

The Moorish Style of Alhambra Palace

Qianqian Zhou^{1*}, Lei Zhang¹

¹ School of Arts, Soochow University, Suzhou, China

Email Address

japsc@foxmail.com (Qianqian Zhou)

*Correspondence: japsc@foxmail.com

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Abstract:

There are many splendid art schools and architectural works in this land of Spain. Spain was ruled by Muslims for more than 700 years, and there were many religious wars in Spain, such as Christianity and Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism. The religious war brought down the economy of Spain, but it also brought about exchanges and collisions between different cultures. Medieval Spain was deeply influenced by Moorish civilization. Because Islam, Christianity, Judaism and other sects prevailed, believers needed a large number of palaces, castles, mosques and Catholic churches to pray, so Moorish architecture in Spain developed rapidly. Spain stands at the top of the world with architectural design, and these Moorish architectural cultures have become distant and shocking cultural symbols of Spain.

Keywords:

Spain, Religion, Architecture, Culture, Design

1. Granada and Moore Civilization

1.1. *The Historical Evolution of Granada*

Spain's religious culture is complex and lengthy, and its religious architectural styles are different, showing different styles everywhere, among which Alhambra Palace in Granada is famous.

Granada has been inhabited since ancient times, which can be traced back to the history of Celtic Iberians. They have contacts with ancient Greece and Phoenicians. In the 5th century BC, the Greeks occupied this place as a colony, which was later ruled by ancient Rome and named the city "Iliberis". In 711, with the help of Ghana Tower, the Moors occupied Granada for the first time, and now they built a fortress for St. Nicholas Square, which indicates that the era of Moors' rule over Granada is about to begin. In 1910, the city was destroyed by the civil war triggered by Cordoba Hari. From 1002 to 1031, the decline of the caliphate in Córdoba led to the establishment of many small independent Muslim countries, including Granada Kingdom established by the Zilid Dynasty, whose rule lasted from 1010 to 1090. Under this regime, Granada developed and maintained the artistic achievements of the caliphate. Granada is the last capital of the Moors in Andaluz. On January 2, 1492, after a long 10-year war, Mohammed XII, the last king of Nasir, surrendered under the fierce

attack of the Spanish army. The Catholic Recovery Movement was declared complete, and Spain was finally unified. [1]

1.2. The Origin of Moore Civilization

“Moors” is a general name for a given class and culture, and there are some controversies in the definition of terms. Generally speaking, the Moors are a foreign nationality coming from across the sea, which is mainly composed of Ethiopians, Saharans and Arabs, as well as indigenous Muslims from the Iberian Peninsula. The term “Moors” is frequently used in Spain, and usually refers to Muslims or Arabs from North Africa. Used in Europe since the 8th century AD, it has ruled Andalusia for nearly 800 years. At last, the Moors were expelled from Spain after losing the religious war in 1492, and then Arabic was banned.

Although the Moors left Spain, they did not take away the Moorish culture of the city. Bullfighting, flamenco dance, Muslim mosque, Moorish architecture ... These countless treasures with Islamic and Christian artistic styles are continued, commemorated and treasured as human civilization.

2. Moore Style Architecture

2.1. The Characteristics of Moore Style Architecture

Moorish architecture belongs to Islamic architecture, which can fully reflect the traditional cultural characteristics of Moorish architecture. There are more than 500 mosques in Spain, among which a few Moorish architecture survived: Alhambra Palace in Granada, Grand Mosque in Córdoba, Seville Cathedral, etc. [2,3].

The history of Moore-style architecture can be traced back to the Arab architecture period, about 660 AD. At that time, Damascus, the capital, preserved some cases of Arab Islamic architectural design, such as Damascus houses, which had a profound impact on the later Moore-style architecture. Even after the completion of the Guangfu Movement in Spain, Moore-style architecture has certain reference significance for future architectural design, and Spain still retains the medieval appearance and rich Arab customs.

The main features of Moore style architecture are unadorned vault, simple round arch horseshoe shape, sometimes complicated arch shape, blue and white porcelain brick with bright glaze, and Arabic or geometric figure decoration. In the open space, water is the key point. Usually, there are fountains or waterways in the garden, while the pool in front of the building can create reflection and combine with light. Moorish architecture reached its peak during the magnificent Alhambra Palace Castle in Granada.

3. Alhambra Palace

Alhambra Palace is famous all over the world for its beauty and dreams, and it neutralizes the mystery of Arabia and makes Granada's unrestrained and enthusiastic temperament fascinated. Alhambra Palace is an architectural aesthetics that integrates art and science. It took 150 years to build. It was once a royal palace established by Moors in Spain in the Middle Ages. It is a collection of the essence of all the historical sites preserved by Moors. It is known as the “miracle of the world”. Because the outer walls of buildings are mostly made of red sandstone, Alhambra Palace means “red castle” in Arabic, which is a veritable “red castle.”

Alhambra Palace is mainly composed of Carlos V Palace, Akasaba Castle, Nararies Palace and Henelarifi Palace as the Summer Palace. Alhambra Palace is mainly composed of Carlos V Palace, Akasaba Castle, Nararies Palace and Henelarifi Palace as the Summer Palace. Akasaba Castle is the earliest building of Alhambra. After Muhammad I died, his children and grandchildren built another palace in the east of the fortress, and Nararies Palace was successfully established. The Summer Palace is a very Moorish palace garden, and it is also the back garden of the Nessler royal family. Carlos V Palace was built from 1527 to 1957. It was built by the Spanish monarch to show his achievements in conquering the lost Granada. The palace is square, with a main appearance of 63 meters wide and 17 meters high. The unique one is the circular atrium. The whole is outside and inside, with a wide circular courtyard in the middle and two colonnades around it. Only the outer walls of the south and west are decorated, while the north and east are not decorated because they are connected to Alhambra Palace.

There are four main atriums in Alhambra Palace: Patio de los Arrayanes, Lion Atrium, Dalaha Atrium and Severiano Reija Atrium. The layout of the surrounding buildings around these atriums is very precise and symmetrical, but the spatial organization of each atrium complex is relatively free. As far as these four atriums are concerned, the most famous ones are Patio de los Arrayanes and Patio delos Leones.

Patio de los Arrayanes in the palace is an eye-catching large courtyard, the most important group space of Alhambra, and the center of diplomatic and political activities. It is surrounded by marble columns, between which is a shallow and flat rectangular reflecting pool and a beautiful central fountain. There are two rows of myrtle hedges beside the pool, which is the origin of the atrium name. The planting of Myrtle Hedge can be traced back to the Spanish occupation in 1492. In Patio de los Arrayanes, you can enjoy two excellent architectural appearances, one of which is a tower over 40 meters in height, from which you can watch fascinating scenery. The surrounding buildings are projected in the pool. The slender columns, elegant arches and exquisite traditional lattice patterns on the outer wall of the cloister reflect each other with the quiet and clear pool water, making people feel like they are in a floating and ethereal holy land.

Go through the east side of Myrtle Atrium to Lion Court, which is also the center of Sudanese family. In this Muhammad V Palace, four halls surround a very famous atrium-Lion Court. The columns support the beautifully carved arched cloister. Looking from the columns to the atrium, there are 12 powerful white Dali stone lions in the center to hold up a fountain, which is arranged in a ring shape. Since the Koran prohibits the use of animal or human images as ornaments, in Arab art, this practice of supporting fountains with lion statues can be understood as a symbol of monarchical power and victory.

Alhambra Palace is a typical Moorish architecture, which brings together Islamic art and embodies the pursuit of power and yearning for heaven. In the architectural space design, Alhambra Palace has repeated decorations, ubiquitous water, slender columns, intricate patterns of wood carving and stone carving, and honeycomb-shaped vault structure, which seems to be on the verge of disappearing, beautiful but unreal, just as the Moorish civilization is gradually disappearing in Spain.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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