Mu²qarnas

A Thirdspace Where Binaries Overlap.



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History has its charms

Mugarnas is a three-dimensional form whose visual function is the gradual transition between two levels, two sizes, two shapes, and two spaces. It is one of the most original inventions of Islamic architecture and continued to evolve over one thousand years. It adorned major buildings from the Alhambra in the west to Samarkanad in the east.

Mugarnas is an ornamental structure meaning it had both structural & aesthetical features. It can either be carved into the structure of a wall and ceiling, or it can be added on and hung purely as a decorative surface.





Arga,India

Imam Hussein, Iraq



The complexity of the Mugarnas lies in two essential factors; the first being the variety of the units / modules used. Secondly, the algorithms that govern the curves the mugarnas sits on. Mugarnas was ignored gradually starting from the 18th century onward, but before that, it portrayed a complex process of evolution throughout time.



Various Muqarnas modules, from The generic set of the traditional pre-designed units .From Self-Supporting "Genuine" Mugarnas Units, retraced by author







Analytical Study of Muqarnas Formations in Islamic Architecture According to Digital Simulation



Fatima Masumeh Shrine, Iran









What

A methodology of reinterpting and developing the traditional muqarnas form to accomodate the modernity of our times and the latest technologies, to design for shade and shadow and for the user experience.

The project proposes the design of an urban furniture inspired by the ideas behind the historical muqarnas only developing them to provide a new identity using natural materials, taking into consideration the sustainable needs of Jordan and manipulating light and shadow to create memorable experiences.

The methodology behind this proposal could also be applied on different scales (i.e. pavilion, or acustical units).

How

Using different materials with different properties for the modules each repeated along a shape using the algothrims used to produce Muqarnas in the hope to produce a minimal yet sophisticated form that performs the function of a public furniture.

They all come together to form a functional bench open for the public to use and enjoy.

Leveraging Modularity

Why build the whole thing and risk damage during shipping when we can ship the small modules and help the users to assemble them on their own?

Diversity

It's important to involve the users in the final output, they choose the arrangement, the colors and maybe the whole function and form of the product.

The color scheme can change according to the seasons, layout, style, or to raise awareness of events such as breast cancer awareness month and many more.

Why

The need to redefine public places in Jordan to be meaningful and interactive. Reconnecting with our roots and an open invitation to every artist, designer to rethink past accomplishments and take them one step further. Creating meaningful experiences through Shade and Shadow Manipulation.

The project aims at reinterpreting and developing the traditional muqarnas form to create a dialogue between:

- Old and the new.
- Perception and conception.
- Light and Shadow.
- Active and Passive.

Business Model

Circular Design

The design takes into consideration the different needs of different users and tries to be multifunctional and durable.

Recycled Materials

Plastic is here with for hundreds of years, we might as well make use of it

Mindful Manufactring

Minimal packaging design, minimal need for extra external parts, design for ease.



Efficient Distrbution

We ship the small modules and the final piece can be assembled on site. Less impact and safer trips.

Practicality

We make products people need and are friendly and easy to use.

Form and Function

Functional doesn't have to be ugly! we take both beauty and utility into consideration.





small biped arge bined m ы) (Dinçer & Yazar, 2021) (a)

rhombu



(Dinçer & Yazar, 2021)

Explorations



Six-points Square



Ammann-Beeker Tessellation

Modules

References





(Dinçer & Yazar, 2021)







Rhombus





Large Biped







Almond



Triangle













Physical 🔪

FDM Mold





.. Digital

Material



Materials, Methods, And Textures

Silicone Mold







FDM Printing



Composites & Mixtures

Making a silicone mold opended up new opportunities for me in terms of exploring with multiple and different materials and even composites.



Aluminum Mold

casting.





Pictures below show the compacted sand in preparation of the Aluminum

Gallery















This project was submitted by **Shahd Farran** in partial fulfillment of fabricademy 23-24



