



Art and architecture

Bringing light into the mosque

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This is how the walls look on the inside. The piers are pushed into the walls leaving space that is open, unified and evenly lit.

However Sinan could not treat the fourth side in this way. This side had the entrance and the façade. And he wouldn't have wanted to destroy its symmetry with buttresses. His solution was to make the fourth wall thicker than the others. But to mask this extra thickness with a gallery creating a space for women.

He also added a series of small domes in the new space he had created.

The interior of the Mosque is filled with light. In part this is due to the large number of windows which are used in the building. But it's also a factor of the architecture itself. The structure. The structure is simplified. This allows more of the light to penetrate into the interior. Sinan's interest in light extends from the large scale. From the architecture to the small scale, to the use of decorative details.

He used tile work. The finest quality Isnic tiles through the building. And in important places. Such as we see here, in the tiles which were used around the *myrad*.

The white background of the Isnic tiles allows the vibrant colours of the flowers to stand out in even greater relief. The clear glaze which covers the tiles allows light to be reflected back into the room.

In using light in this way, Sinan is creating something new within his architectural and culture tradition. A tradition whose origins were not exclusively Islamic.