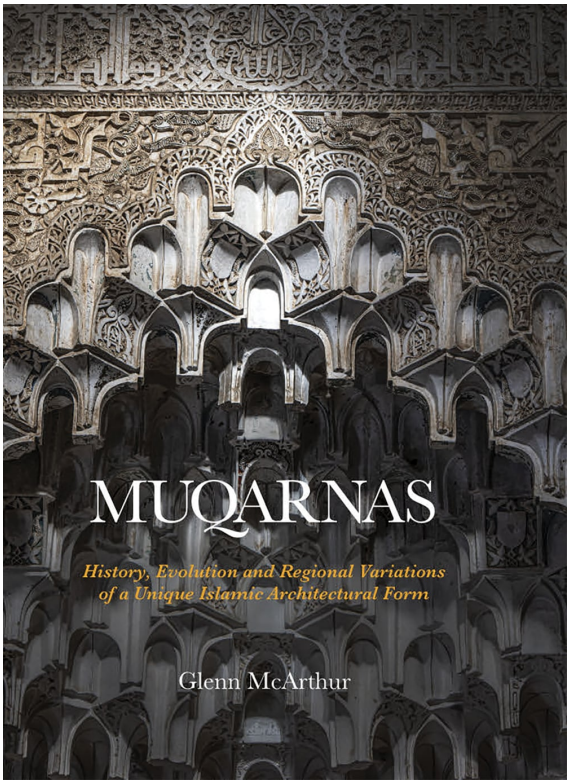
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Muqarnas

History, Evolution and Regional Variations of a Unique Islamic Architectural Form

Glenn McArthur

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Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, and Australasia. India non-exclusive.
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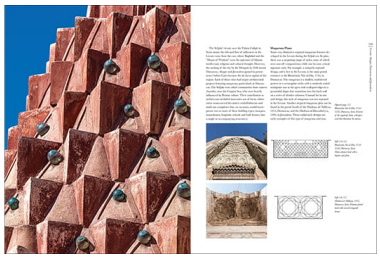
- **A focused study of muqarnas for a broad readership.** The book makes a complex architectural form accessible to readers of Islamic art, architectural history, design and photography
- **Exceptional geographic scope.** Research and photography conducted at more than 500 sites across 26 countries reveal how muqarnas developed across regions, materials and building traditions
- **Extensive original visual material.** Approximately 580 images, including the author's photographs and analytical drawings, let readers compare examples and understand how their forms were constructed and evolved over time
- **A visual approach grounded in fieldwork.** The book brings together more than five years of travel, documentation and research, giving readers close views of sites that are rarely considered side by side
- **Historical depth with contemporary relevance.** Alongside historic examples, the book considers how architects continue to draw on muqarnas in contemporary buildings
- **Established audience interest.** Photographs from the project were featured in a year-long exhibition at Toronto's Aga Khan Museum in 2024–25. Four photographs are also scheduled for an Alhambra exhibition at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris in November 2026

Muqarnas: History, Evolution and Regional Variations of a Unique Islamic Form explores one of the most intricate forms in Islamic architecture. Muqarnas transforms surfaces and space into layered, three-dimensional compositions. It appears in domes, portals, niches, and cornices, where geometry, craftsmanship, and light shape the design. Drawing on research and photography undertaken at more than 500 sites across 26 countries, Glenn McArthur traces the development of muqarnas from its early forms to its varied expressions across the Islamic world. The book examines how regions adapted the underlying geometric design principles to different materials, traditions, and architectural settings, from the Alhambra in Spain to the monuments of Iran and Central Asia.

Richly illustrated with original photographs and analytical drawings, this study celebrates the design and craftsmanship behind these structures and the viewer's experience of them. It offers an account of a remarkable architectural form for readers interested in Islamic art, architecture, design and the people whose skill brought these complex structures to life.

Glenn McArthur is a Toronto-based designer, photographer, author and art educator at OCAD University. He is he author of award-winning books on Canadian architects William Thomas and John M. Lyle.







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