



**The Sultan Mahmoud shah complex in Bondarabad of Yazd, in the  
Timurids period.**

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The Sultan complex of Bunderabad is a Timurid building, belonging to the middle of the eighth century AH / 14 AD, which is located in one of the desert villages of Yazd province called Bunderabad.

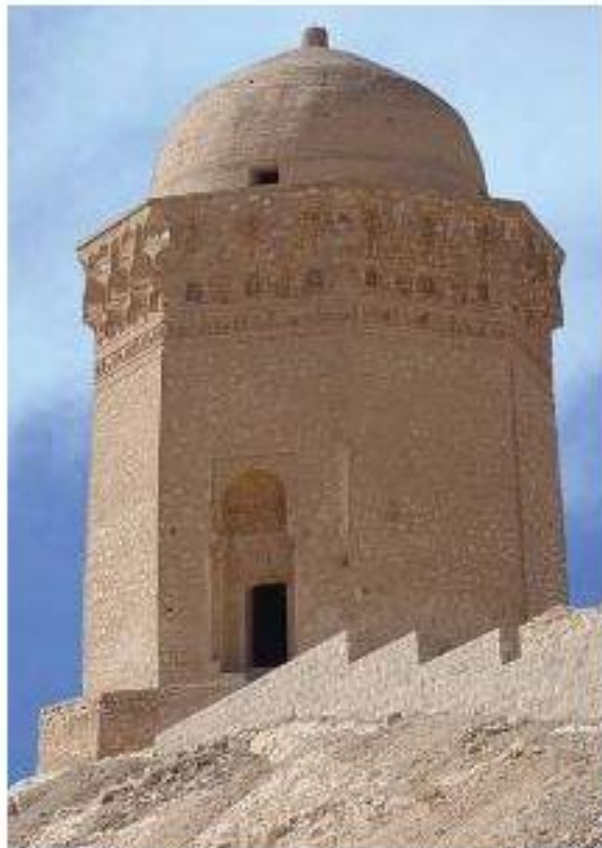
In recent decades it has been excavated from flowing sand and parts of it are still buried under the ground. the exterior of this complex is completely khaki, which indicates the high use of clay and mud in it.

In this study, the decorations are divided into two parts: the **exterior** and the **interior** of the building.

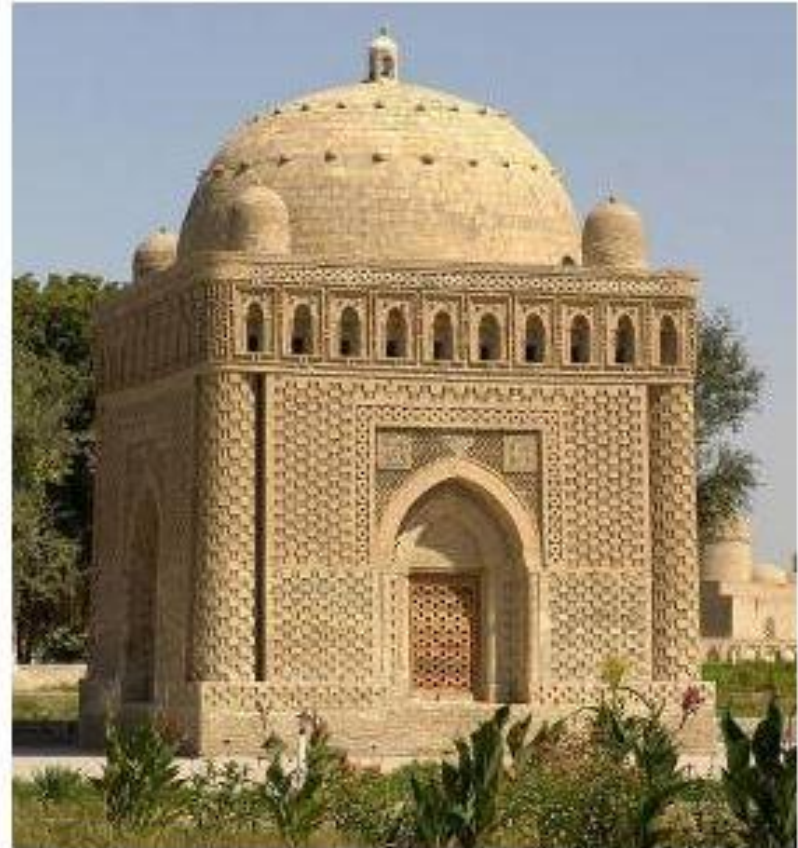


## 1 -Exterior decorations

At first look, we take a look at the Sultan Bunderabad complex, a point above the dome of the tomb, attracts a lot of attention. This lump, which in architectural terms is called "shanghai" (شانگی), visually gives a special identity to the complex.



Alli Dome, Abarkuh



Tomb of Amir Ismail Samani in Bukhara

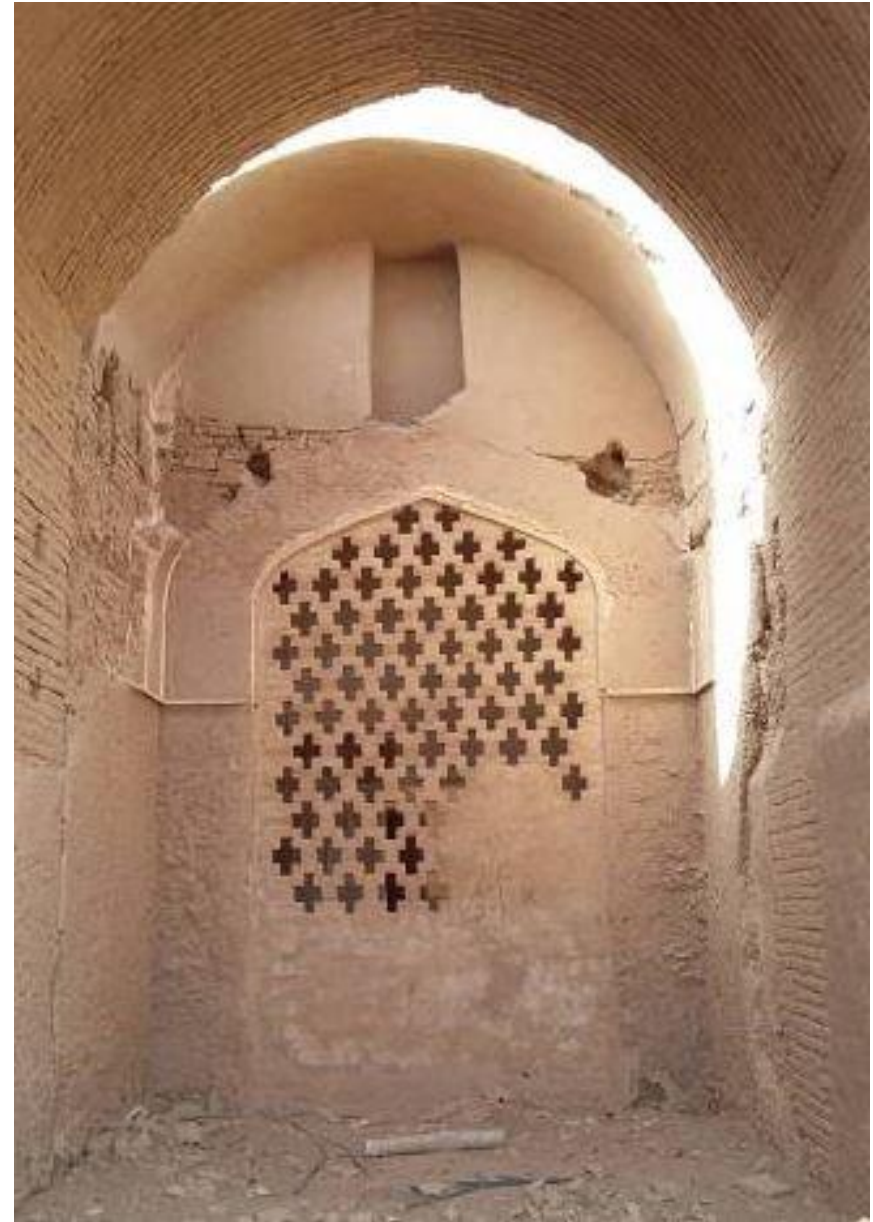


## Girdle Windows (Noor gir *Moshabak*)

In this complex, there are two types of windows, one of which is made of mosaic tiles and the other type of brick and clay, some of which can be seen from inside the building and some outside the building.



The appearance of these sash windows, especially its brick and brick type, has been effective in visually identifying Iranian architecture and is also seen in desert architecture. The geometric shape and interior of these windows are symmetrical and repetitive.



## **Floor Specifications**

The floors of most areas of the complex, such as the mosque and Hosseiniyah, and even the ruined part of the building are paved with bricks. These bricks have various geometric designs including square, rectangular and hexagonal.



## **Decorations of doors**

The doors of this complex are all made of wood and are mostly repaired. The decorations of doors include simple square and rectangular symmetrical geometric ornaments and spaces, and no non-geometric ornaments and calligraphy can be seen.

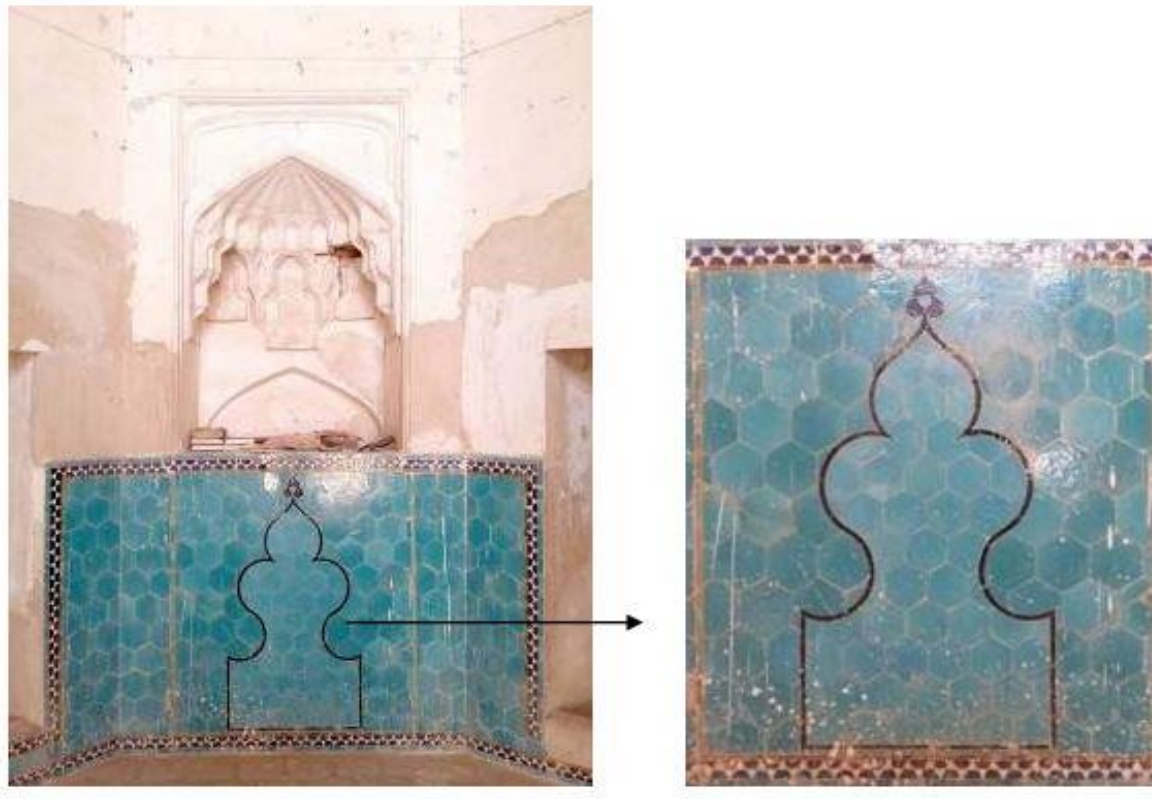
## **2- Interior decorations**

The interior decorations of the buildings of Sultan Bunderabad complex are mostly made of mosaic tiles and these decorations can be seen in most parts of the complex.



## Mosque

The *Mihrab* of this mosque used to have a depression; however, it seems that later, in order to correct the deviation of the Qibla angle, another Mihrab was built in front of it, which does not have the previous depression. The current *Mihrab* of this mosque is made of mosaic tiles, which is then covered with hexagonal tiles on the sides



The form of the middle Mihrab ends at a simple flower at the highest point. The main form of the *Mihrab* is made of black mosaic tiles between hexagonal turquoise tiles. This form can also be seen in the mosaic tiled Mihrabs of Yazd, although in some cases it is as simple as the Mihrab of Bundarabad Mosque, however, at times they are accompanied with Islamic patterns.



Color options in the mosaic tiles of the Mihrab of the Grand Mosque of Bundarabad include blue, turquoise, azure blue, black, white and fawn.



## Muqarnas

Muqarnas of this complex is a type that was common in the Timurid period.

This type of Muqarnas can be seen in buildings such as Rig Mosque of Yazd, Abrandabad Mosque of Yazd and also the tomb of Shah Nematullah in Mahan, Kerman.

In a sense, it can be said that these types of Muqarnas patterns are indicative of the sky and the pieces of mosaic tiles resemble stars. In the tiles of this Muqarnas, the colors of turquoise blue, azure blue, black, white and fawn can be seen. The number of each of these shapes in each row and the use of five-pointed, seven-pointed, and eight-pointed stars represent the numbers five, seven, and eight, which are sacred numbers in Islam.





## *Minbar*



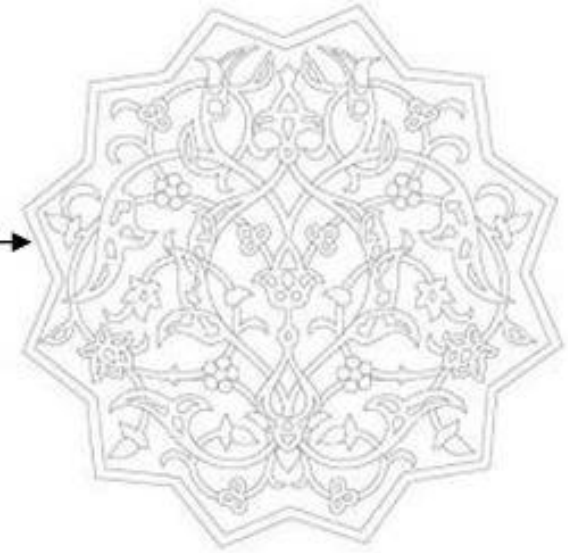
In the Great Mosque of Sultan Bunderabad complex; next to the *Mihrab*, there is a tiled *Minbar* of thirteen steps, which can be said to be the most smart piece of the whole complex in terms of decorations.





The decorations on the *Minbar* are all made of mosaic tiles.

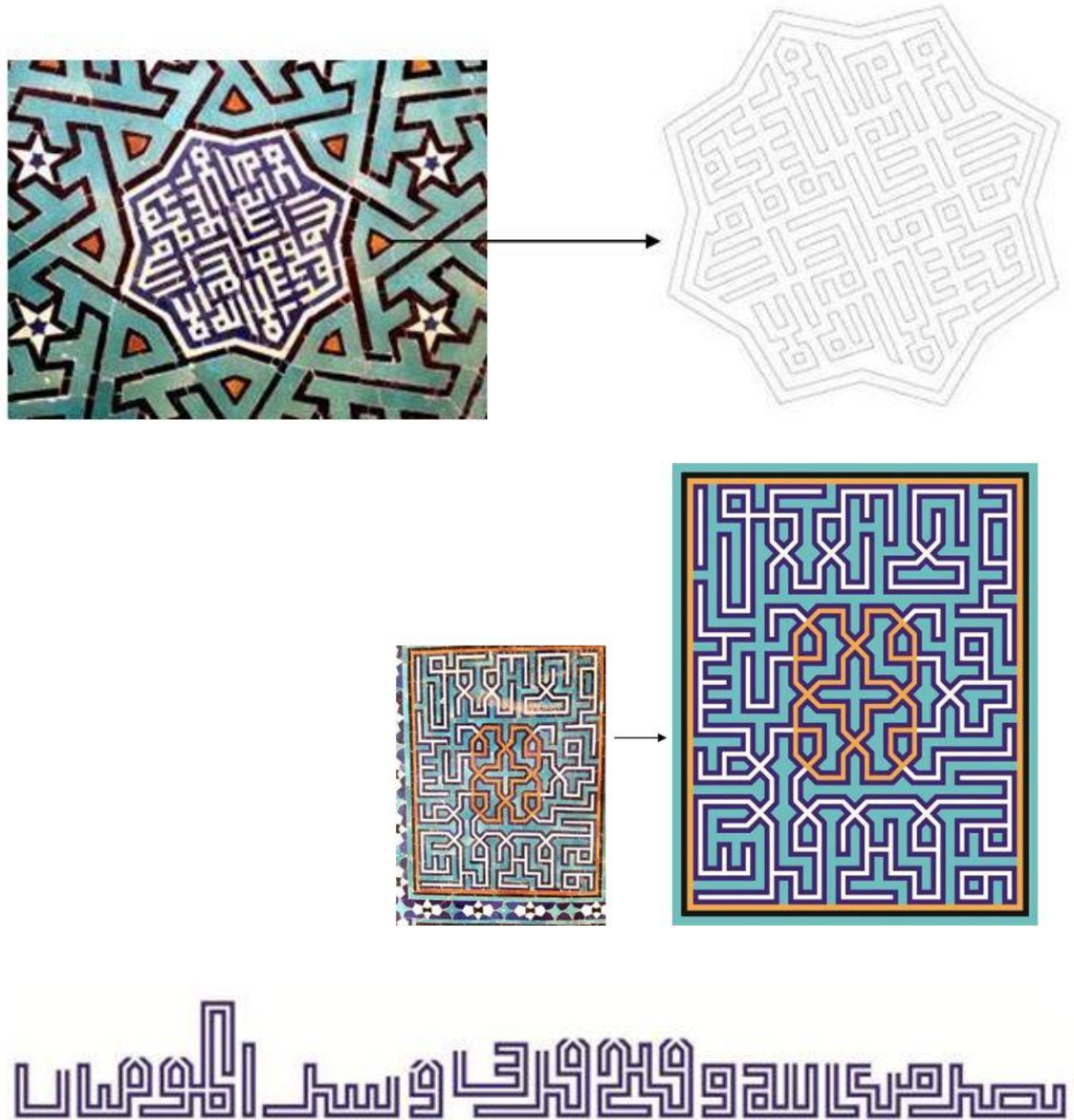
These decorations include plant motifs, inscriptions and geometric .



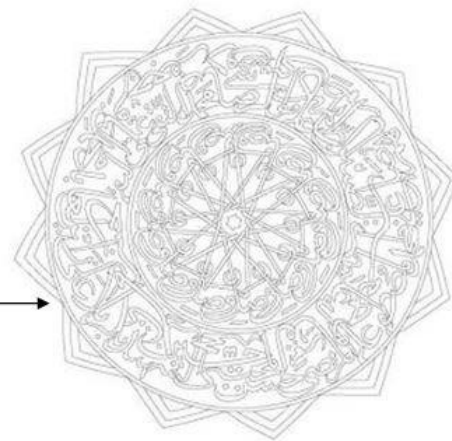
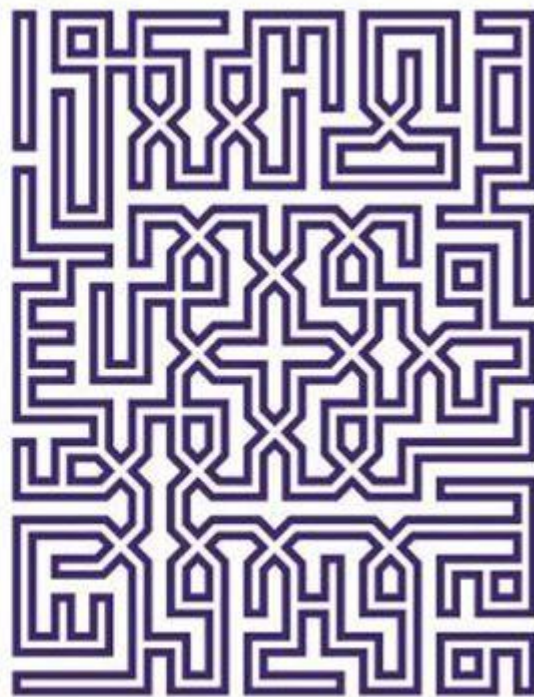
There are three inscriptions on this Minbar, each with different colors and calligraphy.

–The smallest inscription of this Minbar, which is written inside one of the five-pointed stars, contains the phrase "La ilaha illa Allah Muhammad Rasool Allah" in Kufic script

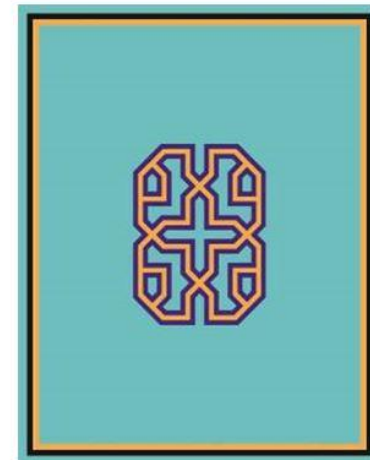
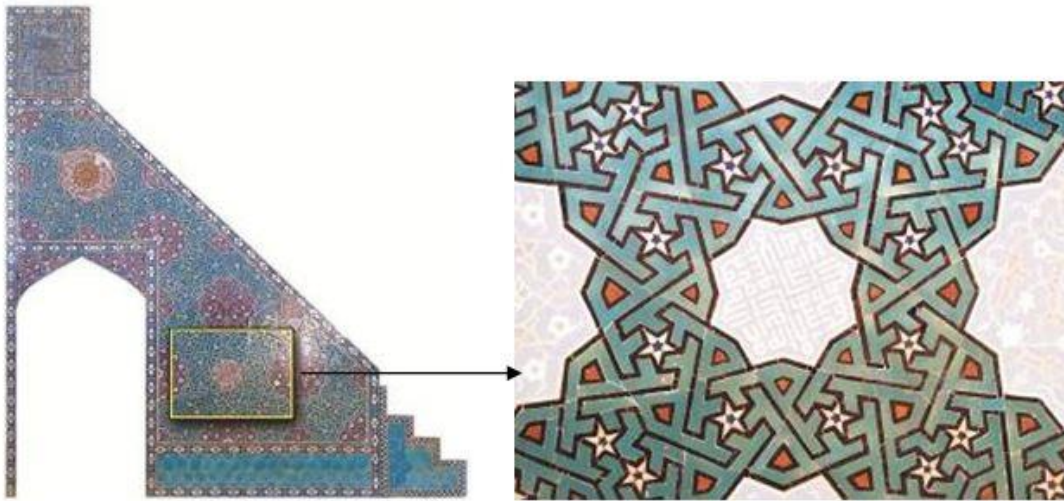
There is another inscription of this Minbar in the highest section, or in other words, the square crown or the wall of the pulpit. This inscription, which is inside the rectangular space above the wall of the Minbar, contains the phrase "Nasr min Allah



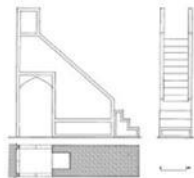

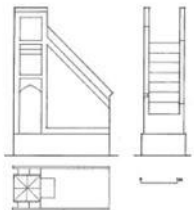

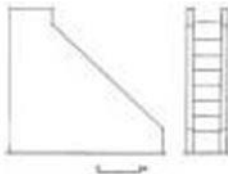
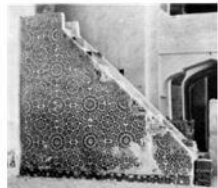
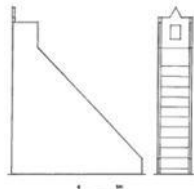

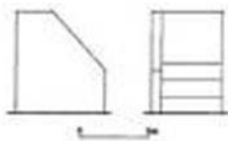





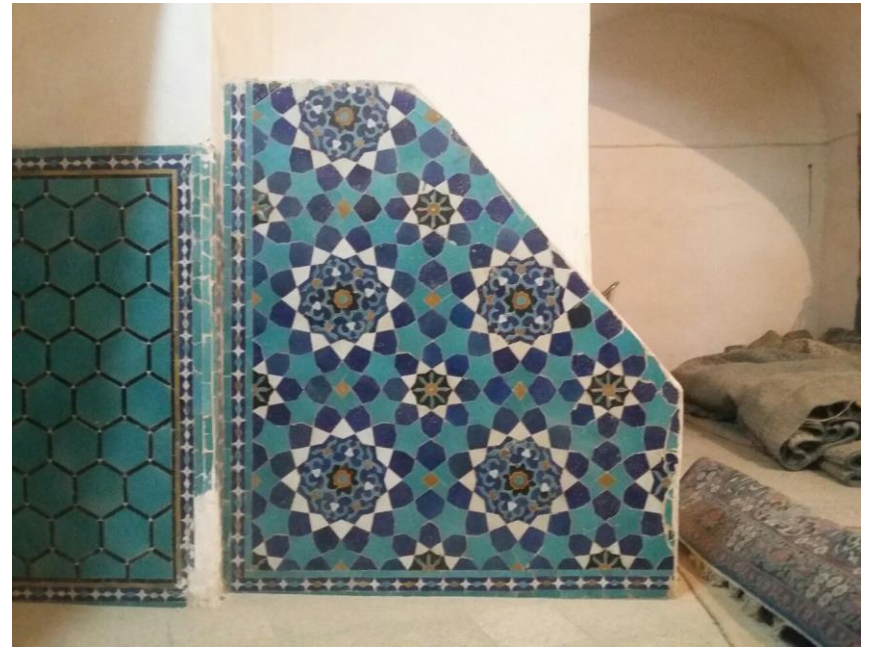
The geometric designs of this Minbar include three categories; The first group are the designs that are on the sides, the second group are the designs that are in the form of hexagonal tiles at the lowest point of the Minbar, and the third group are the designs that are in the form of geometric knots and almost the largest surface of the Minbar is covered with them.





یزد- اشکذر روستای بندرآباد			1
اصفهان کاشان مسجد میدان			2
اصفهان ورزنه مسجد جامع			3
اصفهان کوهپایه مسجد جامع			4
یزد محله چهارمنار مسجد خضرشاه			5









## **Azareh**

Azareh wall covering is a decorative border from the floor of the room to a height of one meter. In addition to preventing the penetration of moisture into the building, hence, the main aim of plinth walls were used to beautify the building.



Figure 1. A large, intricate Islamic geometric pattern.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



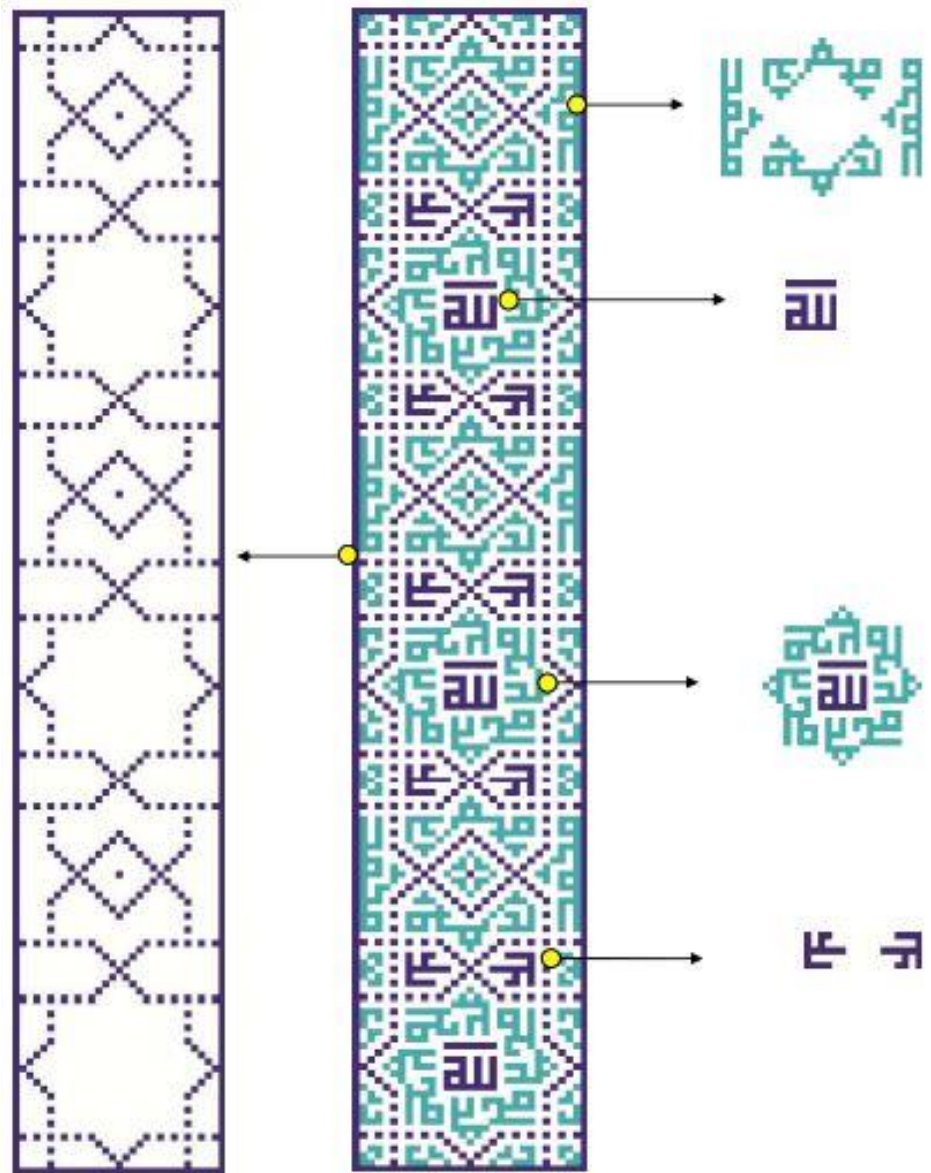
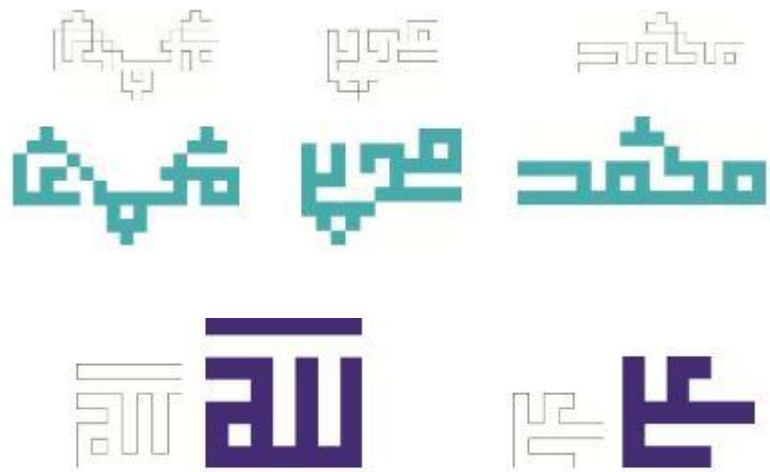
Figure 4.

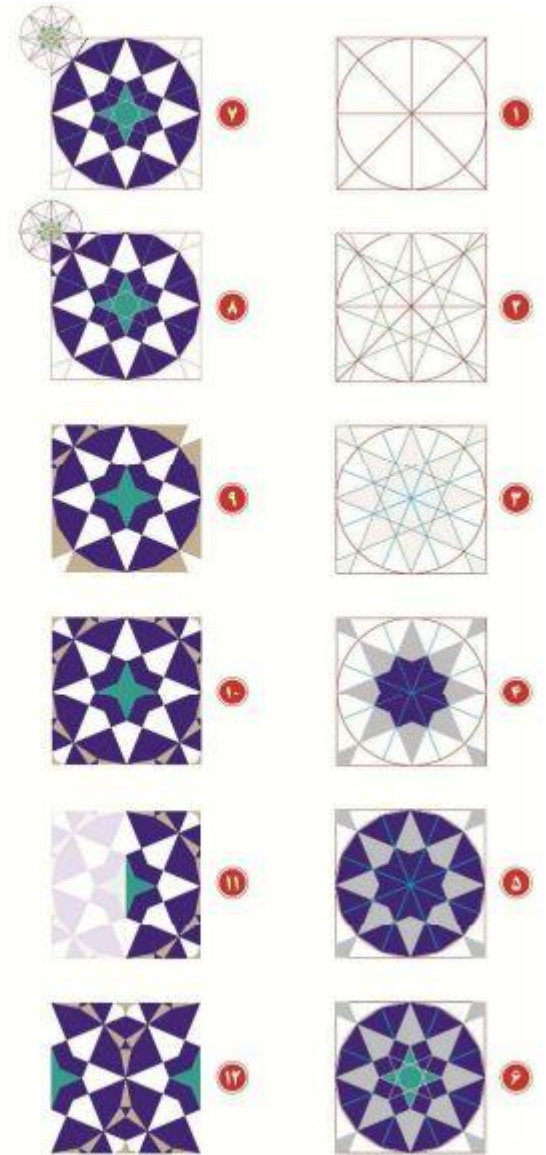
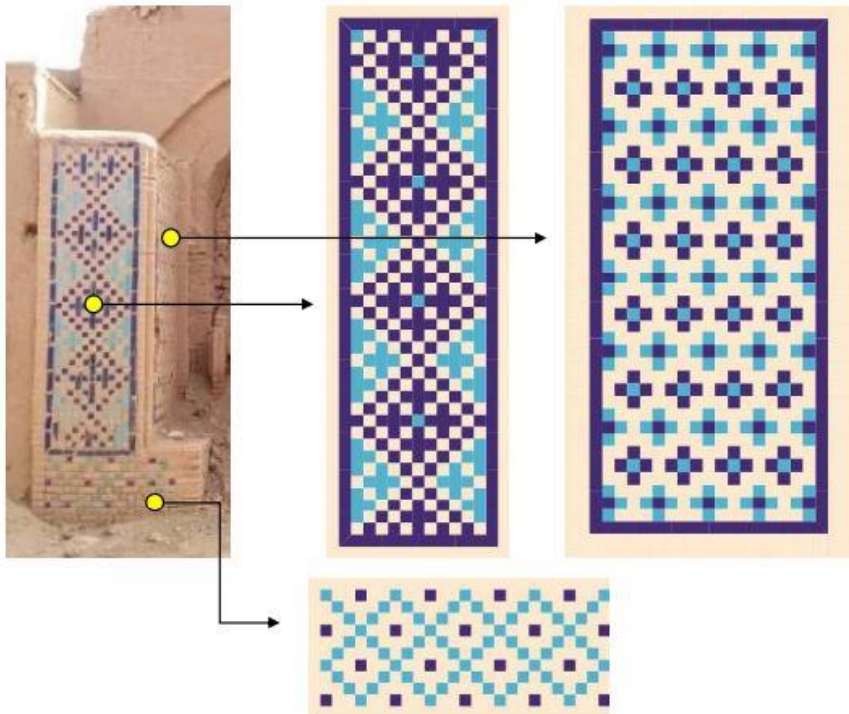


Figure 5.



Head decorations from inside the complex.







Tombstone from  
Bundearabad in the  
Form of an Architectural  
Niche,  
dated A.H. 753/A.D.  
1352, Made in Iran,  
Yazd

**Medium:** Marble;  
carved, now in  
Metropolitan Museum  
of Art, New York

