

Islam & the Persianate World: Iran, Central Asia, India

11th-13th Centuries

“Simultaneity”:

Crusades, the Maghrib, Commercial Networks (maritime & overland)

**Emphasis on the eastern Islamic World
Political & cultural significance of *Irānshahr***

Incorporation of new populations & ways of living:

- nomadic vs. sedentary**
- tribal vs. centralized**
- militaristic vs. urbane**
- meeting of old civilizations**

Islam & the Persianate World: Iran, Central Asia, India

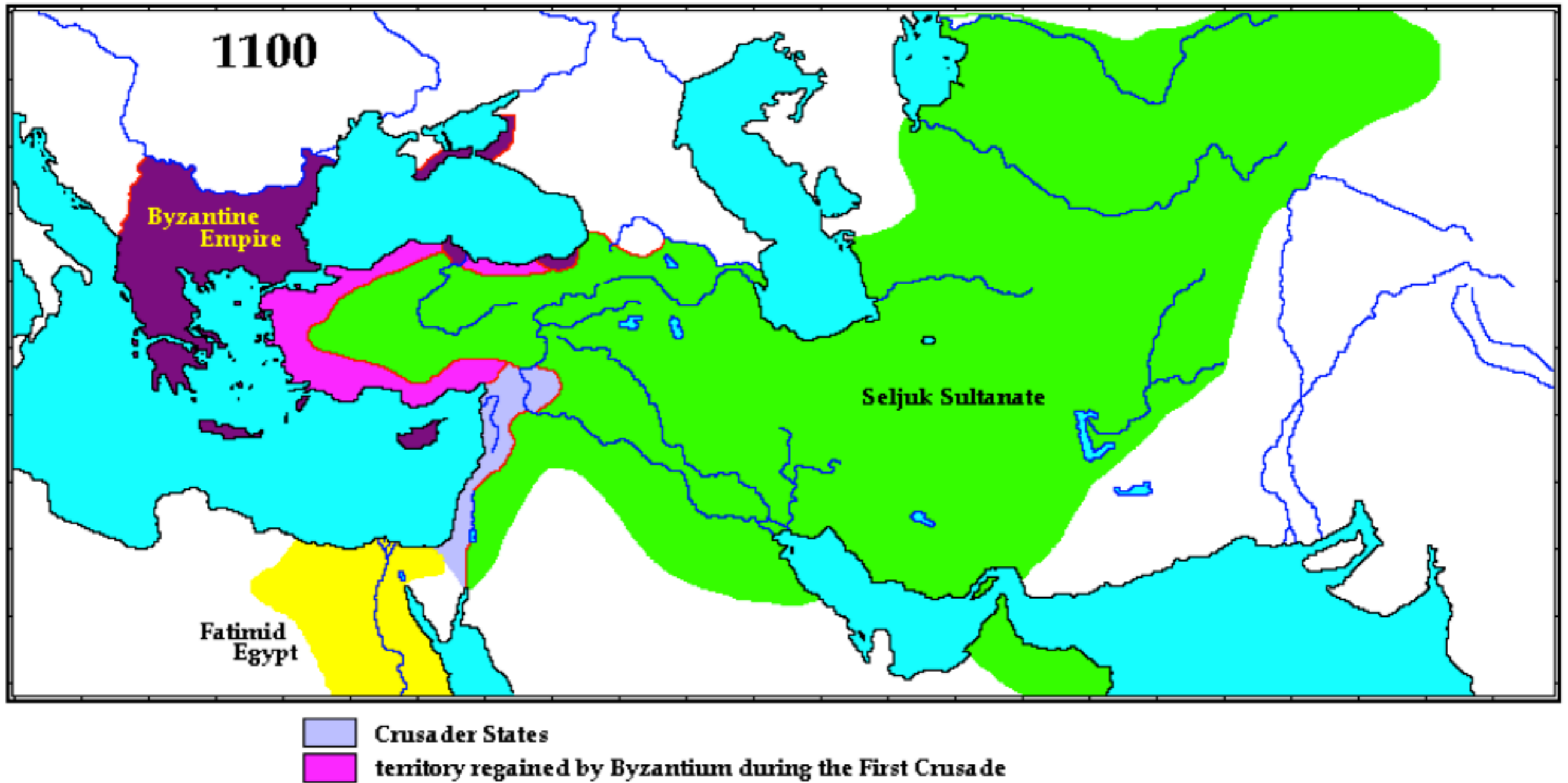
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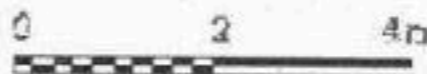
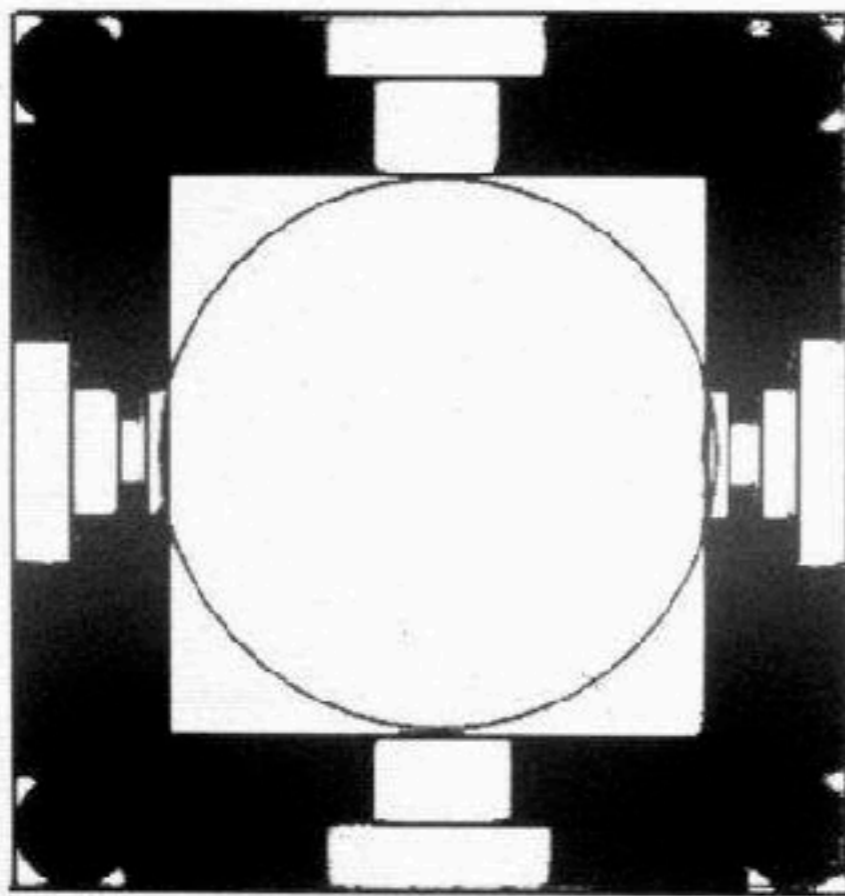
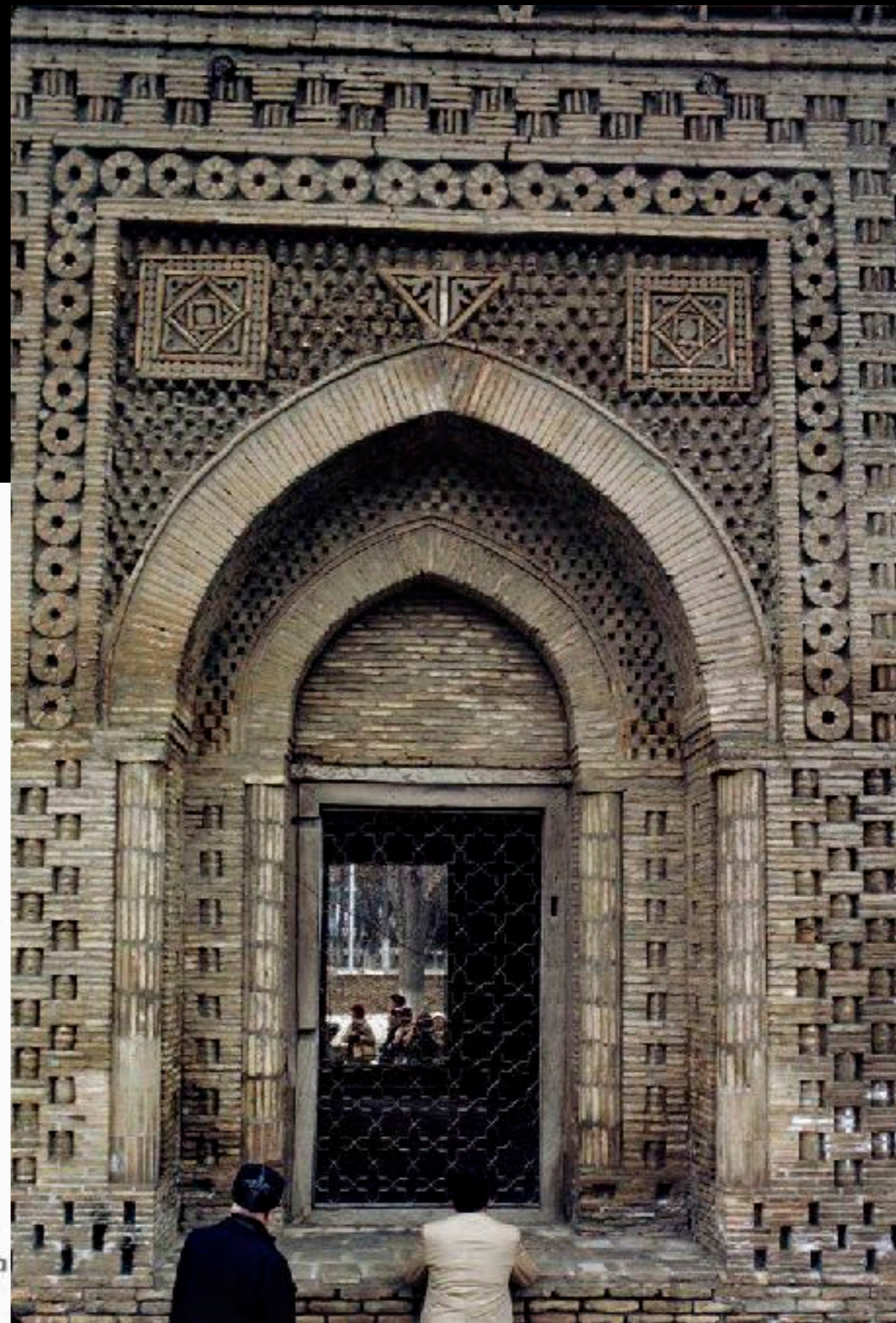
*** Discernible importance of non-royal - mainly mercantile - patronage**

*** Records of individual “artists,” craftsmen**

“Simultaneity”...



Tomb of the Samanids. Bukhara (Uzbekistan). Early 10th c.



Tomb of the Samanids. Bukhara (Uzbekistan). Early 10th c.



**Fire Temple (Zoroastrian), Seymareh, central Iran.
C. 5th-6th c.**



© Courtesy Touraj Daryaei

The Emergence of an Imperial Islam - empire vs. region

Defining “Islamic”

What is “Islamic” about an object or building?

Does “Islamic” define an object’s entire identity, or are other factors important in defining it?

Congregational Mosque, Isfahan (central Iran). Founded Late 8th century; major additions/expansions in 12th century (Saljuq) and onward.

© Alka Patel 2011.

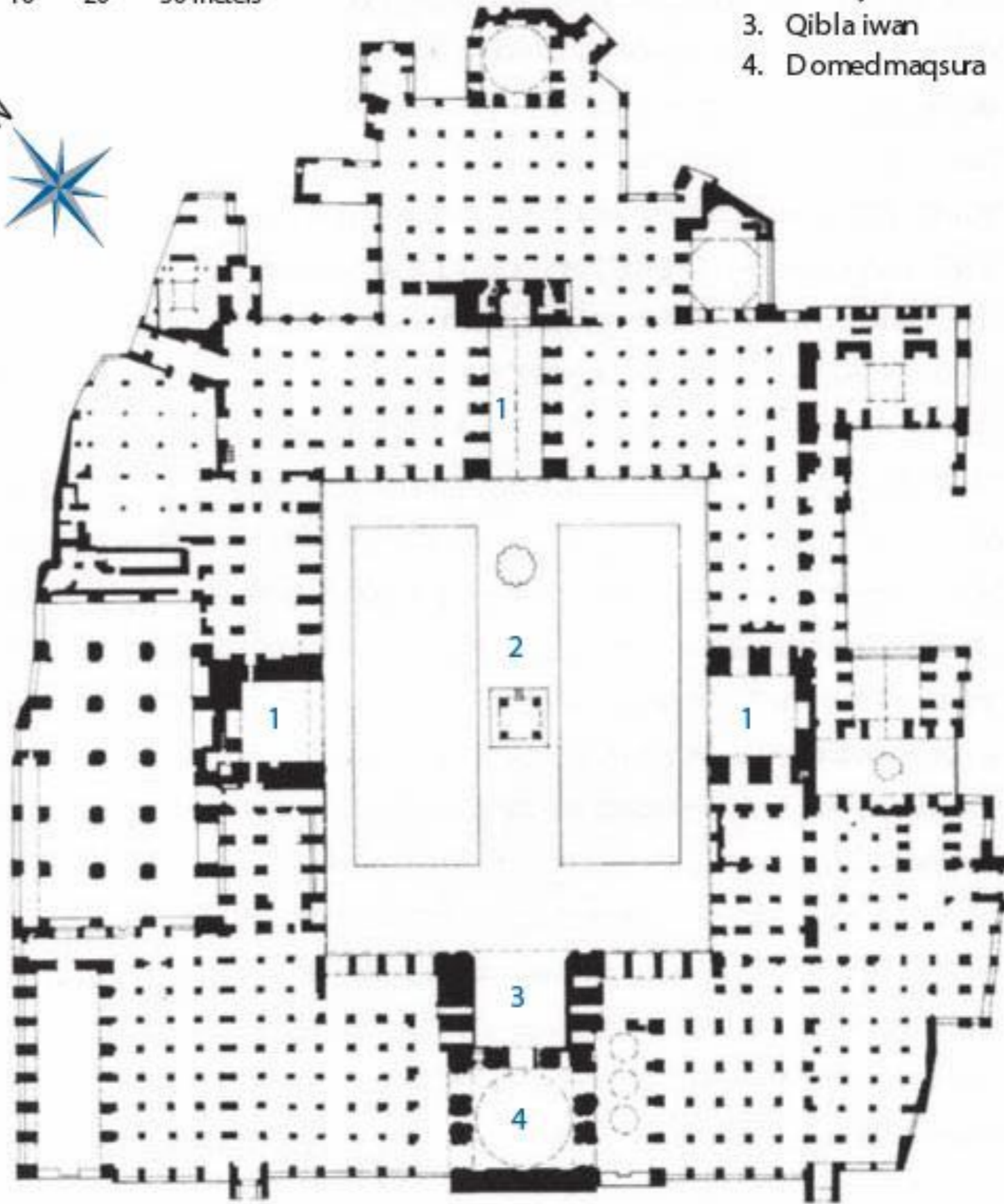


four-iwan mosque

0 25 50 75 100 feet
0 10 20 30 meters



1. Iwan
2. Courtyard
3. Qibla iwan
4. Domed maqsura





**Congregational Mosque, Isfahan (central Iran).
Founded Late 8th century; major additions/
expansions in 12th century (Saljuq) and onward.
© Alka Patel 2011.**





Congregational Mosque, Isfahan (central Iran). Founded Late 8th century; major additions/expansions in 12th century (Saljuq) and onward. *Madrasa* on southeast.

© Alka Patel 2011.



Congregational Mosque, Isfahan (central Iran). Founded Late 8th century; major additions/expansions in 12th century (Saljuq) and onward. Southwest *iwan*.

© Alka Patel 2011.

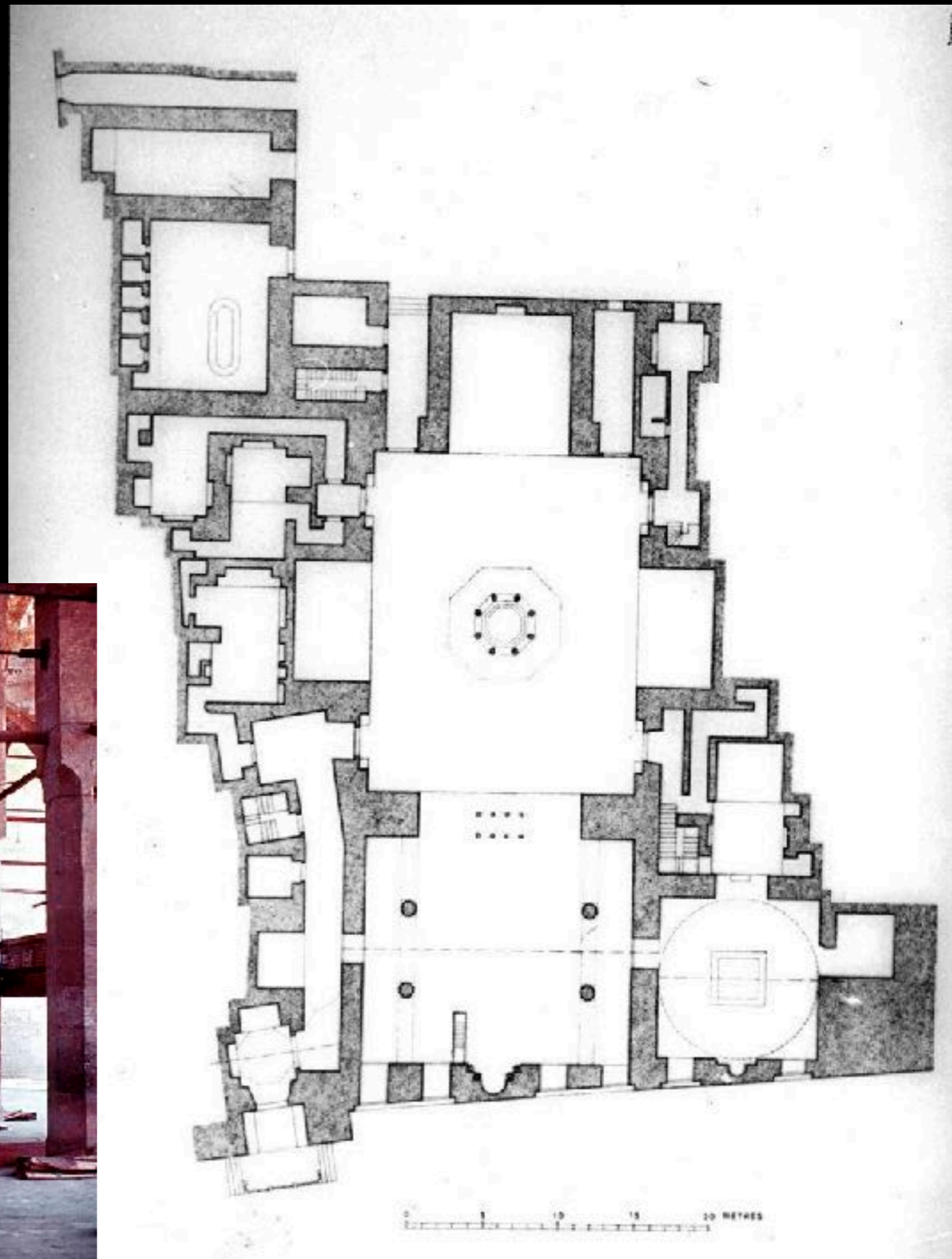
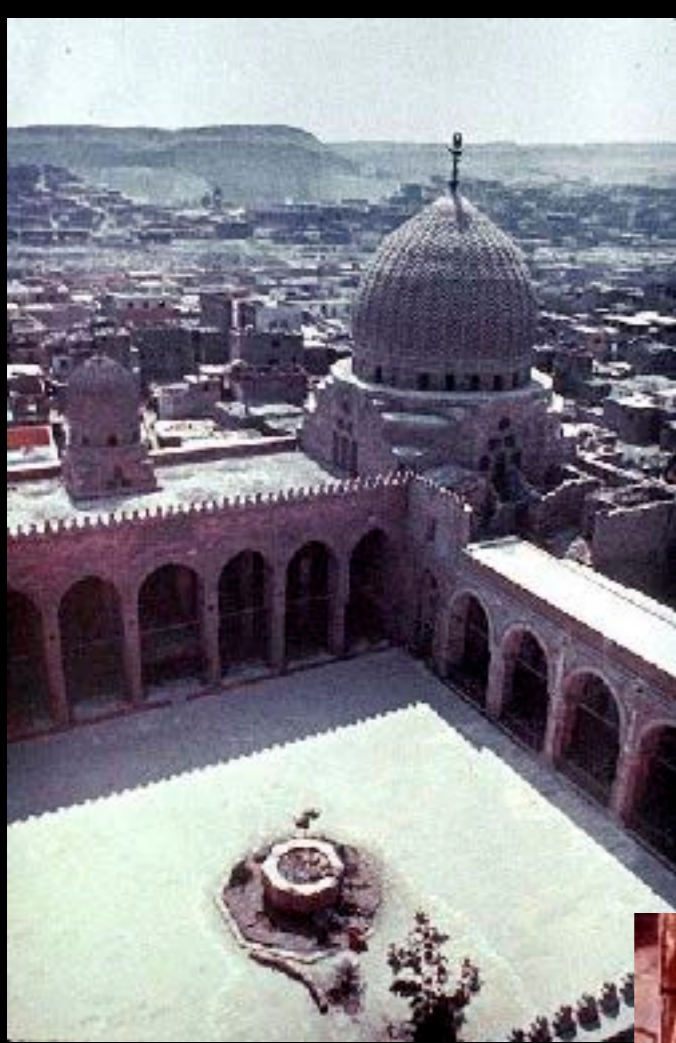


Robat Sharaf, near Sarakhs (eastern Iran). Early through mid-12th century. © Alka Patel.



**Ribat. Monastir, Tunisia.
8th century.**

Style & Iconography



Khanqah of Sultan Barquq (r. 1382-99). Late 14th century. Cairo, Egypt.



Mina'i Ware Bowl. Early 13th century. Probably Kashan, central Iran.

Shared aesthetic across media...

Connections with much farther east: China...

Mina'i Ware Bowl. Early 13th century. Probably Kashan, Iran.



**Art as a Primary Source
Style & Iconography**

Porcelain Bowl. Yuan China, probably late 13th century



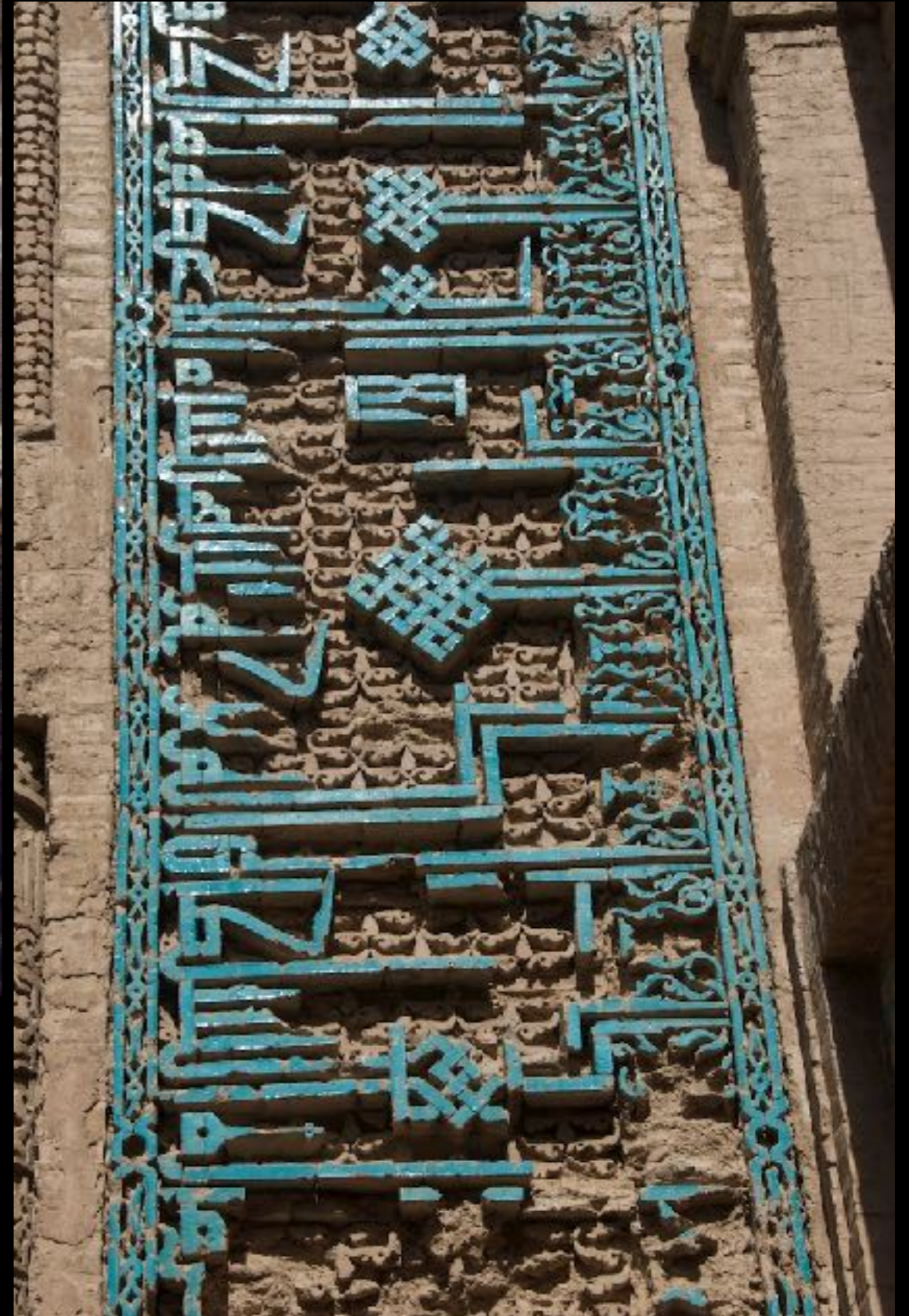


“Bobrinski” Bucket. Inscription: Ordered by ‘Abd al-Rahman ibn ‘Abd Allah al-Rashidi; cast by Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahid, decorated by Hajib Mas’ud ibn Mahmud of Herat, for its owner Rashid al-Din ‘Azizi ibn Abi’l-Husayn al-Zanjani in 1163.

“Bobrinski” Bucket, Herat, Afghanistan. 1163.



“Art” as a Primary Source Style & Iconography



Mosque, Herat, Afghanistan. ca. 1200
© Alka Patel 2011

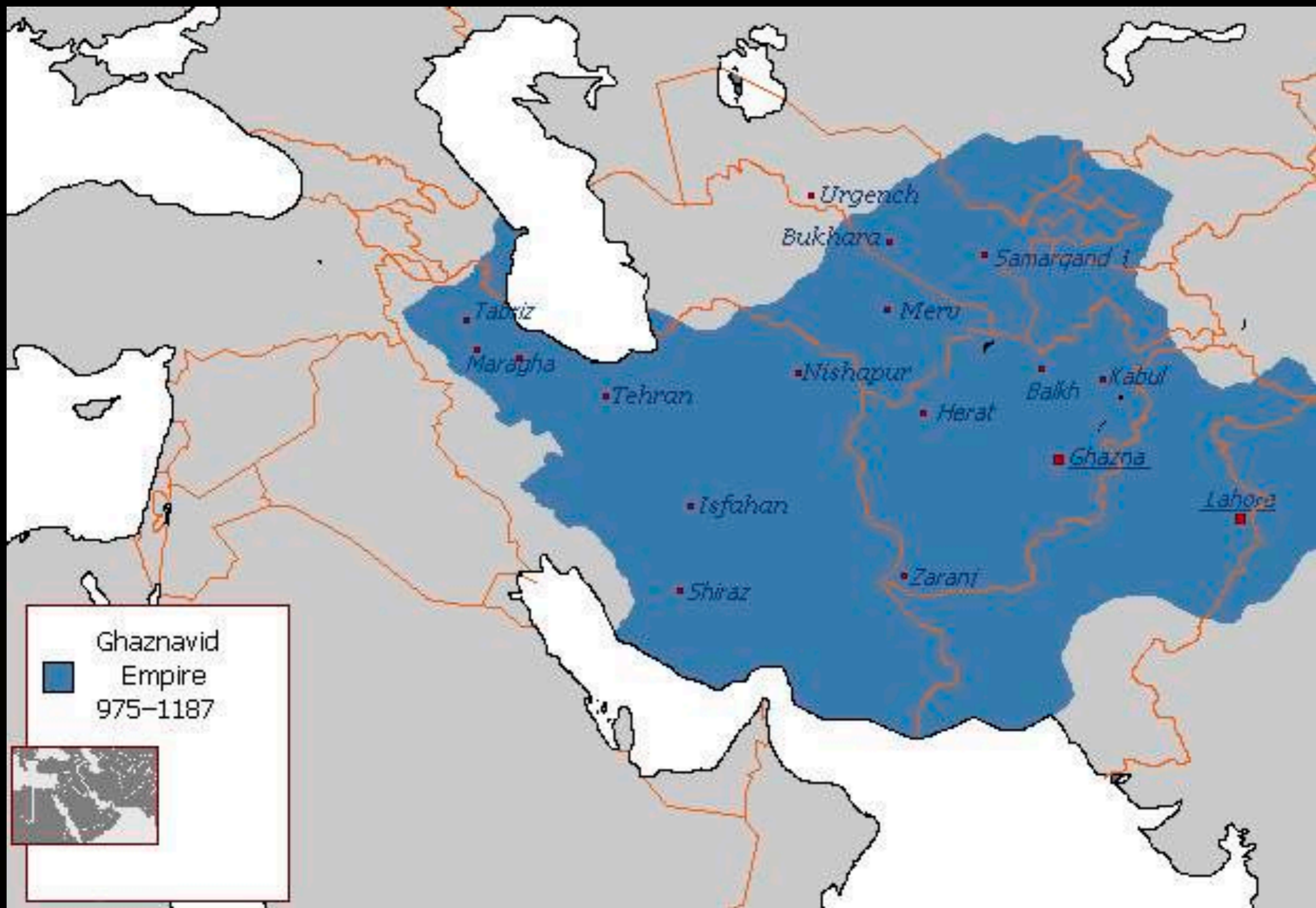
“Bobrinski” Bucket, Herat, 1163



**“Art” as a Primary Source
Style & Iconography**



Pilgrim’s Flask, Syria/Iraq, mid-13th c.





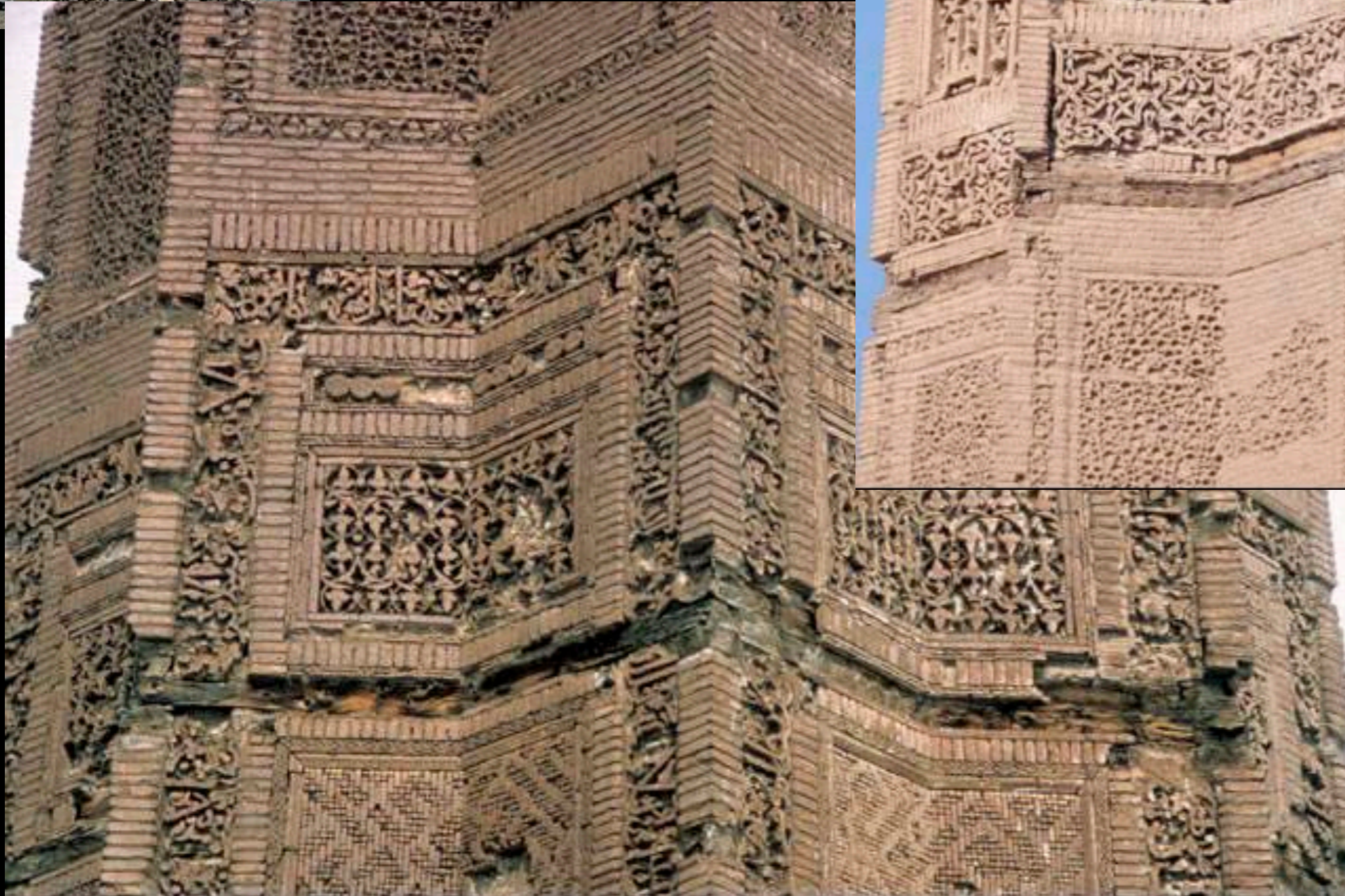
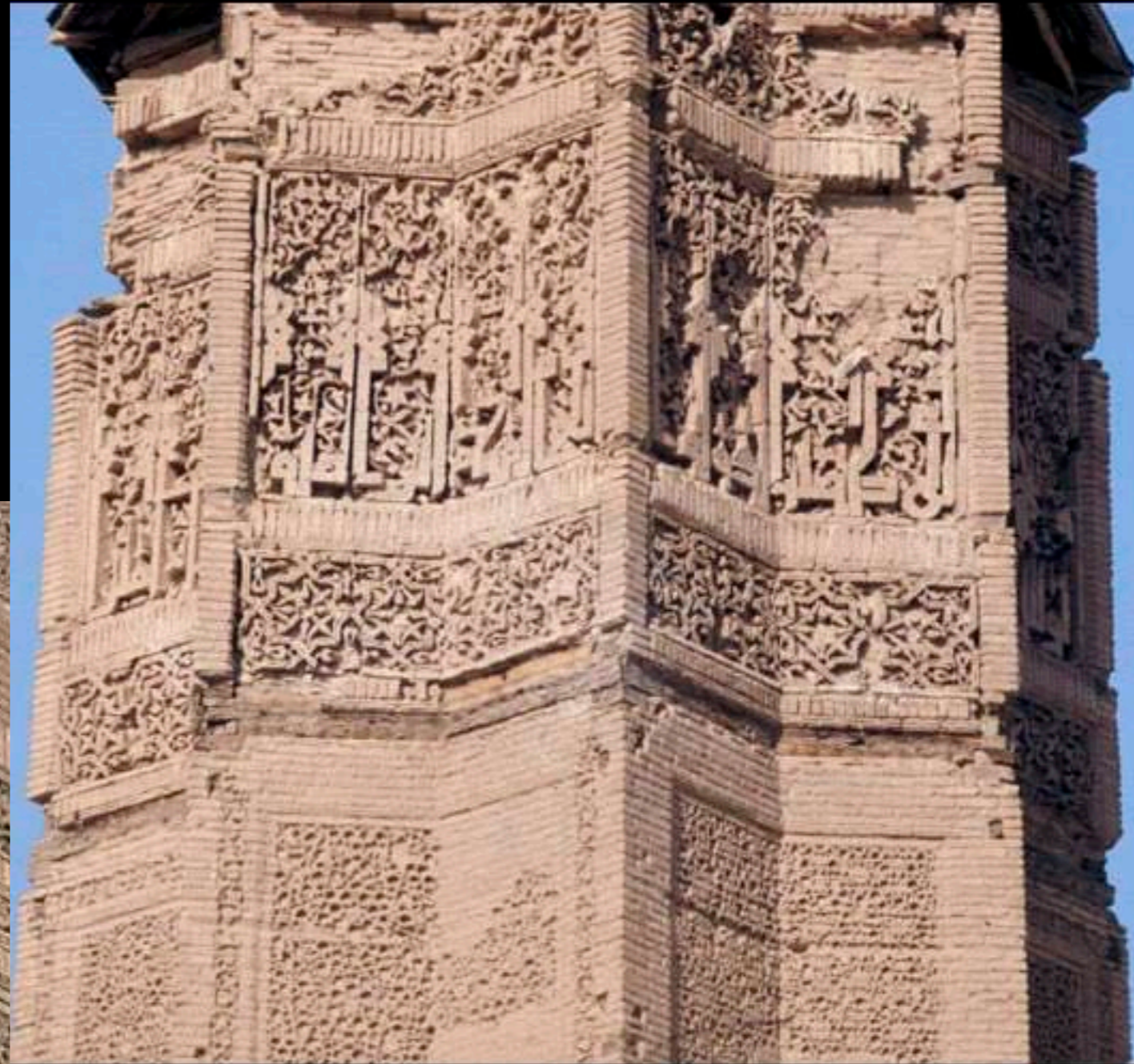
Tower of Mas'ud III, Ghazna (Afghanistan). 1099-1115.

Politics vs. Religion

Tower of Mas'ud III, Ghazna (Afghanistan). 1099-1115.



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Tower of Mas'ud III: precedents, function??



Mosque, Nain (Iran), 10c © Alka Patel 2011

Tower of Mas'ud III: precedents, function??

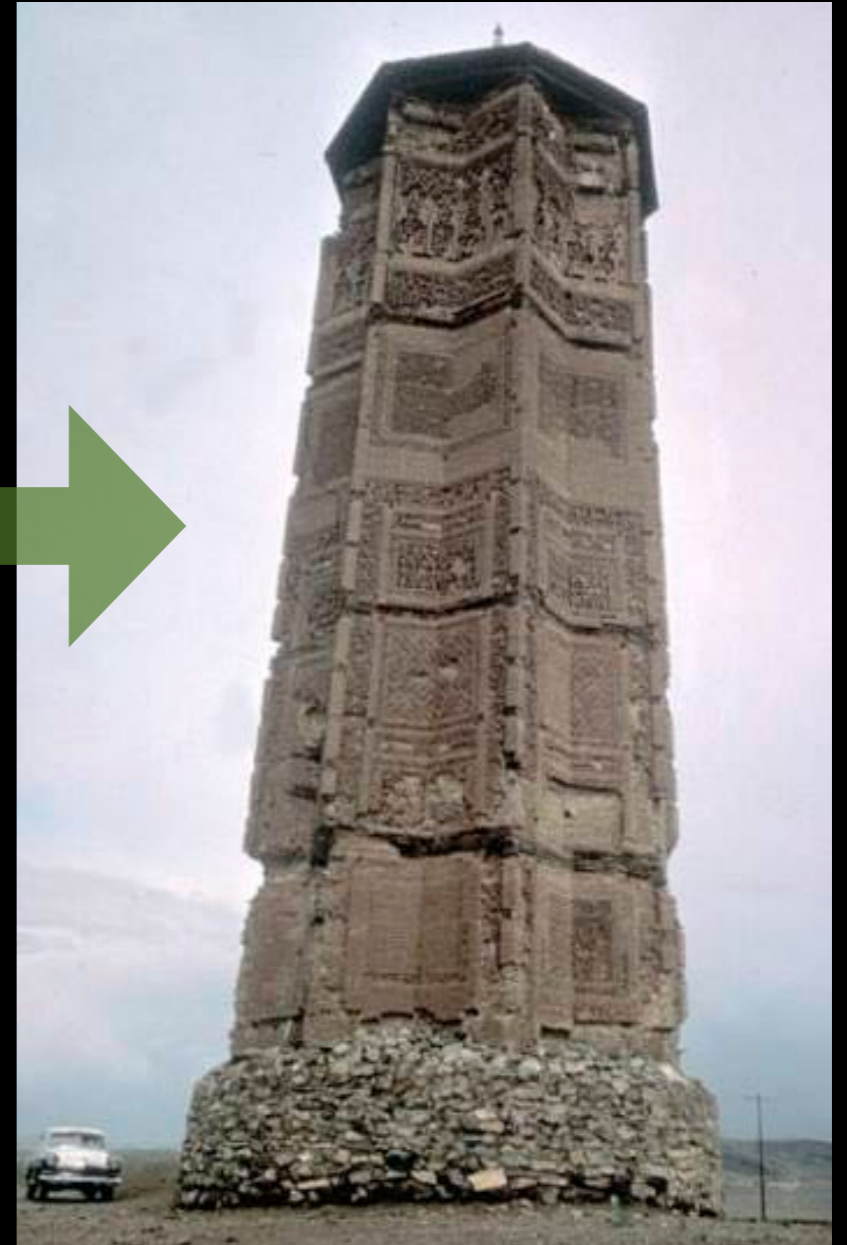
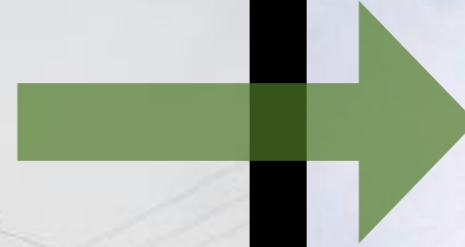
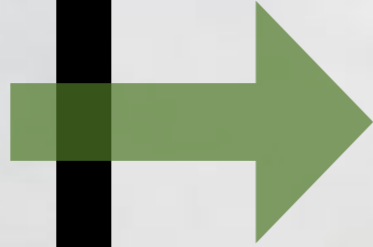


Tower of Mas'ud III: precedents, function??



Minar (associated tower), Tarikhane Mosque, Damghan (Iran), early 12c © Alka Patel 2011

Tower of Mas'ud III: precedents, function??



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Politics vs. Religion

Flexibility of form and function seen elsewhere??

Tomb of the Samanids. Bukhara (Uzbekistan). Early 10th c.



Fire Temple (Zoroastrian), Seymareh, central Iran.
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© Courtesy Touraj Daryaei

Defining “Islamic”

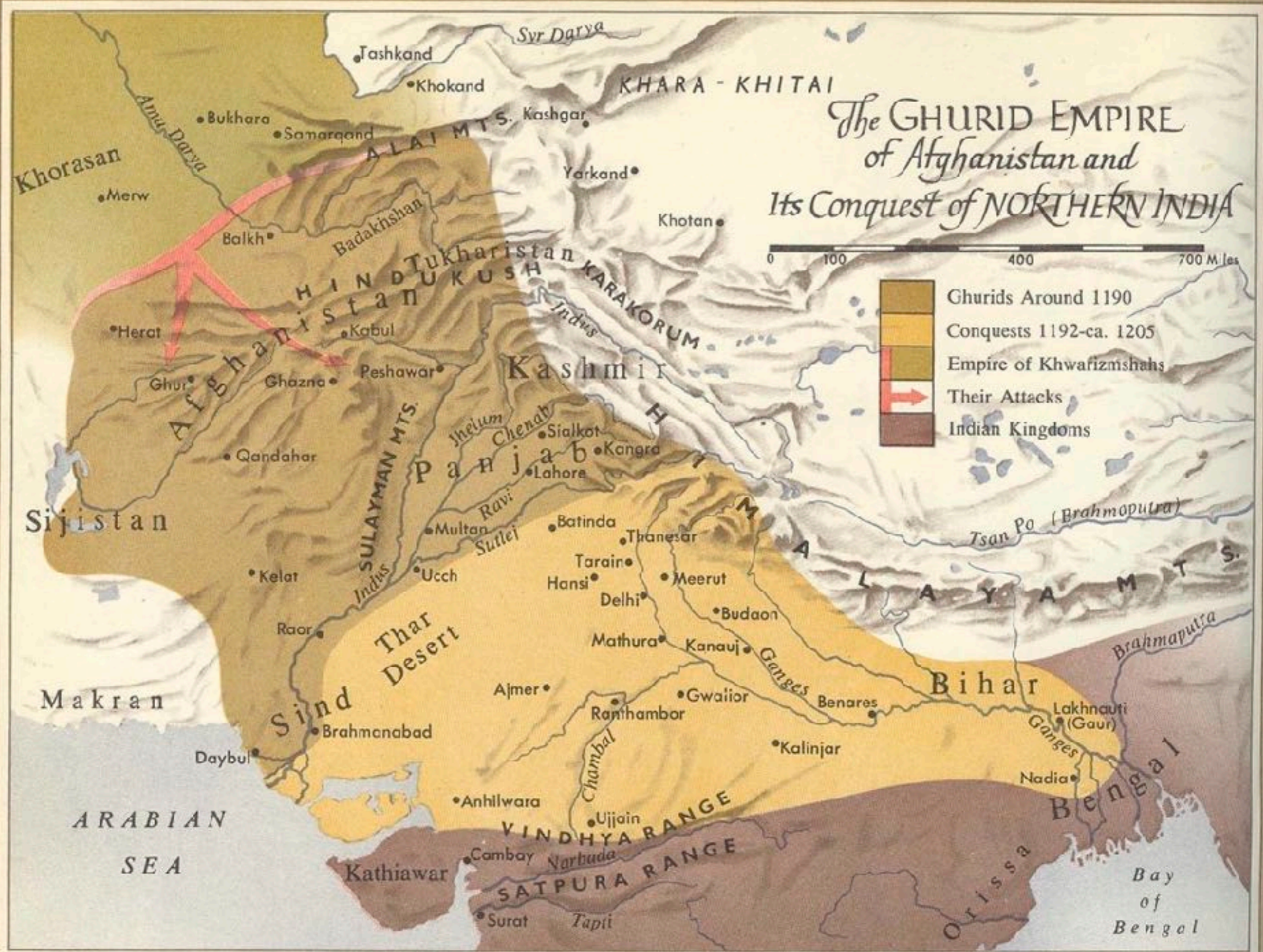
What is “Islamic” about an object or building?

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The GHURID EMPIRE of Afghanistan and Its Conquest of NORTHERN INDIA

0 100 400 700 Miles

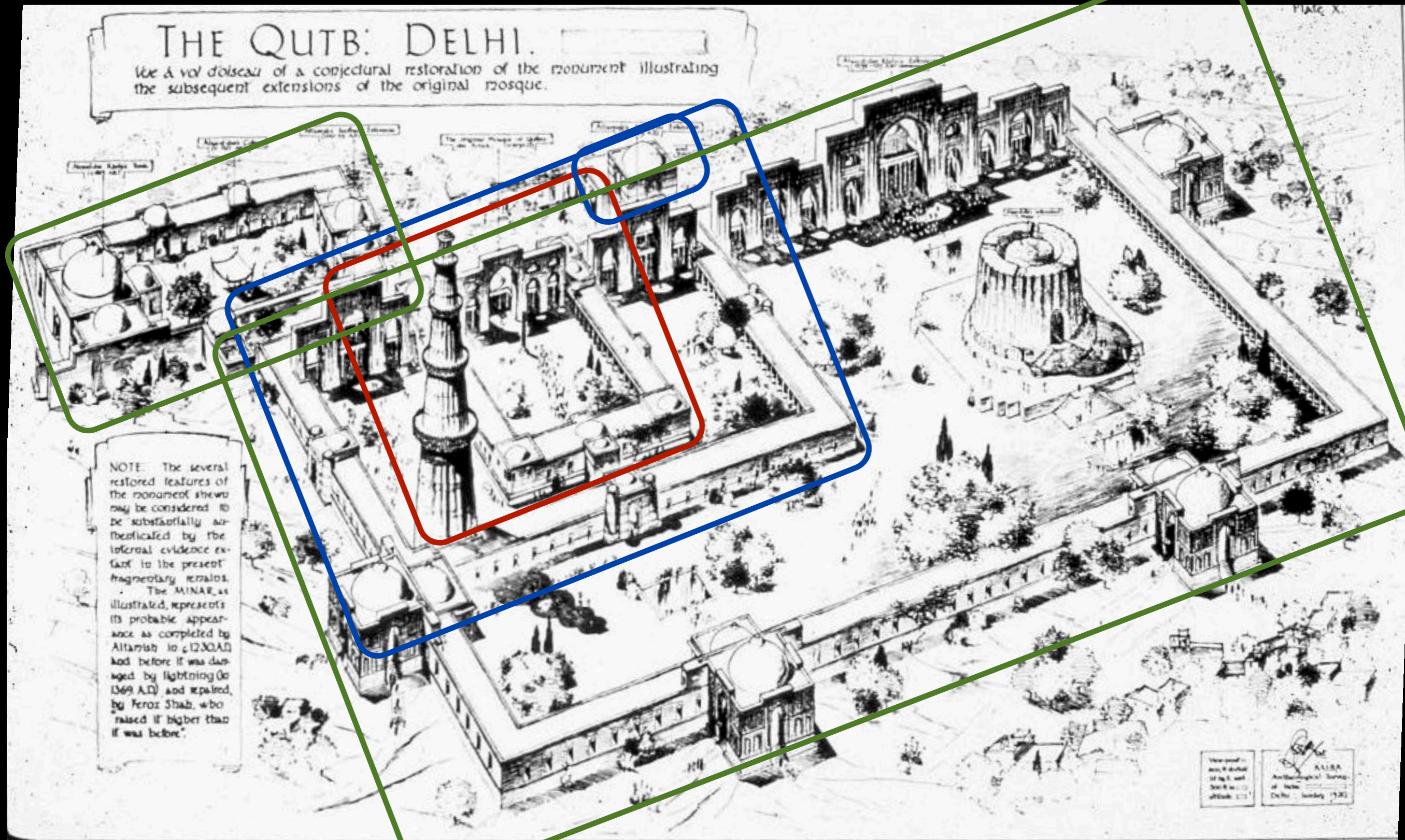
- Ghurids Around 1190
- Conquests 1192-ca. 1205
- Empire of Khwafizmshahs
- Their Attacks
- Indian Kingdoms





Qutb Mosque. Delhi (north India). Founded 1192. © Alka Patel 2003.

Multiple "Pasts" & "Presents"



1) Initial Ghurid foundation, 1192-93

2) Mamluk rulers, esp. Iltutmish r. 1210-1236

3) Khaljis 1296-ca. 1315

4) Tughluqs ca. 1320-ca. 1410



**Qutb Mosque: Qutb Minar.
Delhi (north India).**



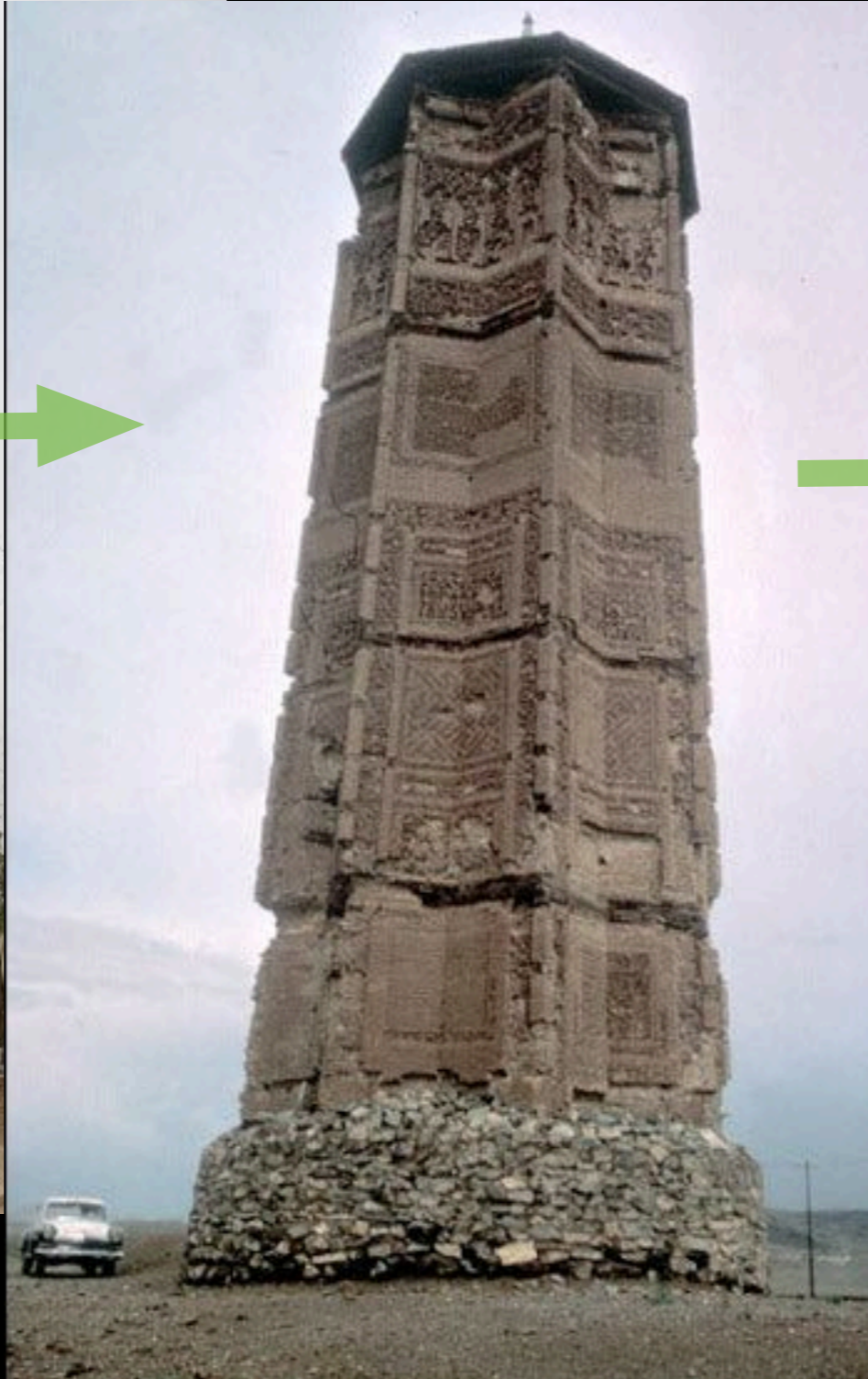
Founded 1192. Founded ca. 1193, finished mid-14th century. © Alka Patel.

“Art” as a Primary Source / Style & Iconography / Religion vs. Politics

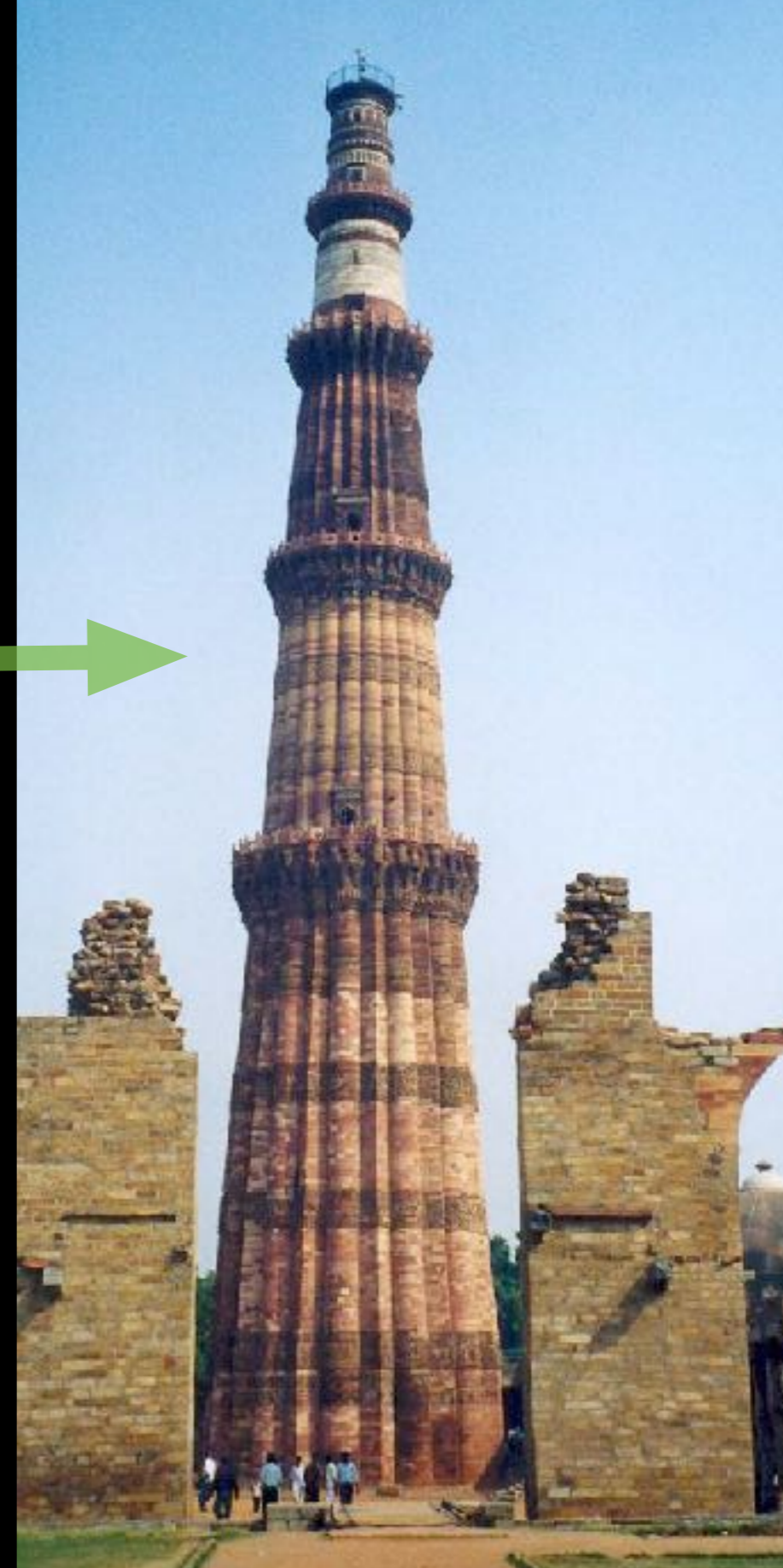
Minaret (associated tower), Tarikhane Mosque,
Damghan (Iran), early 12c ©Alka Patel



Minaret of Mas'ud III, Ghazna,
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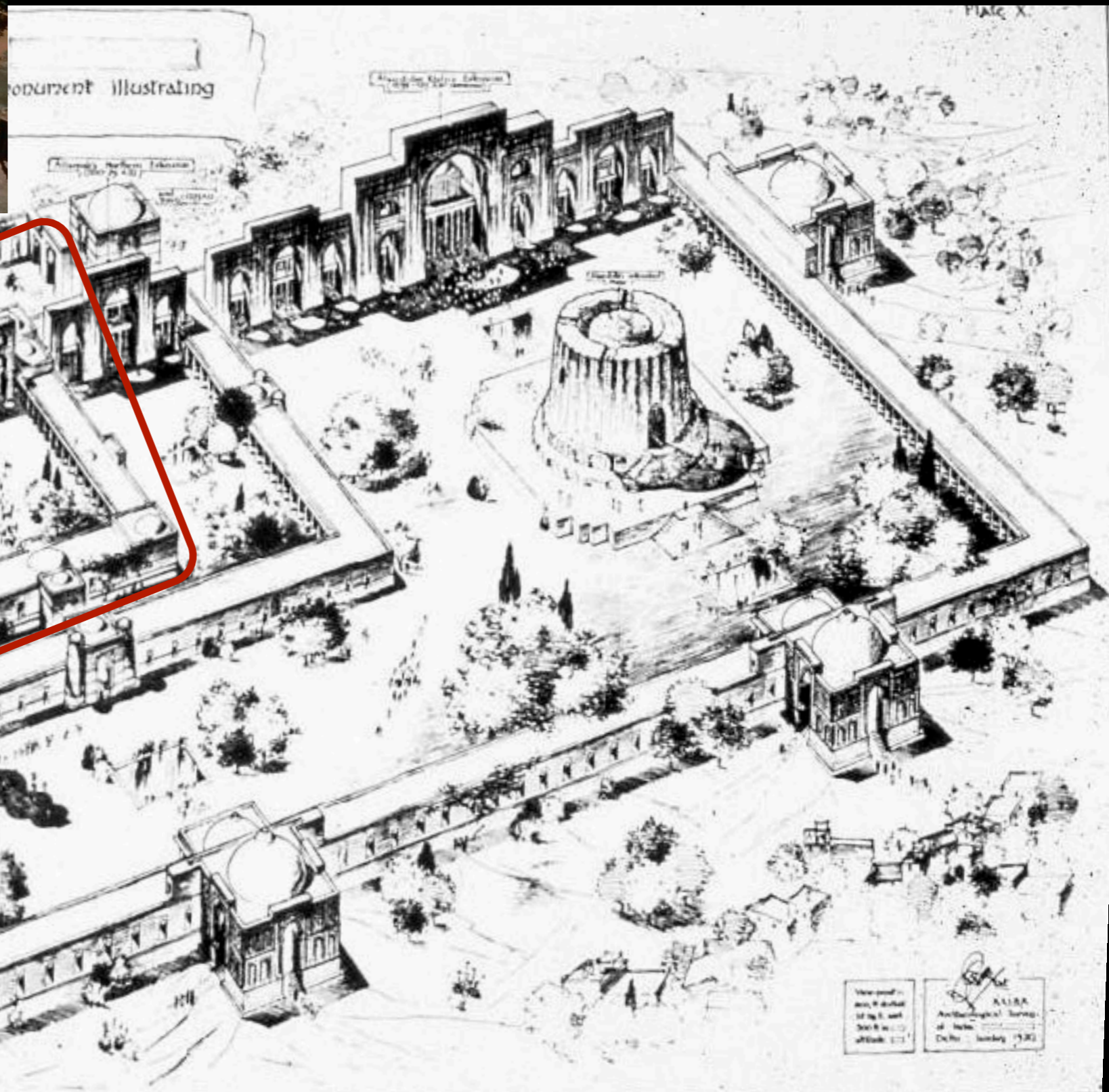


The Qutb Minar at the Qutbi Complex. Delhi.
Founded ca. 1193, finished mid-14th century.



Ramifications into present day...

Initial Ghurid foundation, 1192





The Qutbi Complex. Delhi, India.
Founded 1192-93, actively patronized through 14th century.



Art as a Primary Source / Style & Iconography



Qutb Mosque, Delhi, 1192.

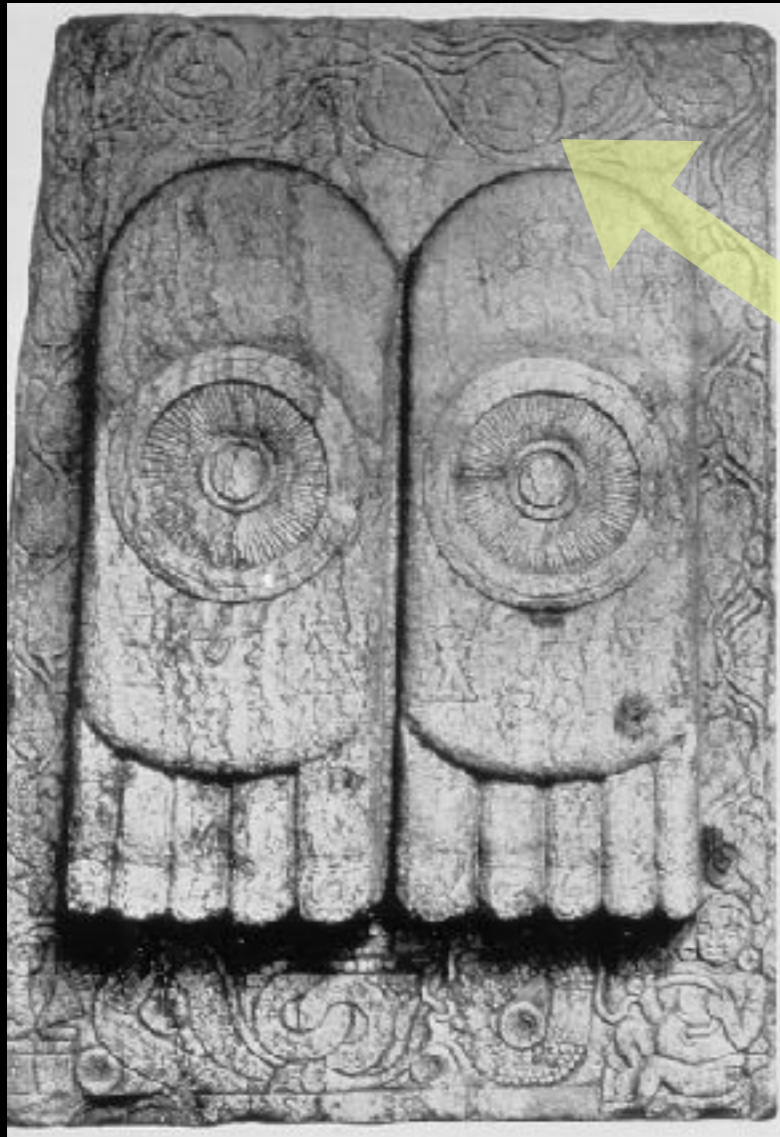


Robat Sharaf, near Sarakhs (eastern Iran). Early through mid-12th century. © Alka Patel 2011

"Art" as a Primary Source / Style & Iconography

Delhi, 1192-93.

Stupa, Sarnath 5th century.





**Qutb Mosque. Delhi (north India).
Founded 1192. © Alka Patel.**

**Art as a Primary Source / Style & Iconography
Multiple "Pasts" & "Presents"**

Multiple “Pasts” & “Presents”



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The Tribune

ONLINE EDITION

Wednesday, November 15, 2000, Chandigarh, India
Updated at 3 am (IST)

VHP yajna thwarted

80 activists detained

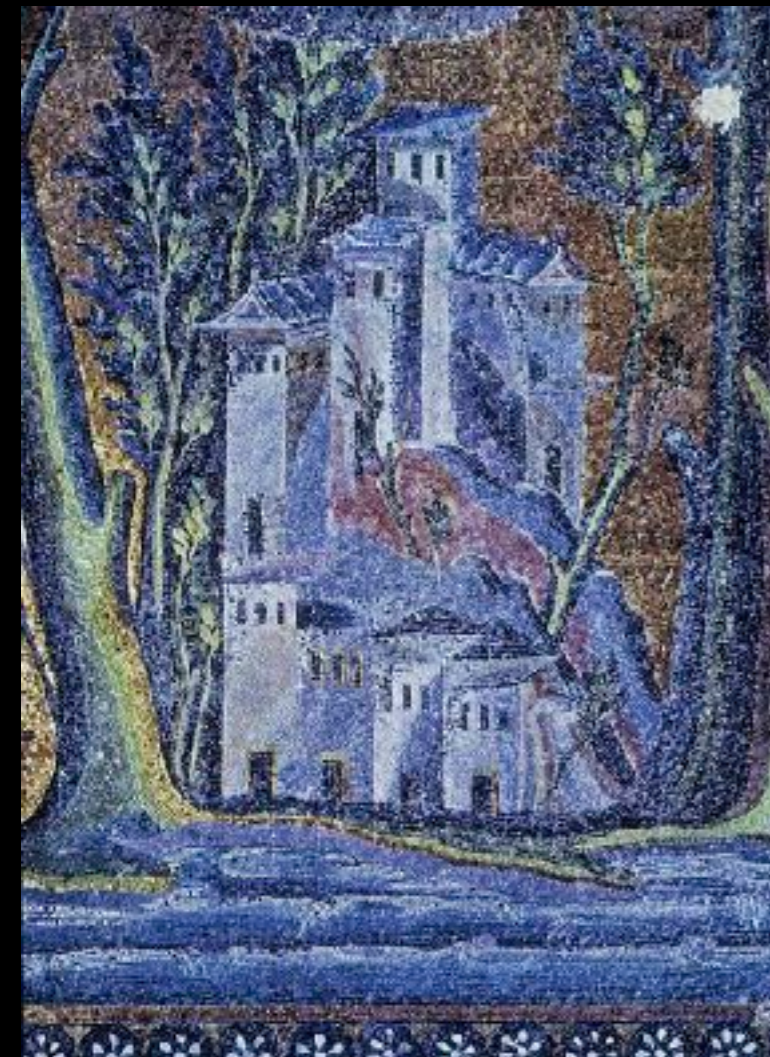
NEW DELHI, Nov 14 — The Delhi police detained 80 activists of the VHP when they tried to perform yajna on the premises of Quwwat-ul Islam mosque near the historic Qutab Minar in South Delhi. A large number of VHP activists led by Mr Ram Krishan Gaur gathered near Qutab Minar today, where the mosque is located, to perform puja inside its premises. But their entry inside the mosque was prevented by tight security, the police said.

A policeman grapples with a priest in front of the **Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque** during a protest in New Delhi on Tuesday. The protesters were demanding the reconstruction of the Vishnudwaja temple, consisting of 27 smaller temples that were destroyed to make way for the 11th century mosque at the base of the **Qutab Minar**. — Reuters photo



Other examples of “reuse”, both physical & conceptual....

Damascus Mosque, early 8th c.



Ribat, Tunisia, founded 796



Córdoba Mosque, founded mid-8th c.



Al-Azhar, Cairo, founded 972



Palermo mantle, early 12th c.



Qutb Mosque. Delhi (north India). Founded 1192. © Alka Patel.

“Art” as a Primary Source / Style & Iconography
Multiple “Pasts” & “Presents”