6. Andalusí art in architecture

Types of arches:

- horseshoe
- buttress
- trilobed
- interlaced
- multi lobed arch
Materials and motifs

- They use cheap and simple materials to their constructions: Brick, wood, plaster, tiles...
- The Koran prohibited the depiction of human figures, so it was used for ornamental decoration to cover the walls (stucco, paints or mosaics):

- **Interlacing:** Geometrical motifs.

- **Ataurique:** Vegetal motifs (or floral patterned).

- **Arabesque:** Plants and geometrical motifs mixed.

- **Calligraphy:** Written texts from the Koran.
Architecture examples:
Independent Emirate (756-929) and Caliphate (929-1031)

**Mosque of Córdoba**
Architecture examples:
Caliphate (929-1031)

*Medina Azahara*
Architecture examples:
Taifas (1031-1248)

*Aljafería (Zaragoza)*
Architecture examples:

Taifas (1031-1248) Almohads’ period (12th/13th centuries)

Torre del Oro (Seville)  
Giralda (Seville)
Architecture examples:
Nasrid Kingdom of Granada (1248-1492)

*Alhambra (Granada)*
Architecture examples:
Nasrid Kingdom of Granada (1248 - 1492)

*Generalife (Granada)*
Culture of Al-Andalus

During the Caliphate of Córdoba (Golden Age), the biggest library of Europe was in Córdoba. In Al-Andalus, they did not only translated books from Antiquity but also researched and wrote about many sciences and literature:

- Geography was developed (Al-Idrisi) to navigate the seas with maps, astrolabes and the nautical compass from China.
- The most advanced medicine knowledge. They performed surgeries.
- Mathematics, Astronomy, History, Philosophy (Averroes and Maimonides)
- Literature: Prose and poetry (princess Wallada, etc.)