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Islamic Art of Central and South  
Asia



# Artistic Designs

- **Arabesque:** Adapted from Arabic themed designs, featuring natural, and geometric designs. Adopted in Asia Minor and central Asia around 1000 C.E.
- Arabic calligraphy became a respected business and artistic language in central Asia

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Case Study: Calligraphic dish, 'Adil  
Shahi period (1490–1686), ca. 1600  
India, Deccan, Bijapur



# A H Oriental Rugs

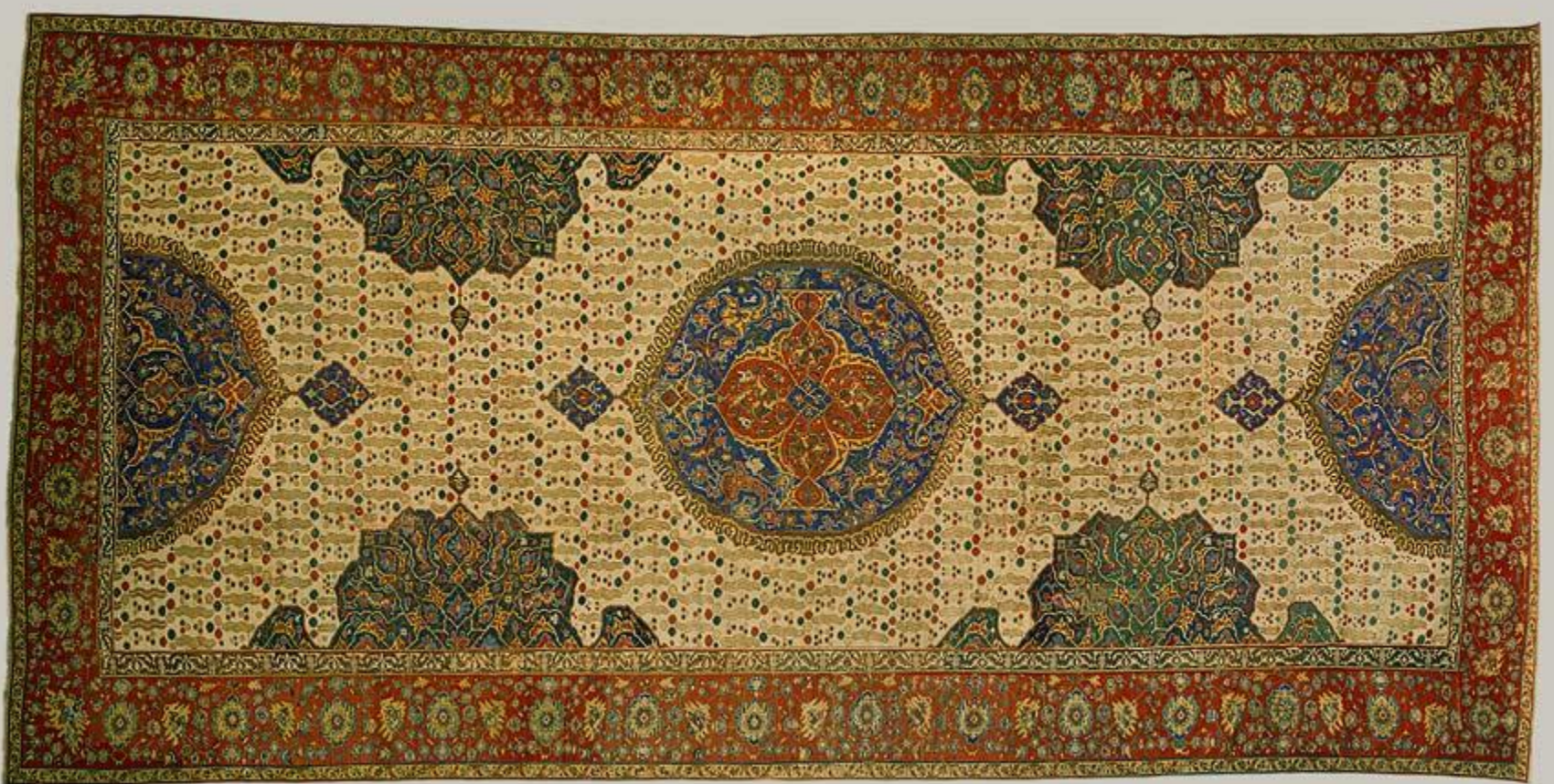
- is usually referred to all hand-knotted carpets from Asia. Since the origin is unclear and there are many distinct styles oriental rugs are divided into four sub-sets
  - Caucasian
  - Central Asia or Turkestan
  - Persian
  - Turkish or Anatolian



# Caucasian - Carpet, late 18th century, Caucasus



Art History  
Turkish - Ushak medallion carpet on white ground, Ottoman period, first half of 17th century, Turkey



# Central Asian - Carpet, Mughal period, mid-17th century, Pakistan, Lahore



# Persian -The Emperor's Carpet (detail), mid-16th century, Iran, probably Herat





# Islamic Asiatic Architecture

- Regional variations make it difficult to classify one architectural style as the “Islamic model”
  - Primarily focused on geometric design and arabesque style



# Great Mosque of Xi'an, ca. 742 C.E.



# Great Mosque of Xi'an, ca. 742 C.E.



# Great Mosque of Xi'an Gateway Arch



# Blue Mosque, Istanbul, 1616 C.E.



# Blue Mosque Interior

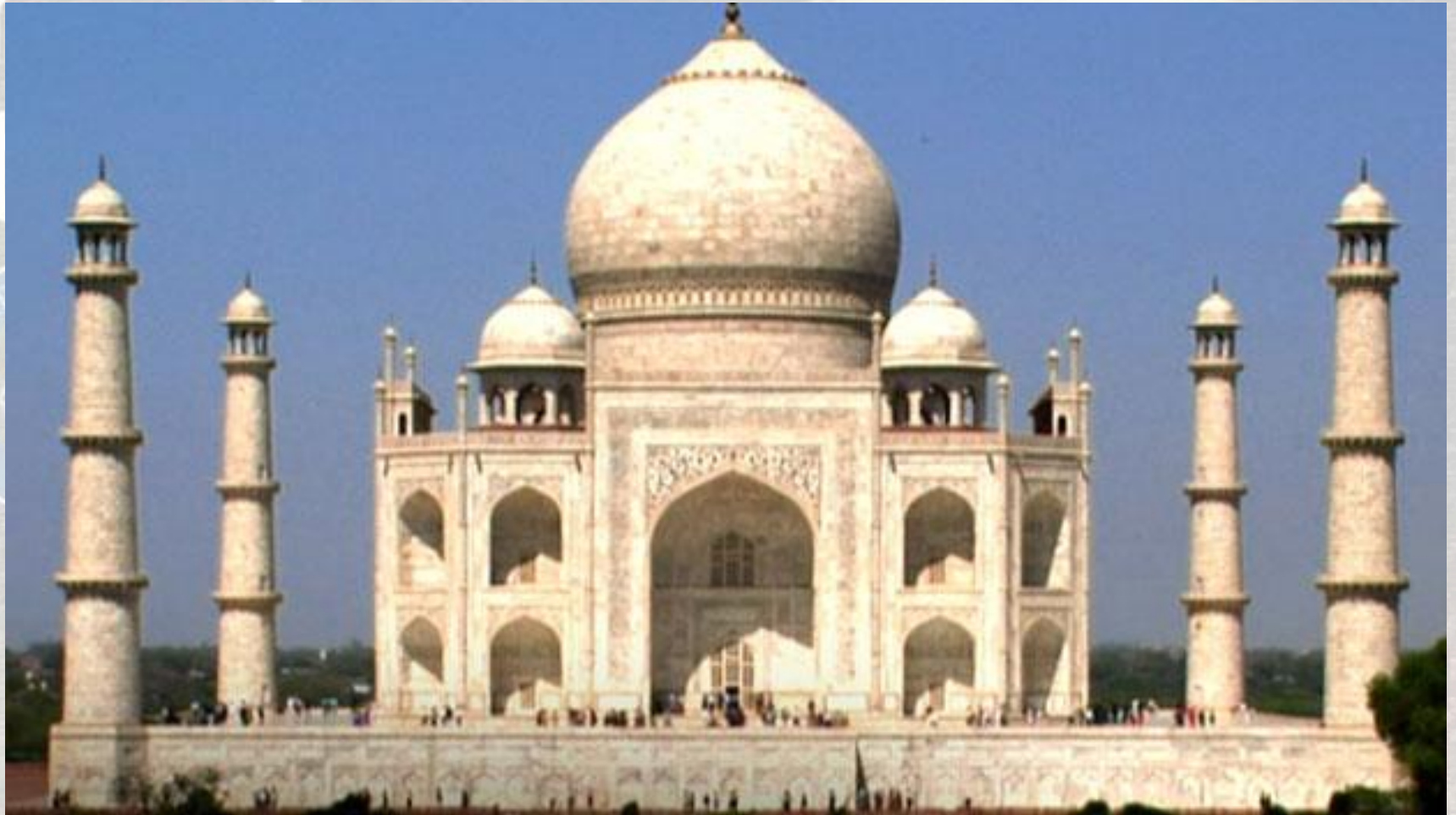


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# Blue Mosque Dome Interior



# The Taj Mahal, Agra, India, 1630s C.E.





# Taj Mahal, Tomb of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal



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# Taj Mahal Finial



# A H Taj Mahal Mosque r i



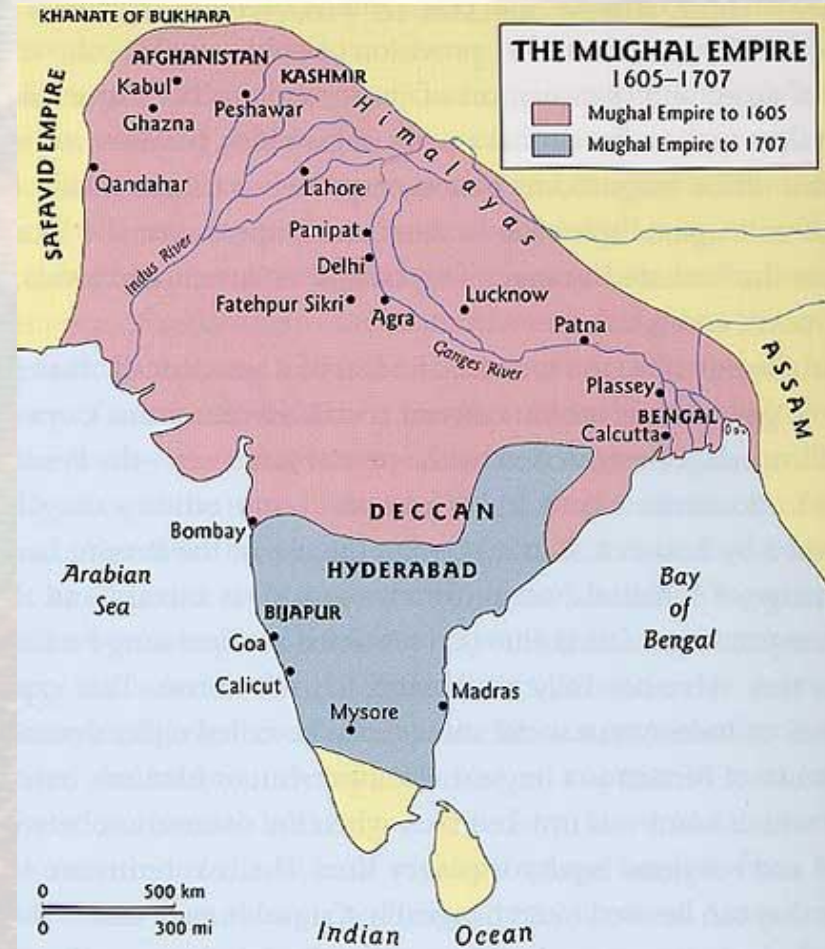
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# Taj Mahal Interior Arches



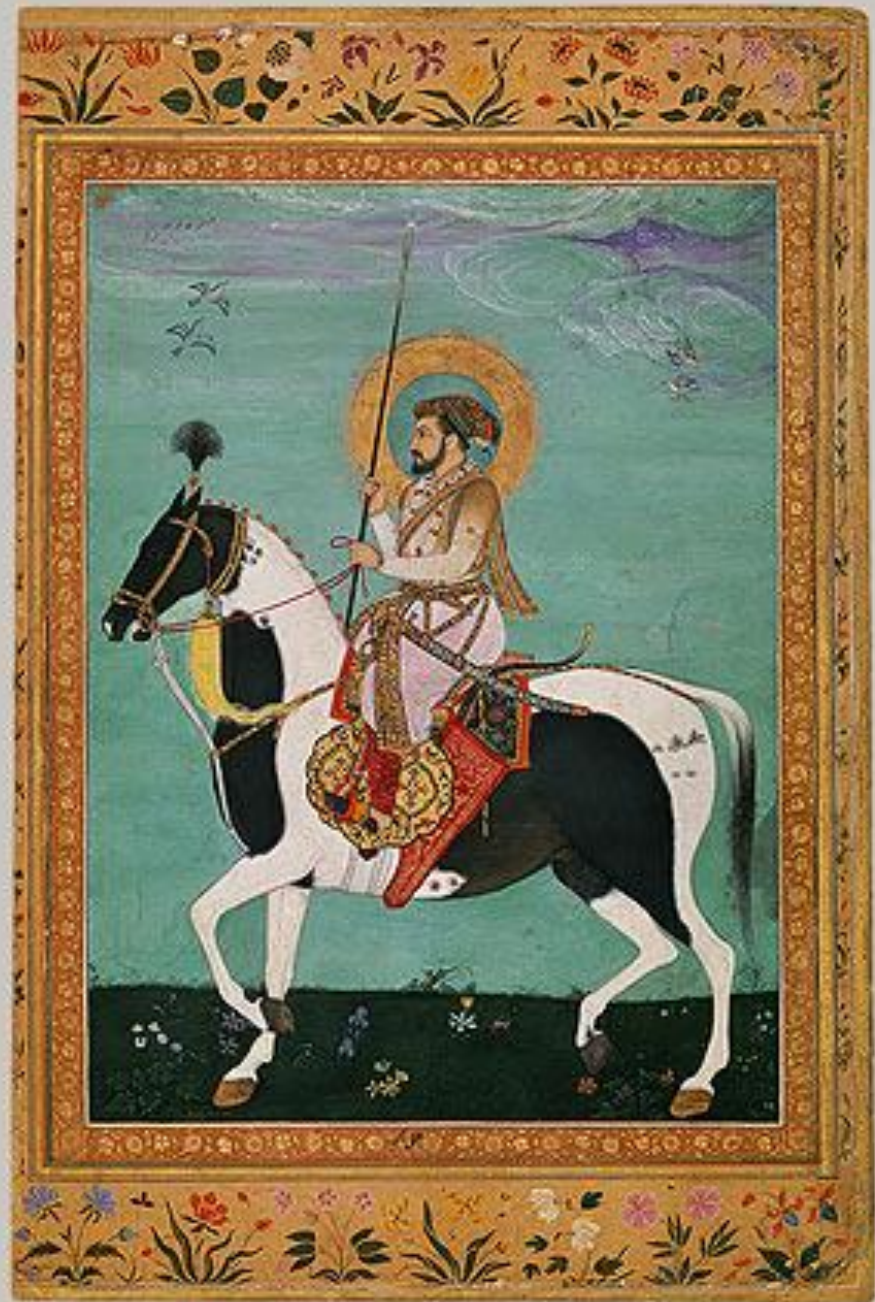
# Mughal India

- 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> Centuries
- Mughal Emperors were enlightened patrons of the Arts
  - Hired Persian artists to come to India to paint
  - Often painted the lives of the Emperors, hunting scenes, fighting scenes between animals, hills and trees are illustrated in Moghul paintings.



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Shah Jahan on  
Horseback: Leaf  
from the Shah  
Jahan Album,  
Attributed to Payag  
(Indian, active ca.  
1591–1658)



# Footed bowl and plate, first half of 18th century, India

