

Reflection

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Islamic and Europe Architecture

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Islamic and Europe Architecture

After reading ¹ Diana Darke's article, "Stealing from the Saracens: How Islamic Architecture Shaped Europe," I was intrigued by her assertion that Islamic architecture has had a lasting impact on European architecture. According to Darke (2020), Europe has not just borrowed from the Islamic world but assimilated several design principles from the East that were then adapted and incorporated into European architecture. She argues that European architecture could not have achieved its current complexity and beauty without being strongly influenced by Islamic architecture. I find this claim fascinating, and it has made me more curious to learn about the history of Islamic architecture in Europe.

This convincing book makes the case that the finest gothic structures in northern Europe owe a great deal to the Arab world. It serves as a helpful reminder of how interrelated civilizations are, and it is an exceptionally ambitious study of Islamic architecture and its impact on the West. This illustrated book demonstrates how our cultures connect and intertwine in ways that contradict all presumptions we could have about our history in a way that is as thrilling as it is educational. Darke discusses the likelihood of a unified and compassionate civilization in the future by looking at our past. Through her research, Darke demonstrates how our cultures are more intertwined than we might expect, opening us up to a world of possibilities for the future.

One fascinating example of this blend of Eastern and Western architecture is the mosque-cathedral of Cordoba in Spain. Built in the 10th century, the mosque-cathedral is a testament to the power of Islamic architecture to inspire and influence European structures. The mosque-cathedral is a sprawling complex of domes, arches, and columns that serves as a perfect example of how Islamic architecture has shaped and transformed European culture (Wainwright, 2020). The mosque-cathedral also has a long history, with additions and changes made by each culture that occupied it.

In conclusion, I have a newfound appreciation of the fantastic cultural connections throughout history. This book is a powerful reminder of the vast cultural exchanges that occurred and the lasting impact they had on both East and West architecture. The Cordoba Mosque-Cathedral is a testament to this influence, blending Islamic and European styles into one beautiful building. It is clear that Islamic architecture has profoundly impacted European architecture, and this has helped to create the stunning architecture found all over Europe today.

References

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