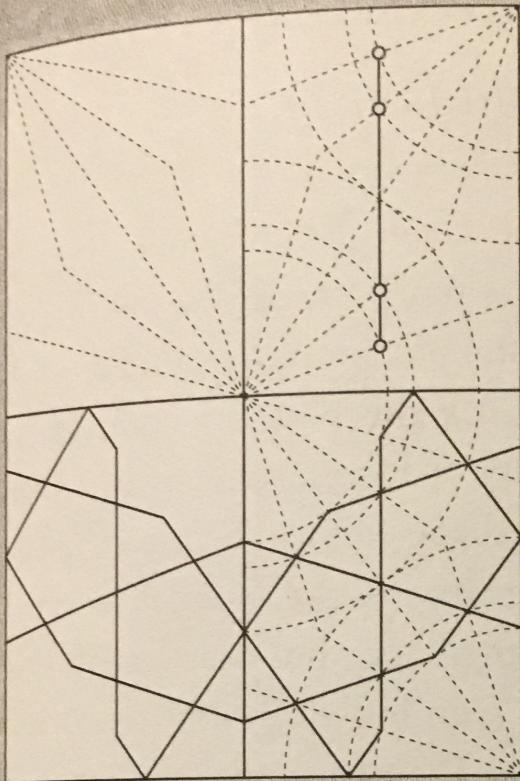
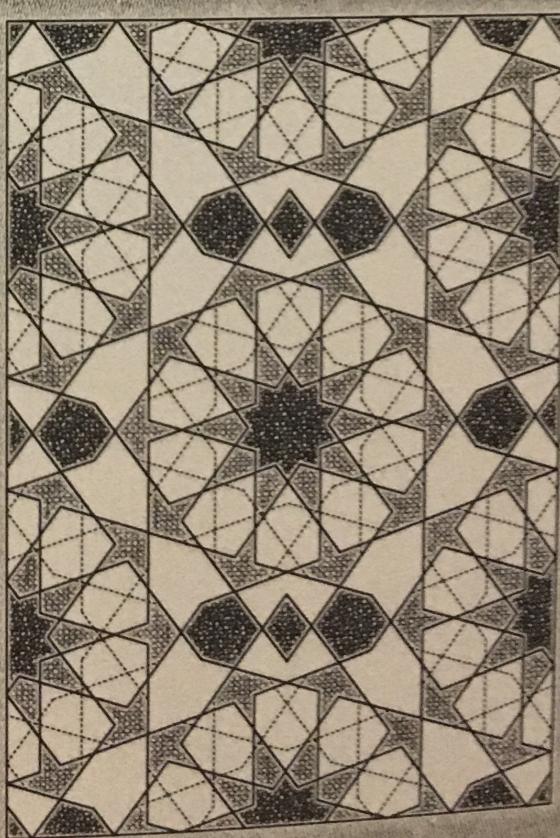
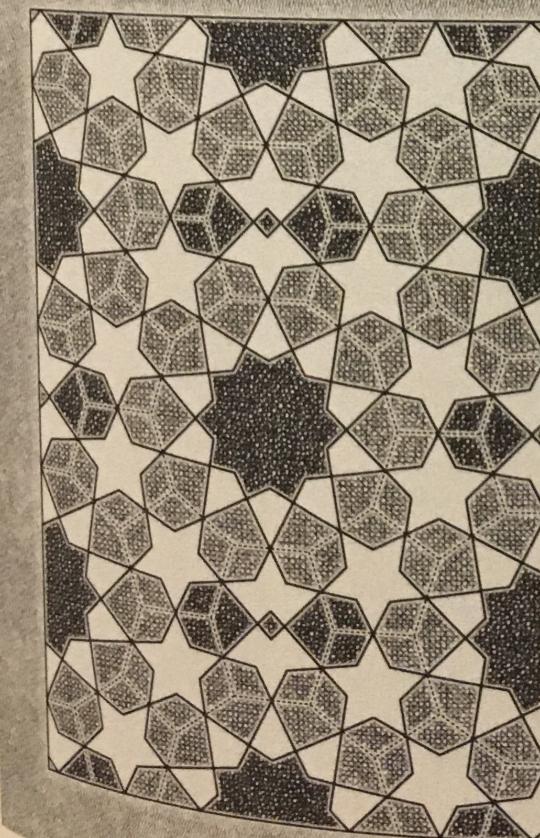
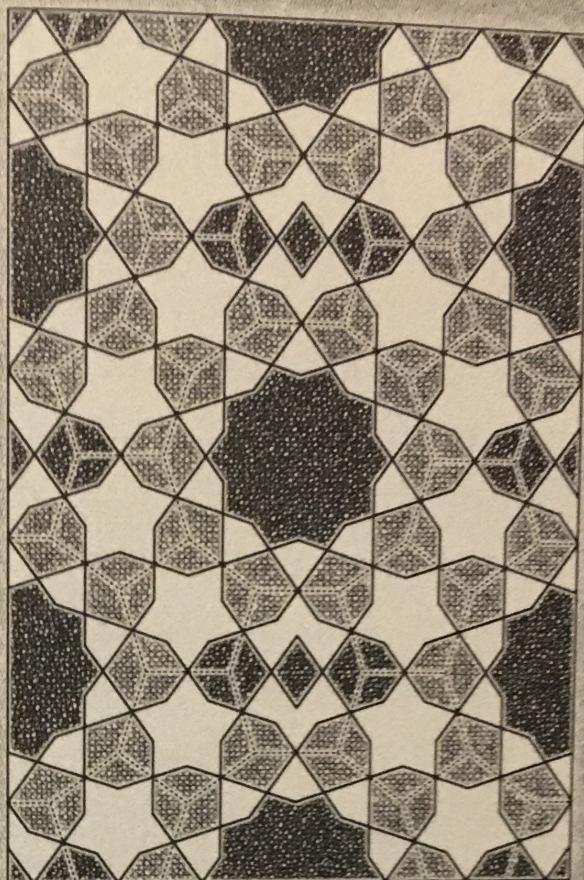
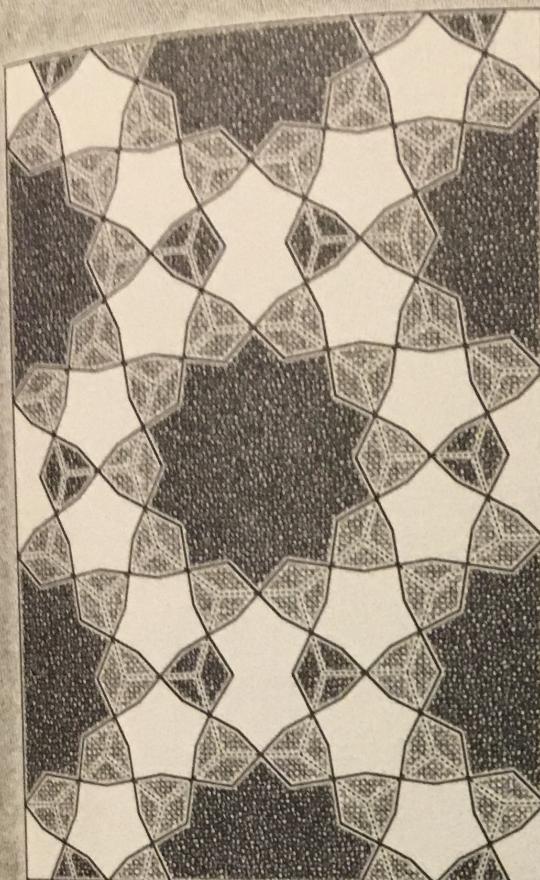
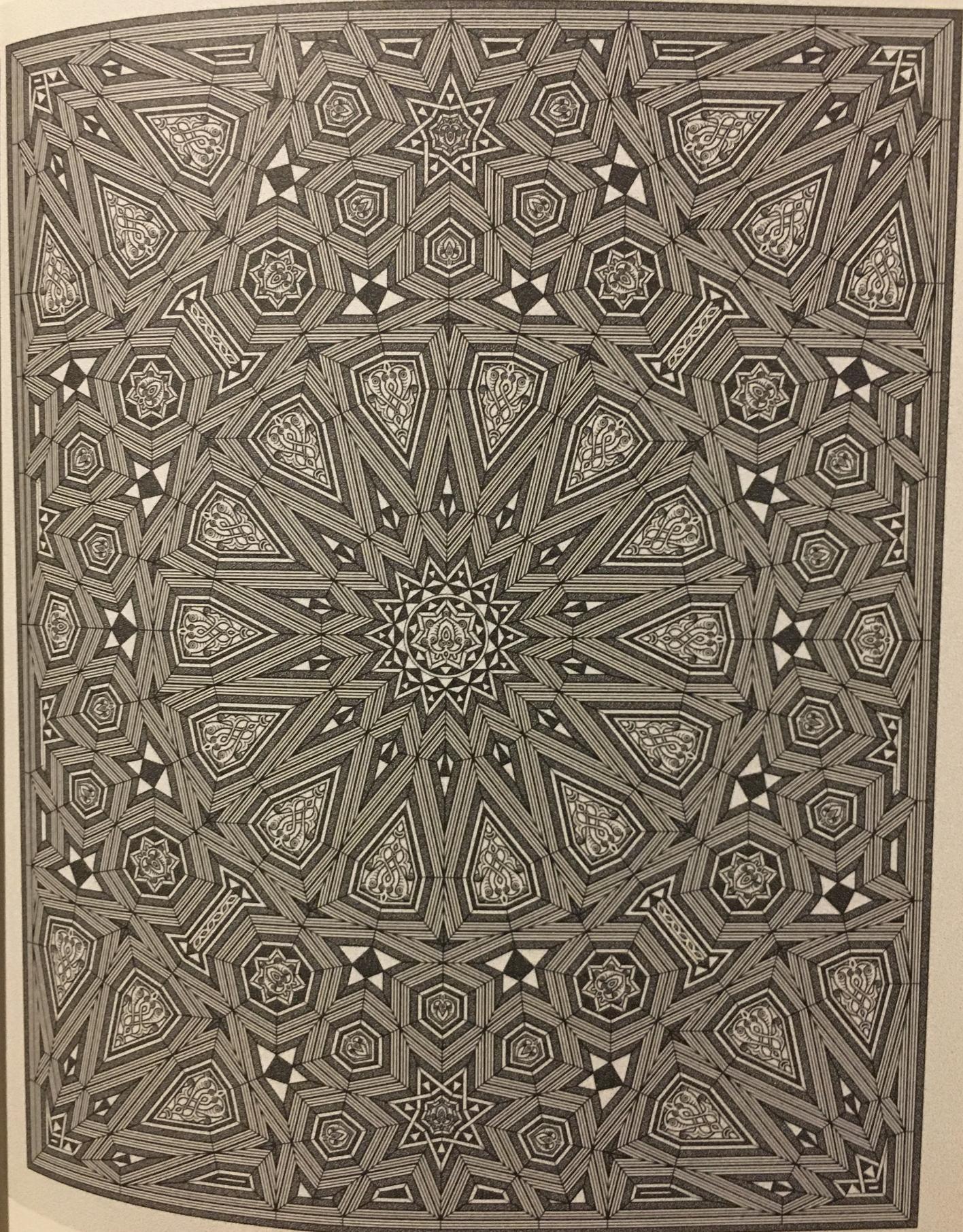


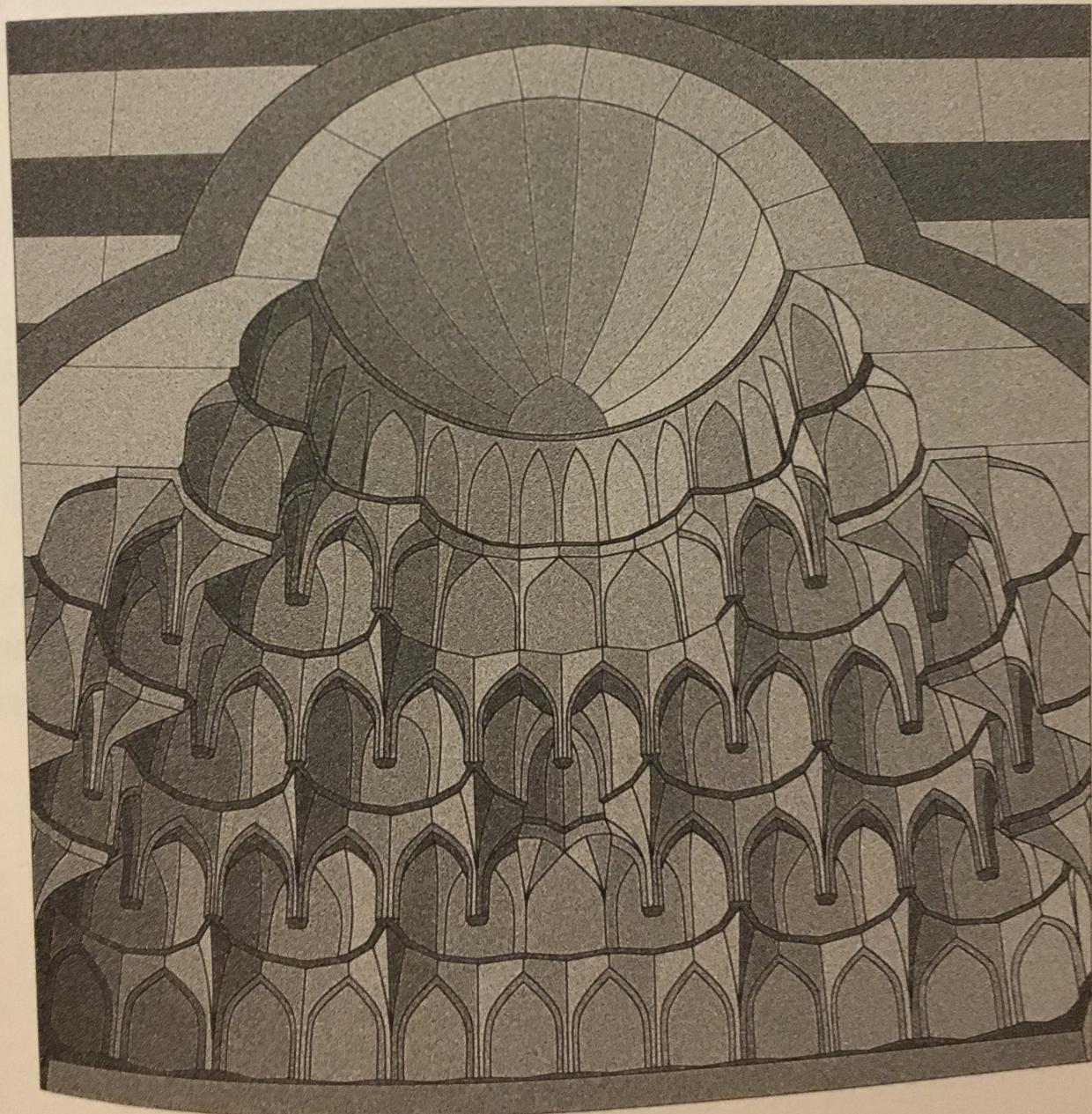
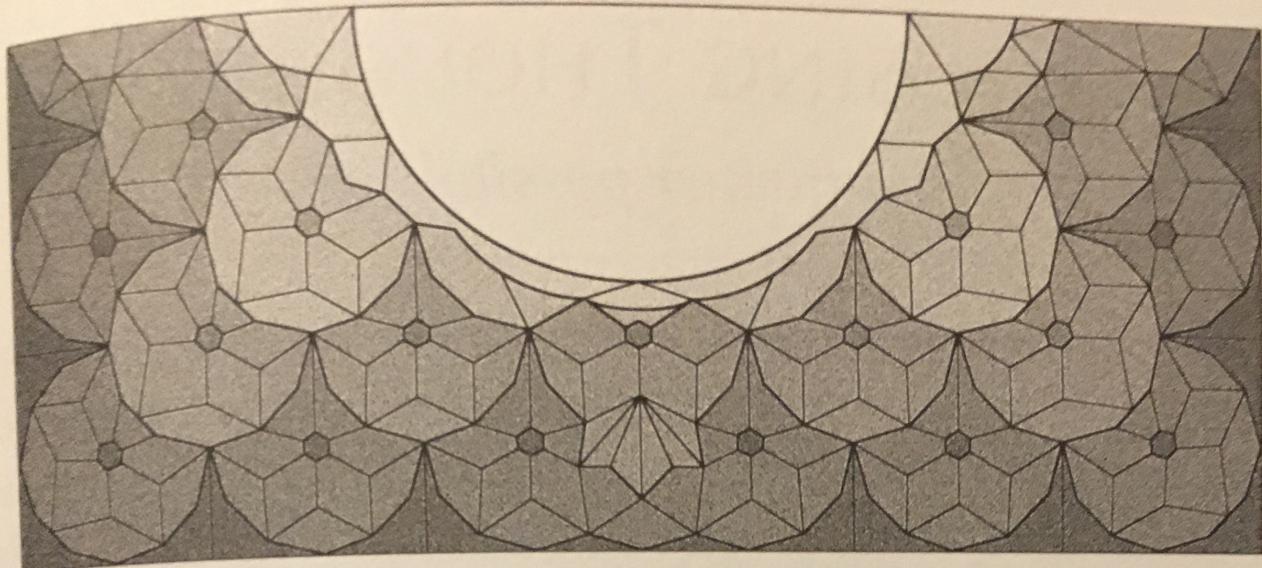
Arabic letters all have numerical values. This system, known as "abjad," was originally used for writing numbers before Indian decimal numerals were adopted. Nowadays it is used for its symbolic value. The pattern above right is composed of 165 pieces, the abjad total for 'La ilaha illa Allah.'—'There is no divinity but God' — the quintessential statement of Divine Unity in Islam. A related example is shown

number of Divine Names.

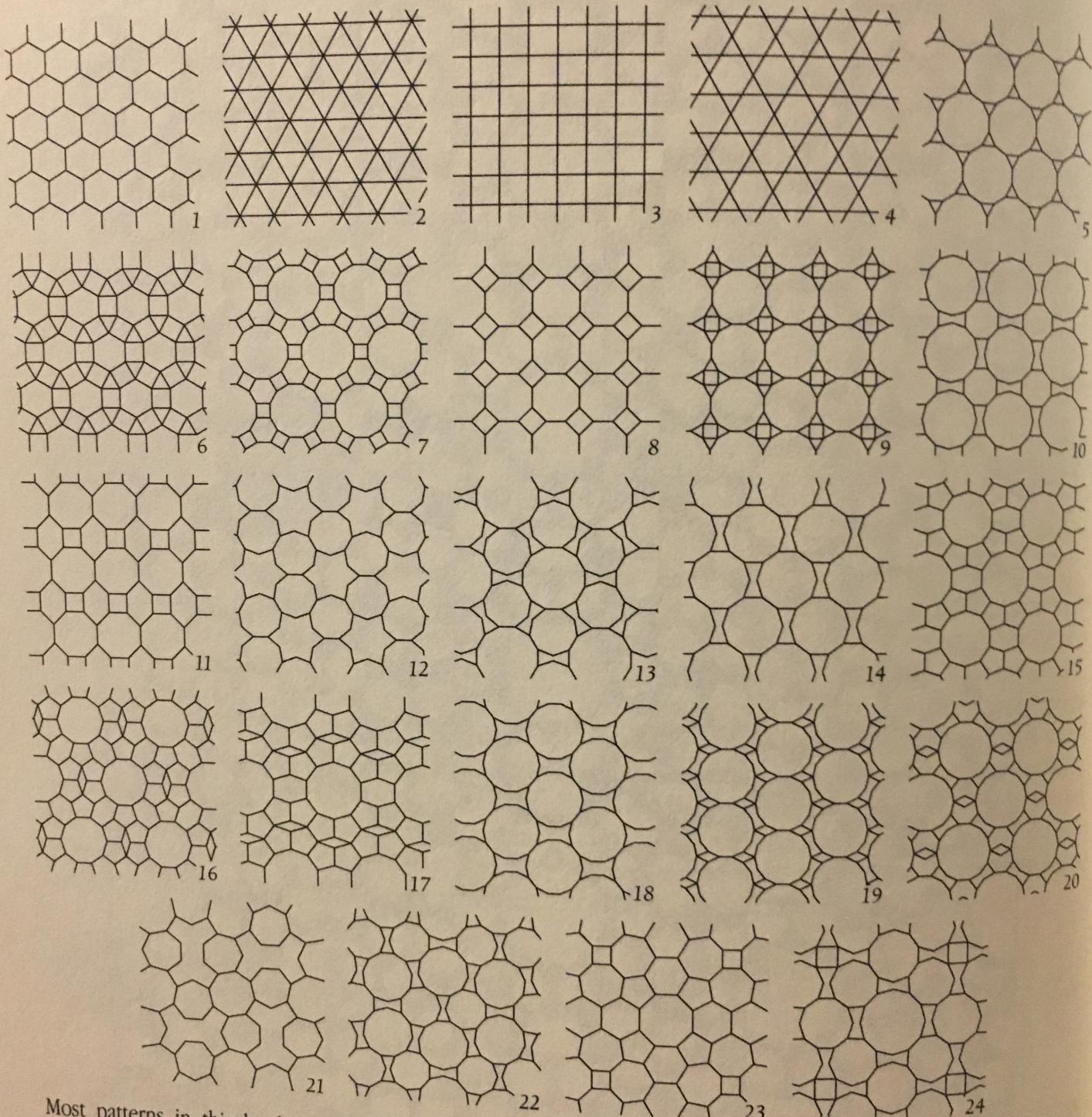






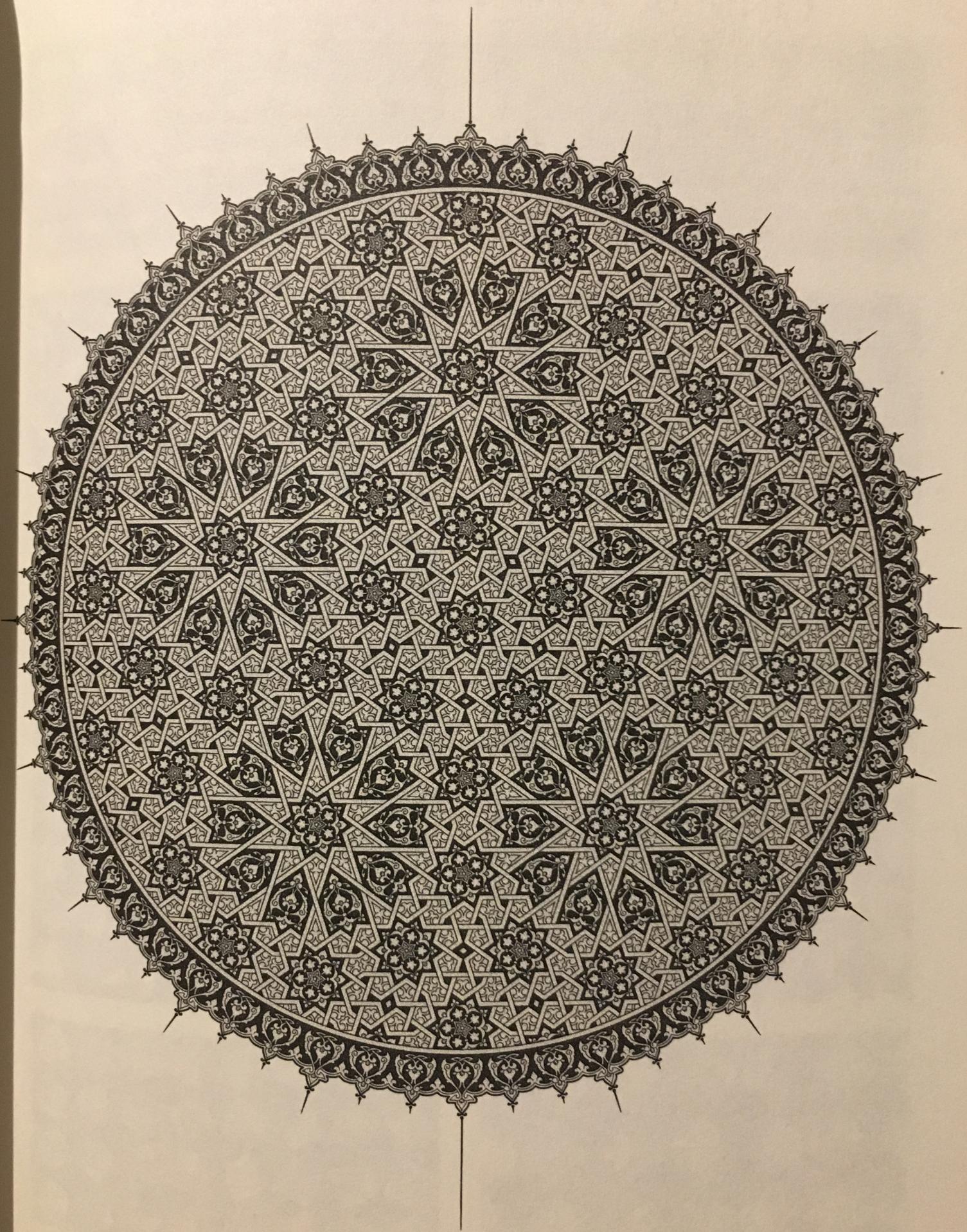


SUBGRIDS



Most patterns in this book rest on relatively simple polygonal subgrids. Those used are shown here with the pages on which they occur: 1. p.3, p.4, p.5 - 2. dual of 1. - 3. p.9, p.25 (middle left), p.26 - 4. p.32, p.33 - 5. p.16, p.19 (top row), p.21 (top right), p.23 (top center and top right) - 6. p.7, p.19 (third row) - 7. p.17, p.23 (bottom left) - 8. p.9 (alternative for 3.), p.25 (top right and bottom right), p.26, p.10, p.11 (top row) - 9. p.19 (second

row and bottom), p.21 (top left) - 10. p.25 (bottom left), p.44 - 11. p.11 (second row left) - 12. p.23 (bottom middle) - 13. front cover - 14. p.15 (bottom right), p.34, p.35 (top), p.36, p.38, p.39 (all patterns) - 15. p.15 (bottom right), p.34, p.35 (top), p.36, p.38, p.39 (all patterns, alternative for 14.) - 16. p.35 (bottom) - 17. half title page - 18. p.40 (left) - 19. p.40 (right) - 20. p.41 - 21. p.42 - 22. p.43 - 23. p.45 (top) - 24. p.45 (bottom).



Of all the ornamental styles developed from early Kufic script, *Square Kufic*, set rigorously on a square grid, is the most obviously geometric. Alphabetic writing encodes the sounds of speech and thus conveys words, sentences, new information, and, above all, meaning to the reader. Square Kufic presents a curious inversion of this function as it remains well nigh illegible to a great many Arabic readers, its purely graphic twists, turns, simplifications, and compromises to letterform leaving them lost. It is easiest

to decipher when the word or phrase written is already well known to the viewer, thus rather than conveying new information, or preserving a text accurately for posterity, Square Kufic acts primarily as a talismanic invocation of sacred words and phrases already familiar. Simple words or phrases are often arranged in rotating repetitions (*top row*), longer passages (*middle row*) are arranged spiraling round from the outside, often starting at the bottom right corner (*bottom row*).



Praise be to God



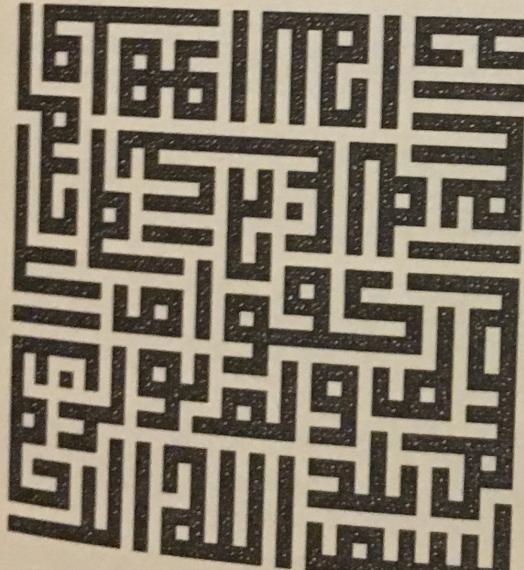
Muhammad



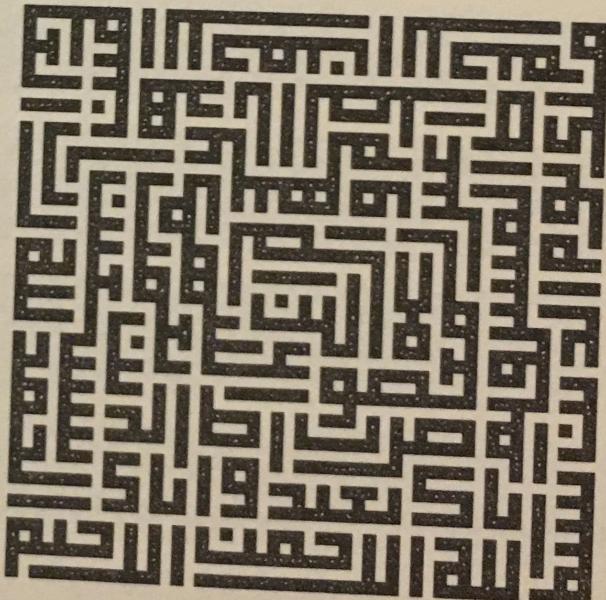
Ali



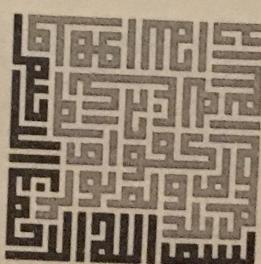
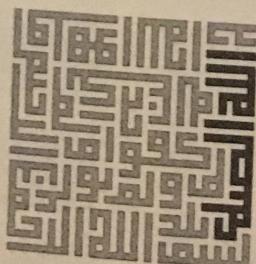
Allah - Muhammad - Ali



Surat al-Ikhlas - chapter 112 of the Quran



Surat al-Fatiha - first chapter of the Quran



5

4

3

2

1