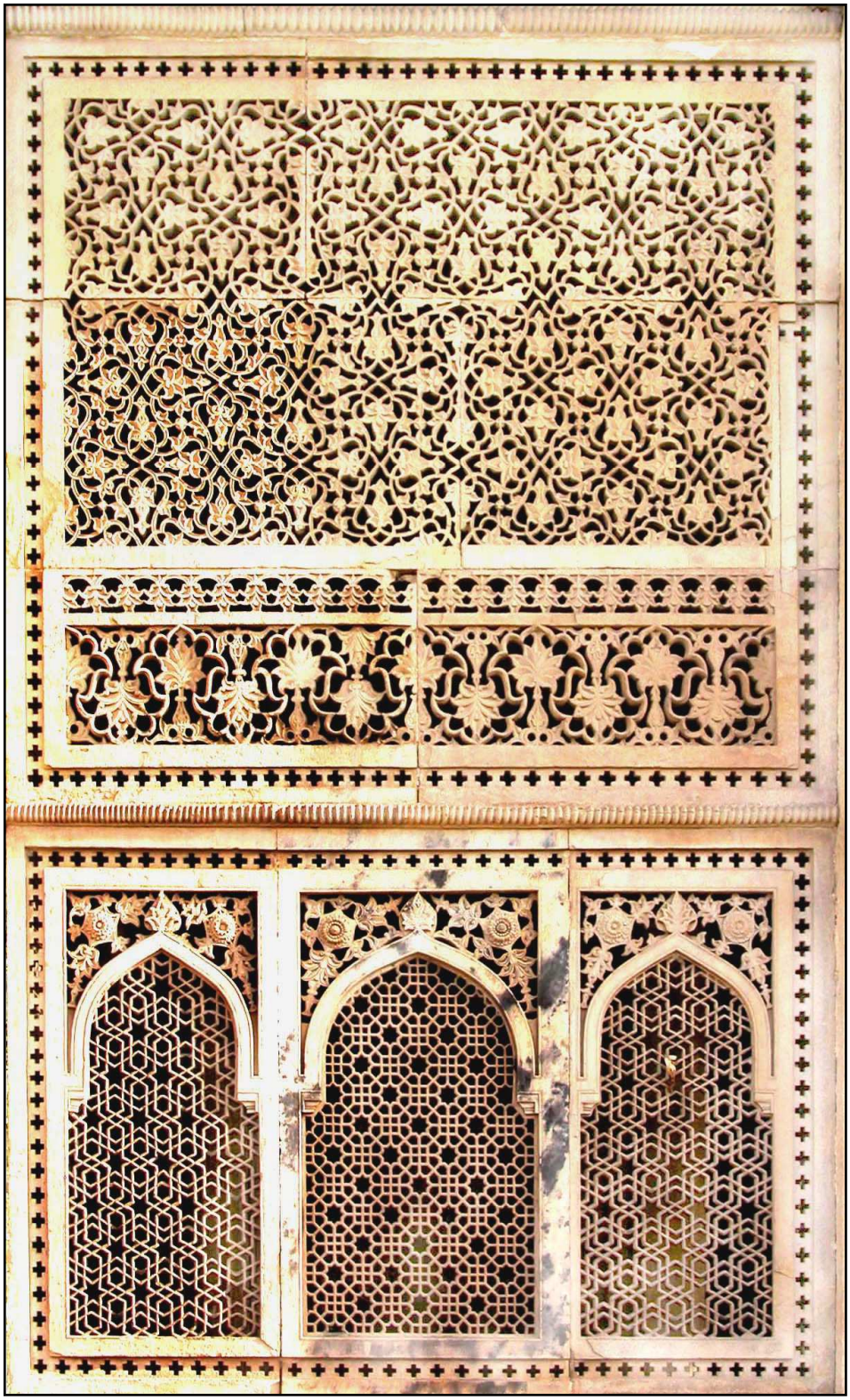
LA ROUTE DES ARABESQUES .

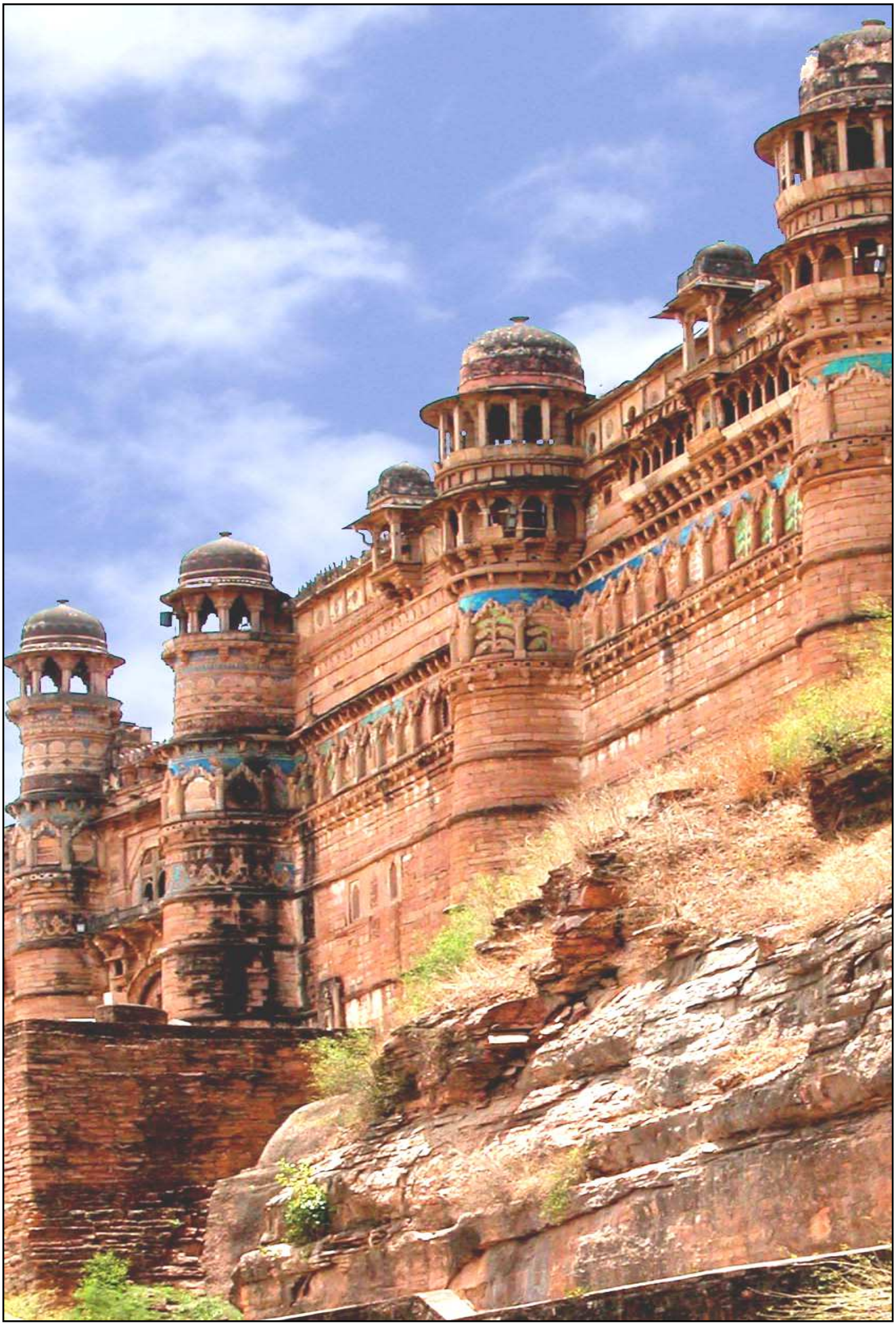


XII. Influence Moghole au Rajasthan : GWALIOR. JAÏPUR.

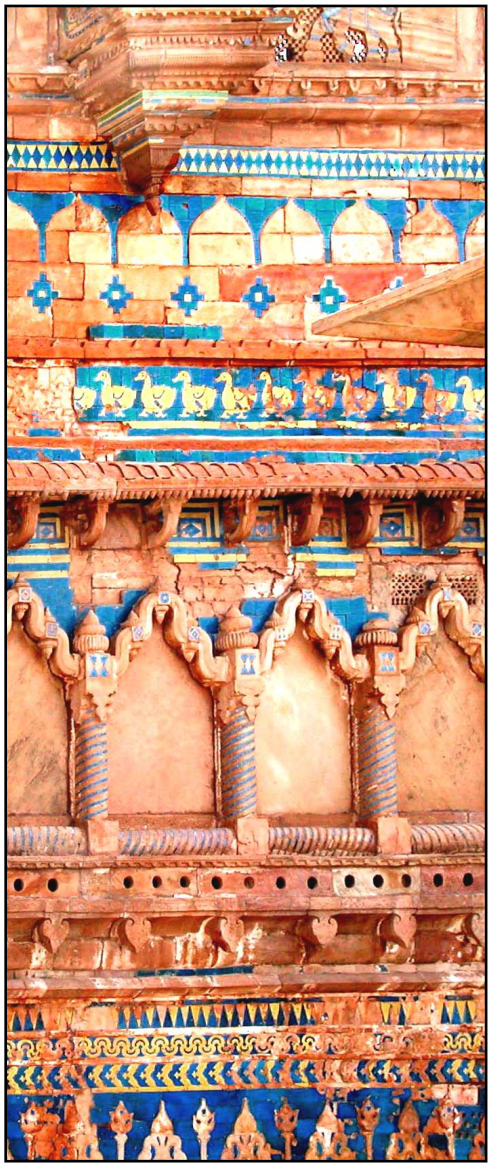
- Villes du Rajasthan. Gwalior **:**
  le Man Mandir Mahal.

Balcon de l'entrée principale du Man Mandir Mahal avec des balustrades taillées dans le grès rose. .

Procession de danseuses sculptées dans la masse formant des jalis d'aération pour les chambres.



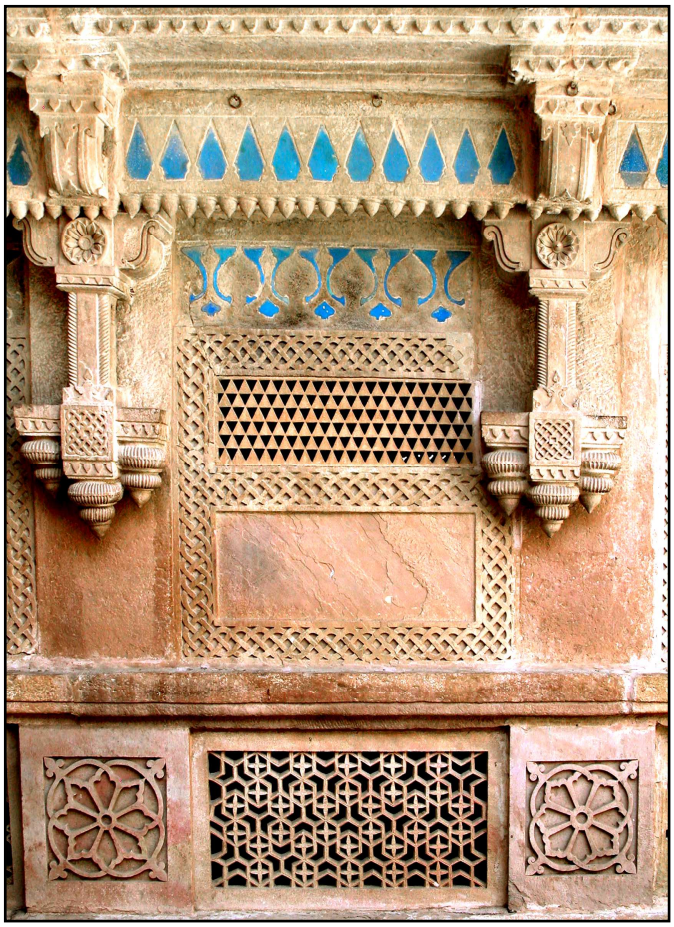
Les murs de la forteresse Man Mandir sont tapissés de kaschis bleus et jaunes.

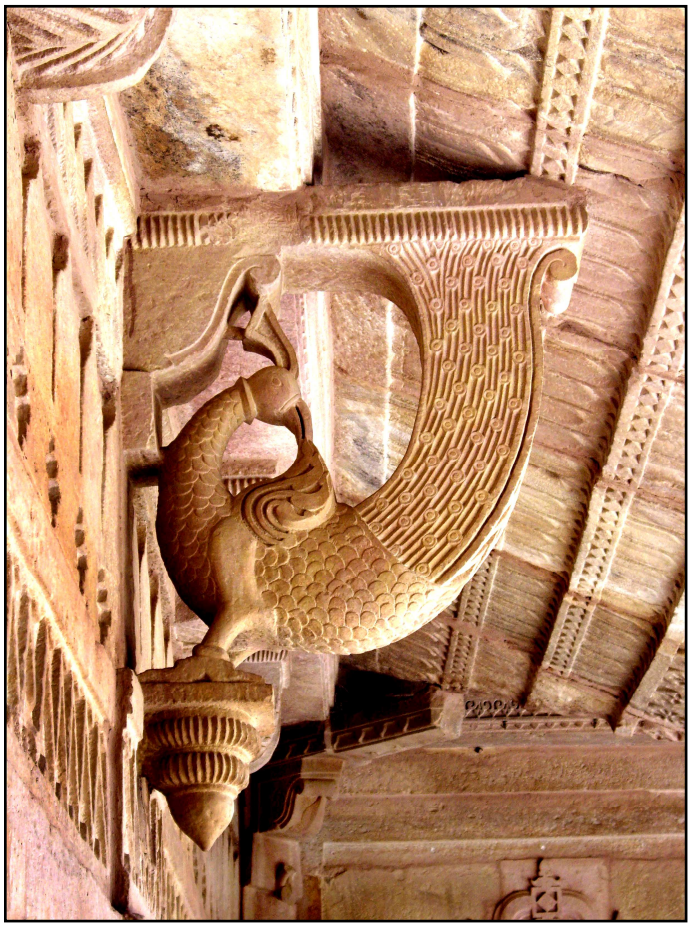


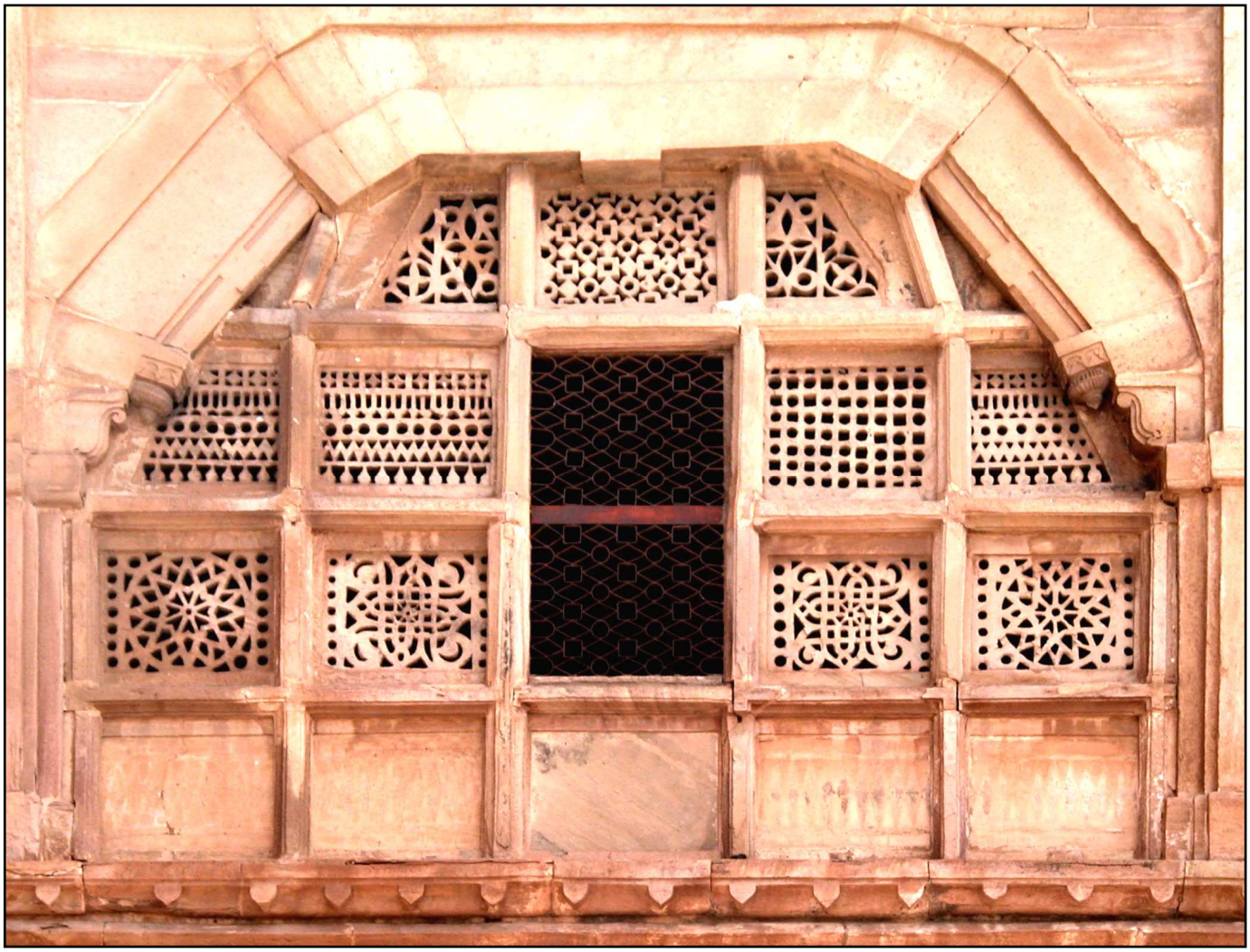
Citadelle des temps héroïques entourée de vastes plaines, théâtre de combats homériques, Gwalior symbolise la puissance déchue des anciens maharadjas rajputs. Ce repaire, quasiment inexpugnable, fut la convoitise de tout ce qui portait une couronne dans la péninsule Indienne.

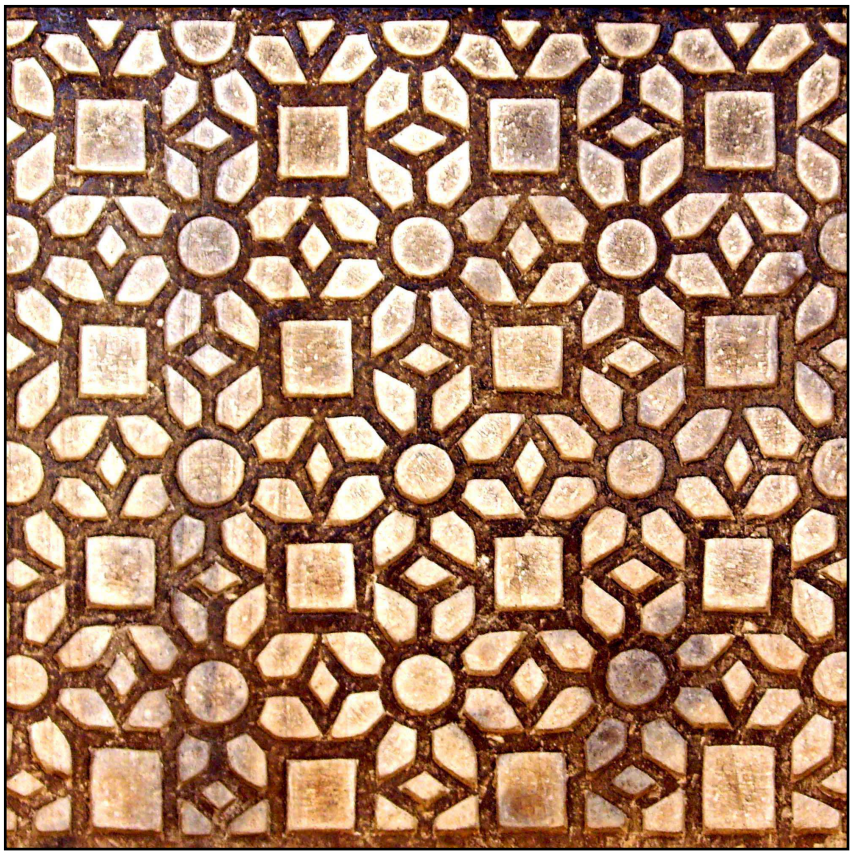
D'innombrables ruines de temples et de palais parsèment cet oppidum et retracent comme un livre son histoire mouvementée. Seul le Man Mandir Mahal a gardé son intégrité ; construit entre 1486 et 1517 pour servir de résidence aux maîtres du lieu, il s'élève sur cinq étages au dessus du niveau de la citadelle ; les cinq étages en sous-sol servent à loger la garnison. C'est dans les cachots de ces étages inférieurs qu'Aurangzeb enferma et pendit son frère qui prétendait à la succession de leur père Shah Jahan.

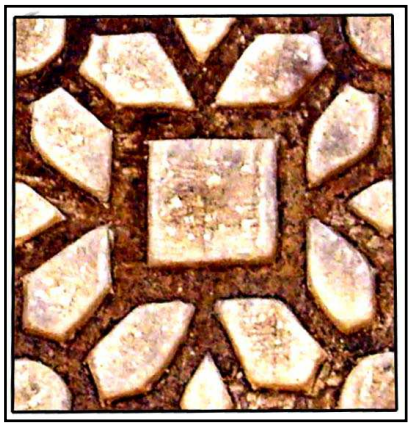
Des kaschis, découpés à la manière des zelliges, tapissent les murs extérieurs des fortifications du palais avec des motifs géométriques et des frises d'animaux issus du panthéon hindou.

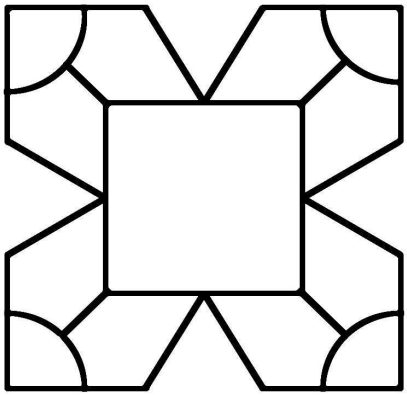


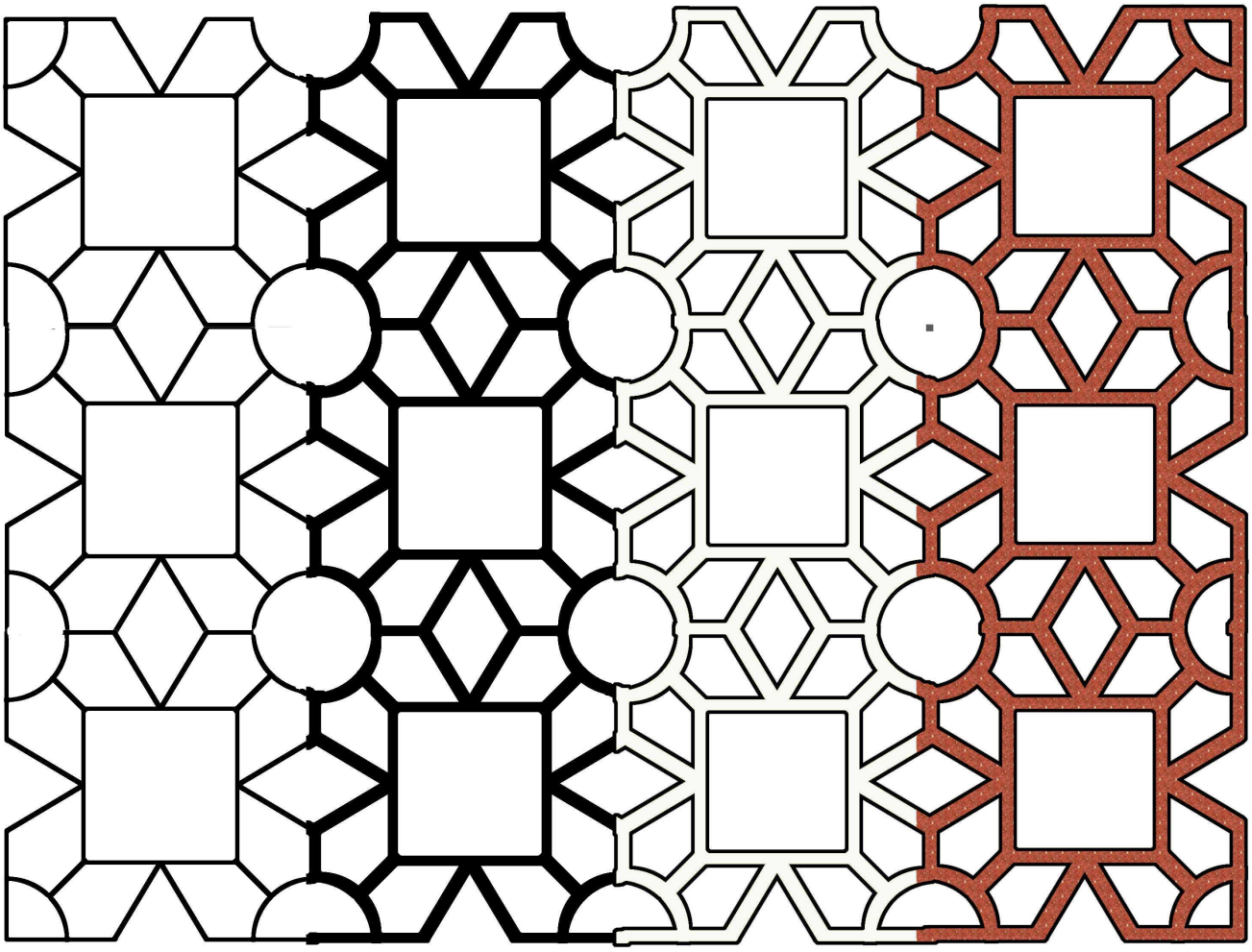






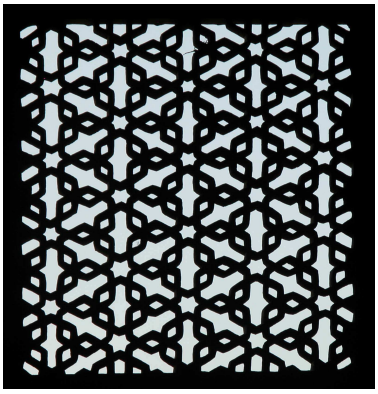


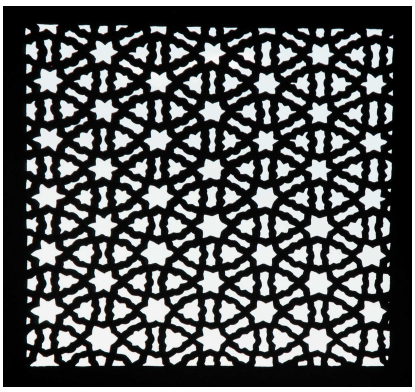


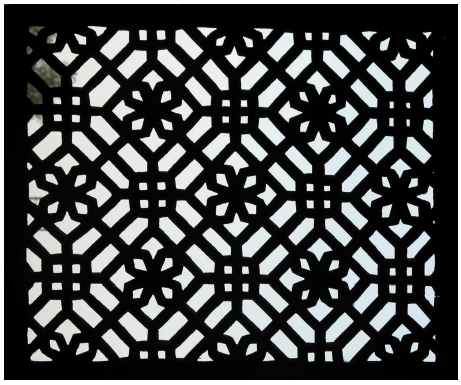


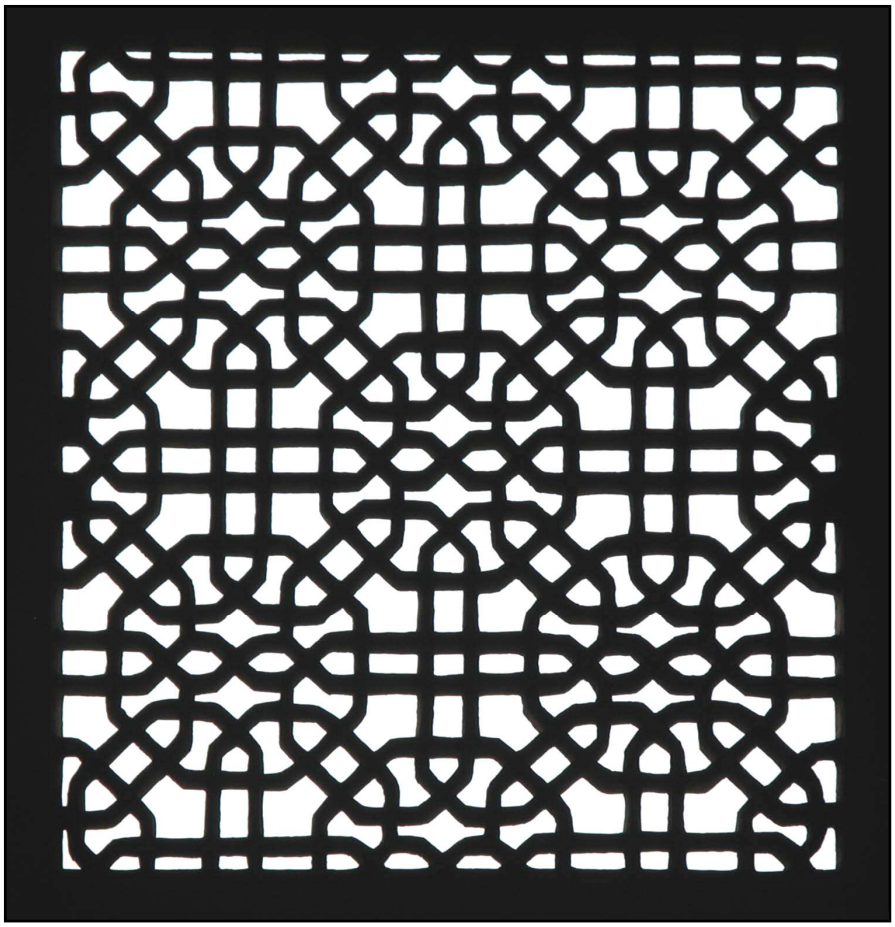
- Villes du Rajastan ; Gwalior :
le **mausolée de Mohamed Ghaus**.

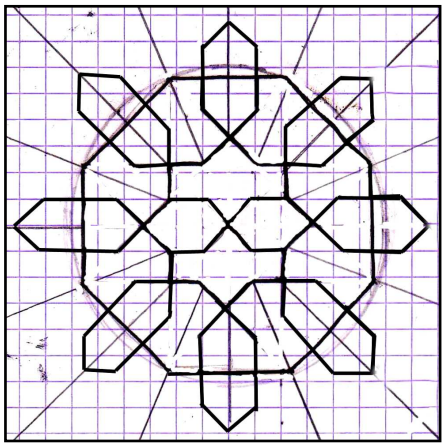
Le mausolée fut construit au XVIème siècle pour Mohammad Ghaus, saint homme musulman. Son plan carré, entouré de quatre tours d'angle hexagonales et surmontées par un dôme, soutient une grande coupole ceinturée de quatre chattris. De grands jalis ceinturent le corps extérieur du bâtiment et délimitent une zone de circumambulation intérieure.

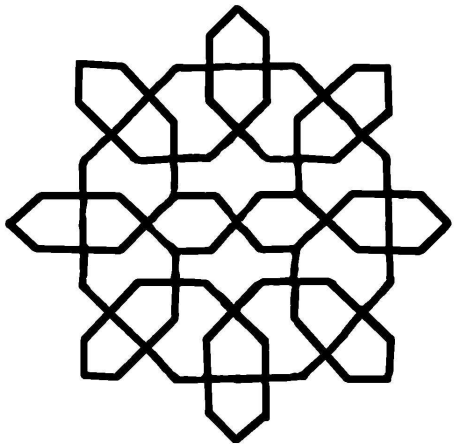


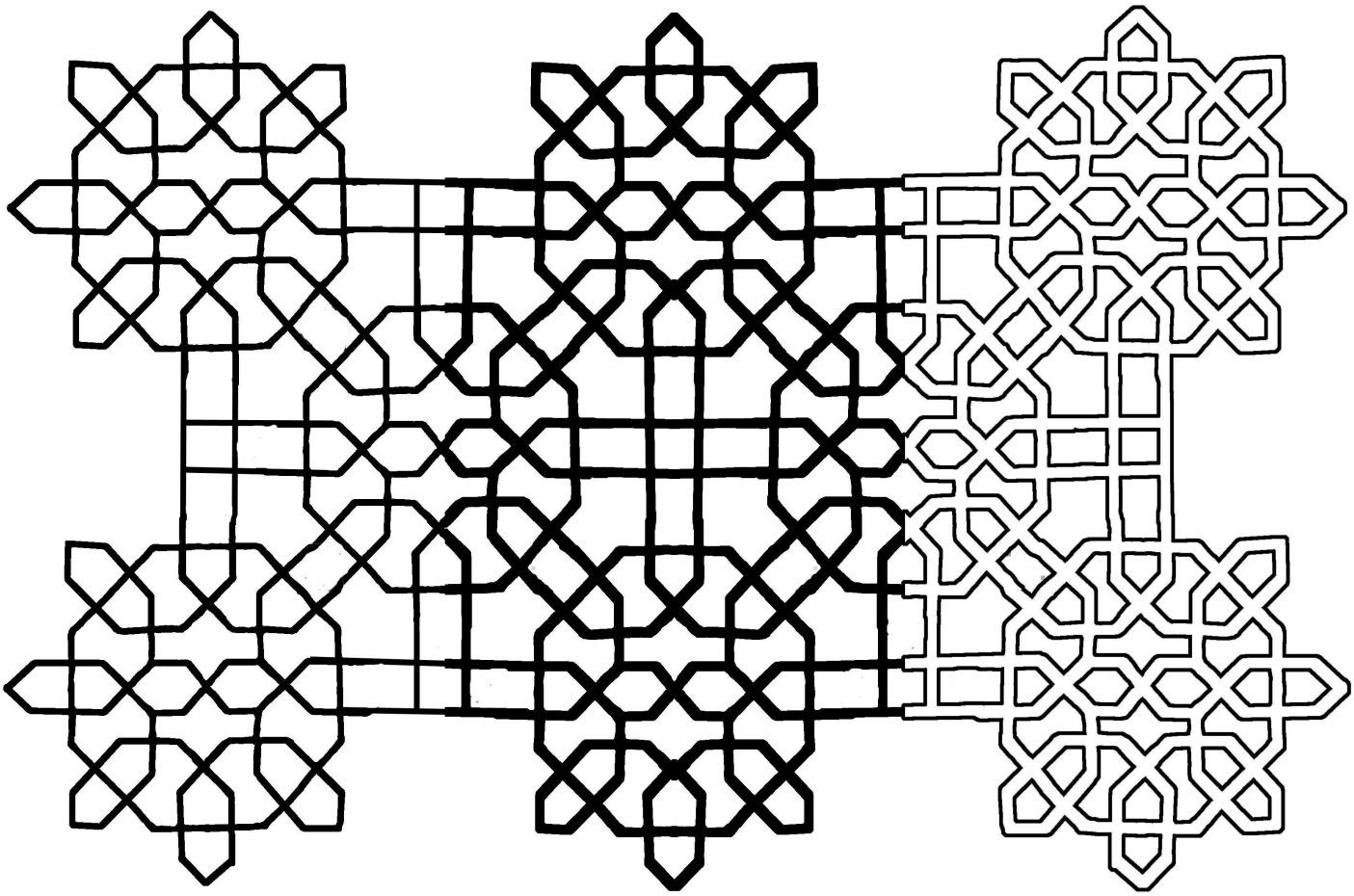


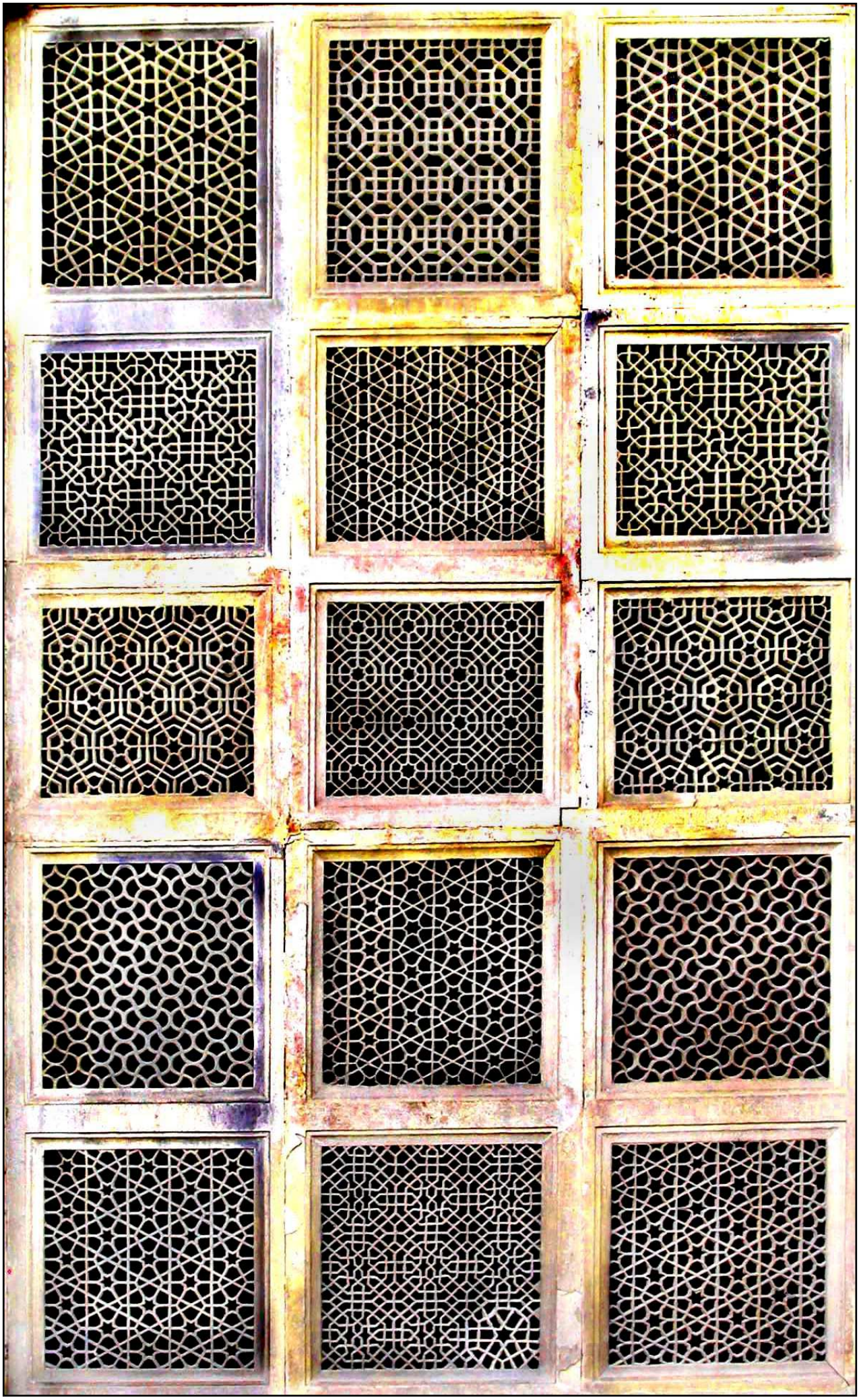


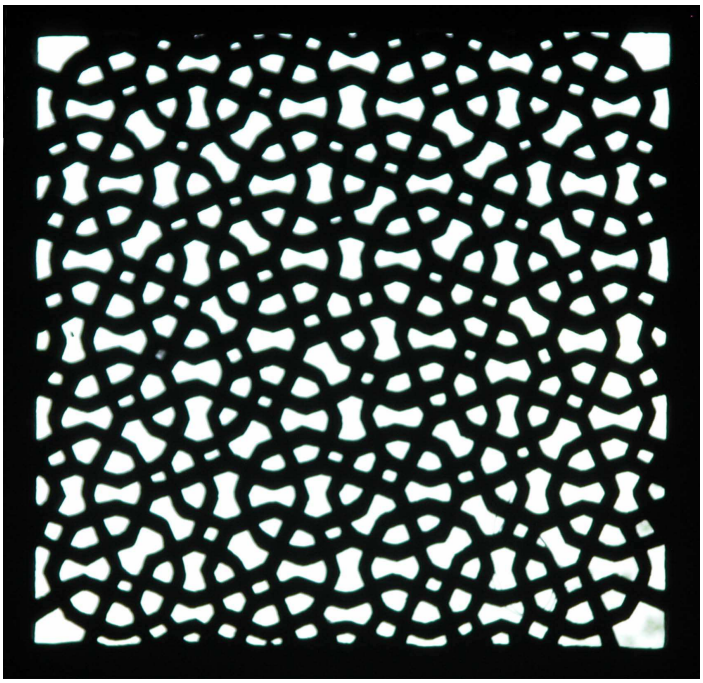


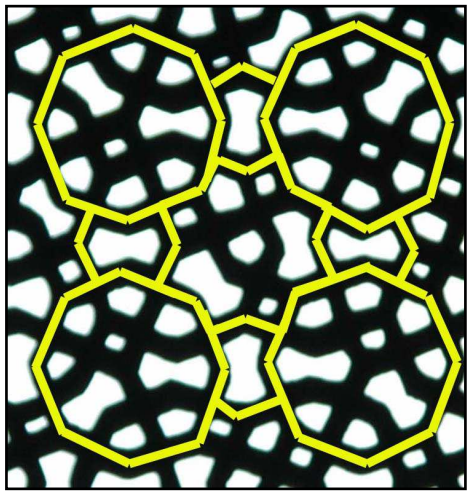


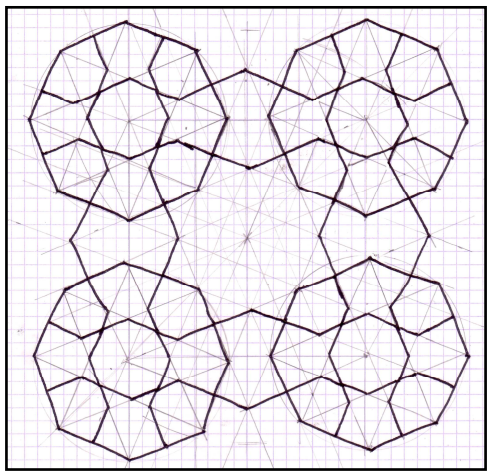


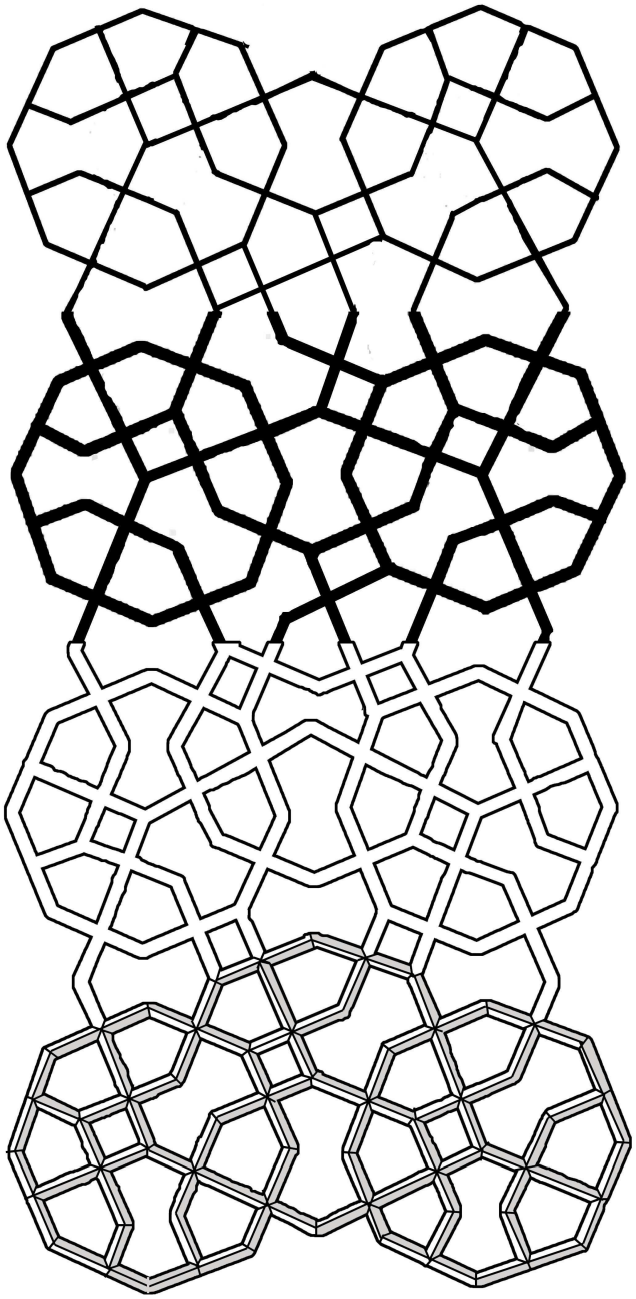


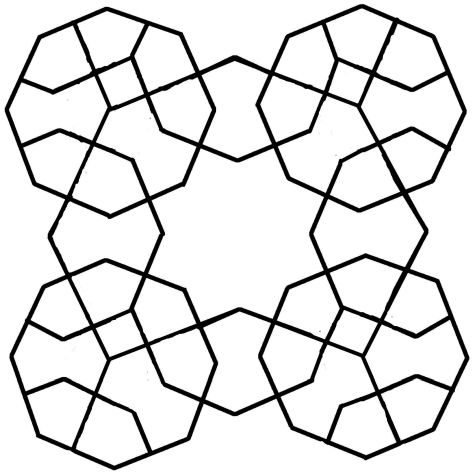


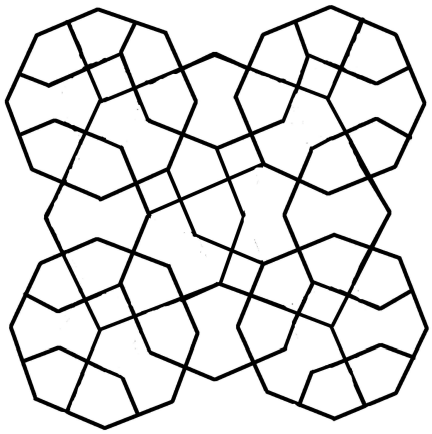


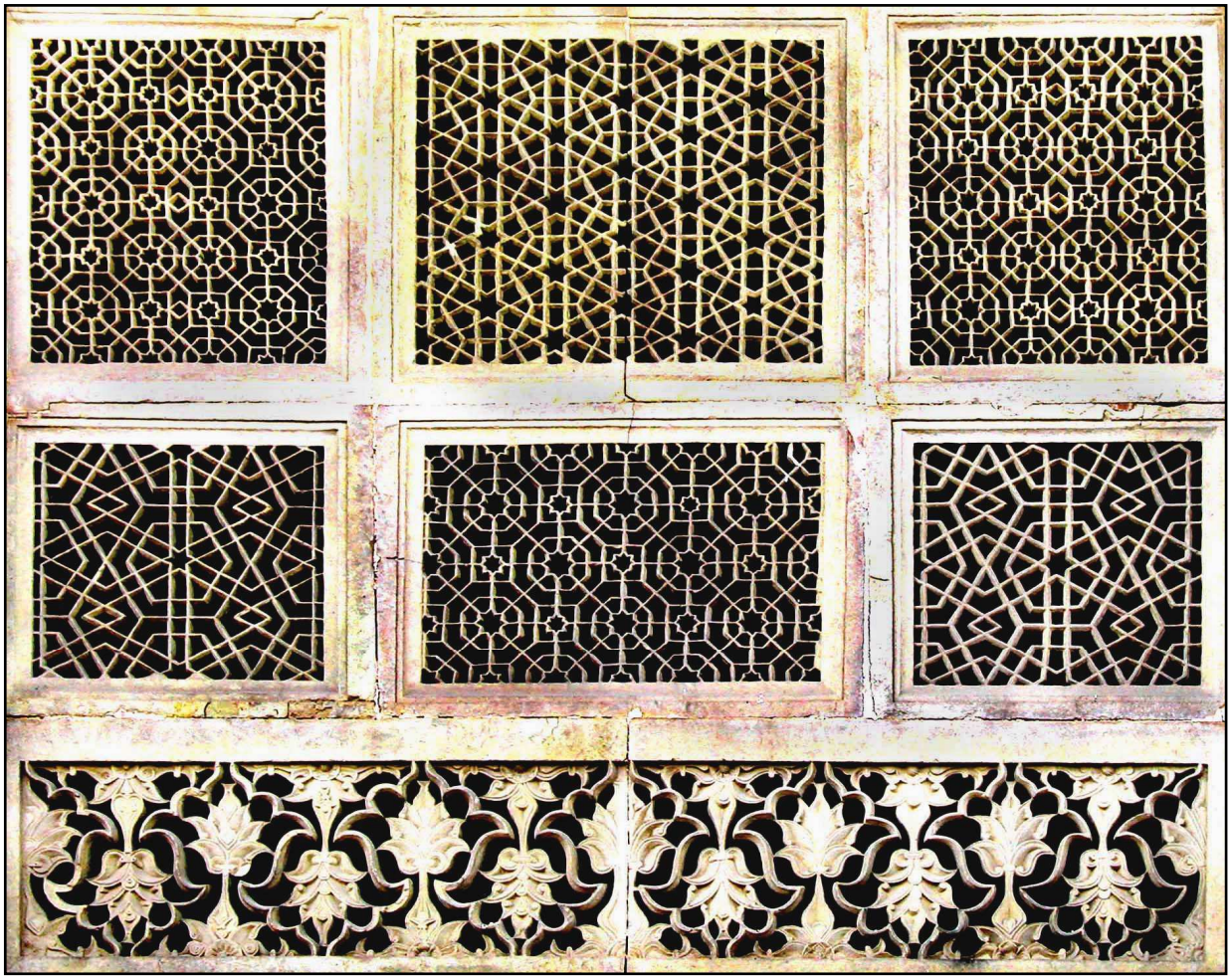


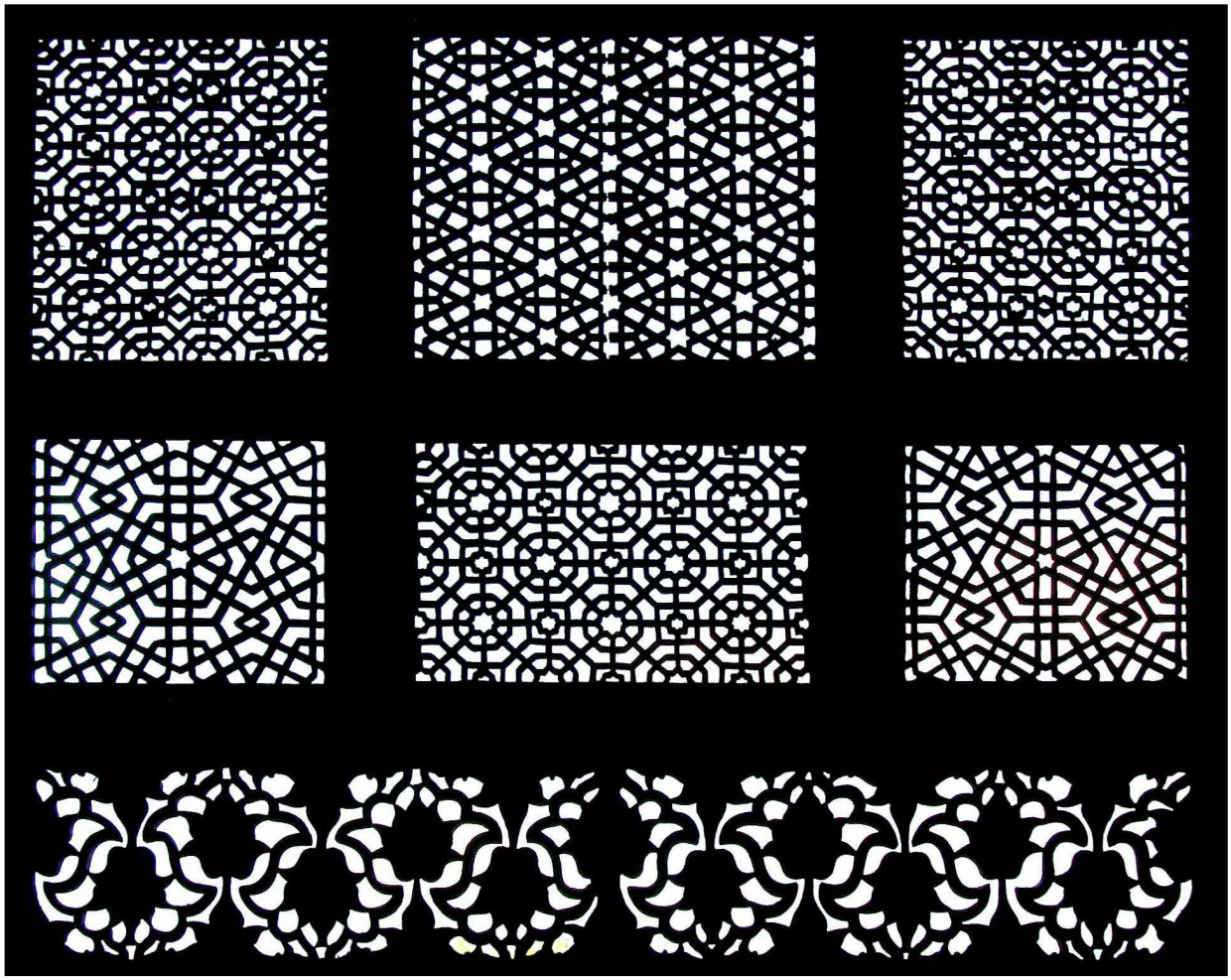


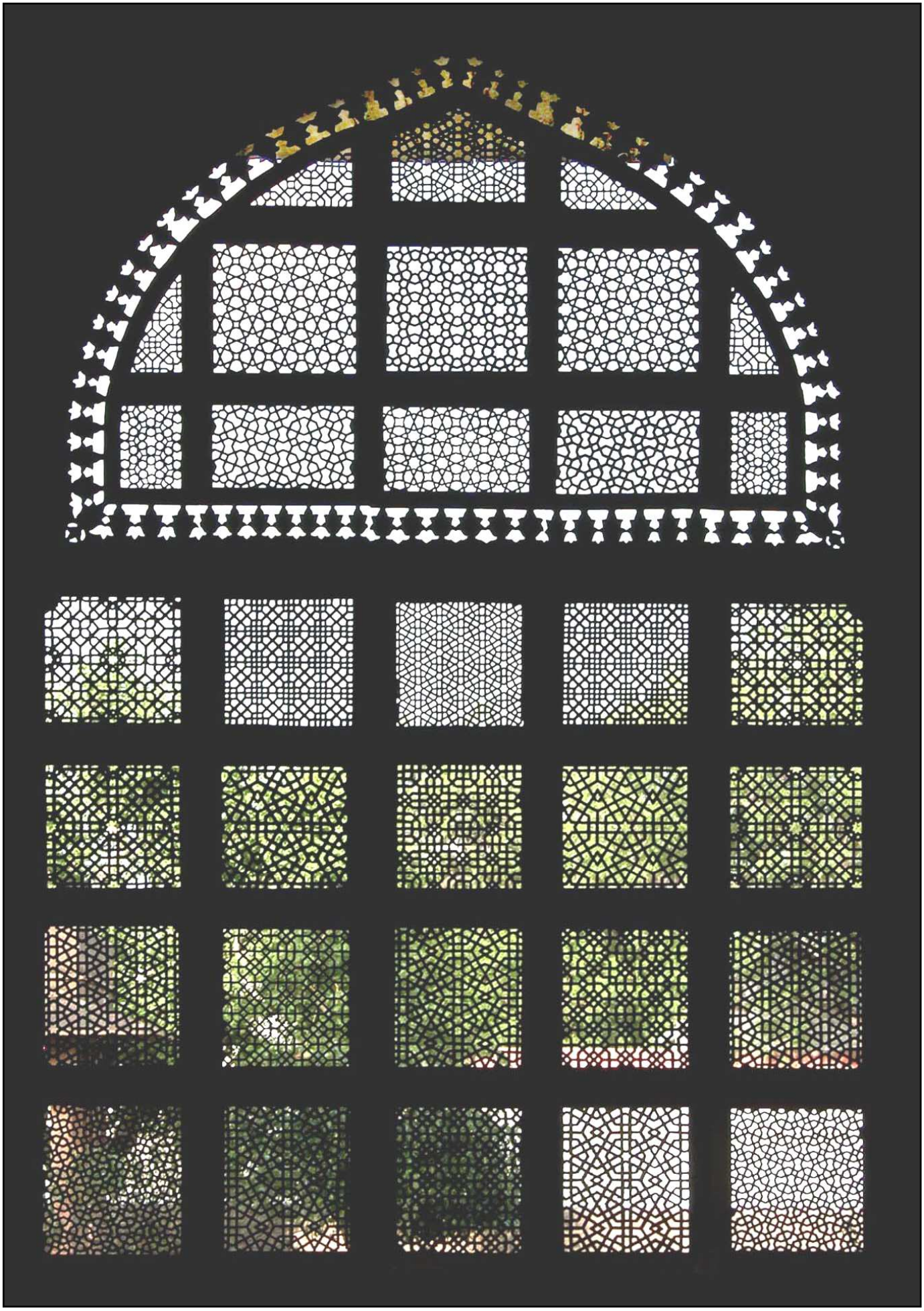








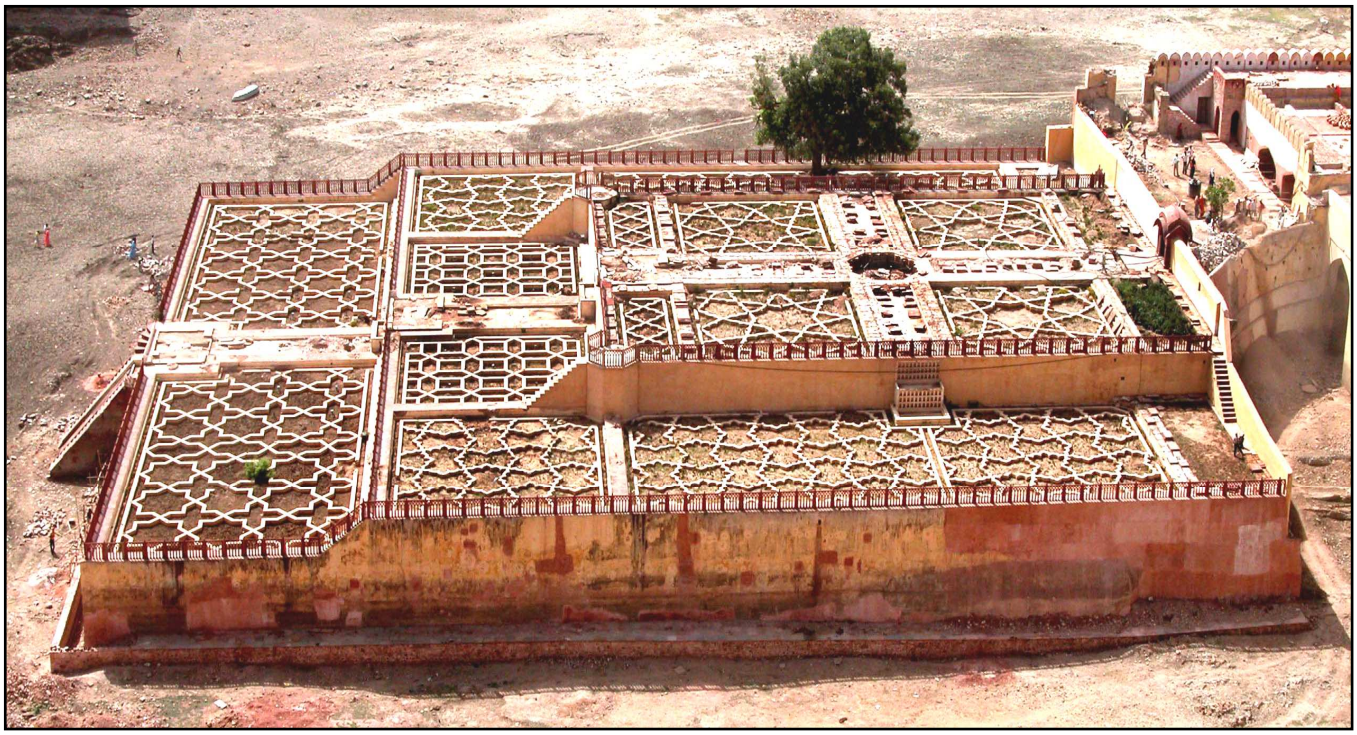




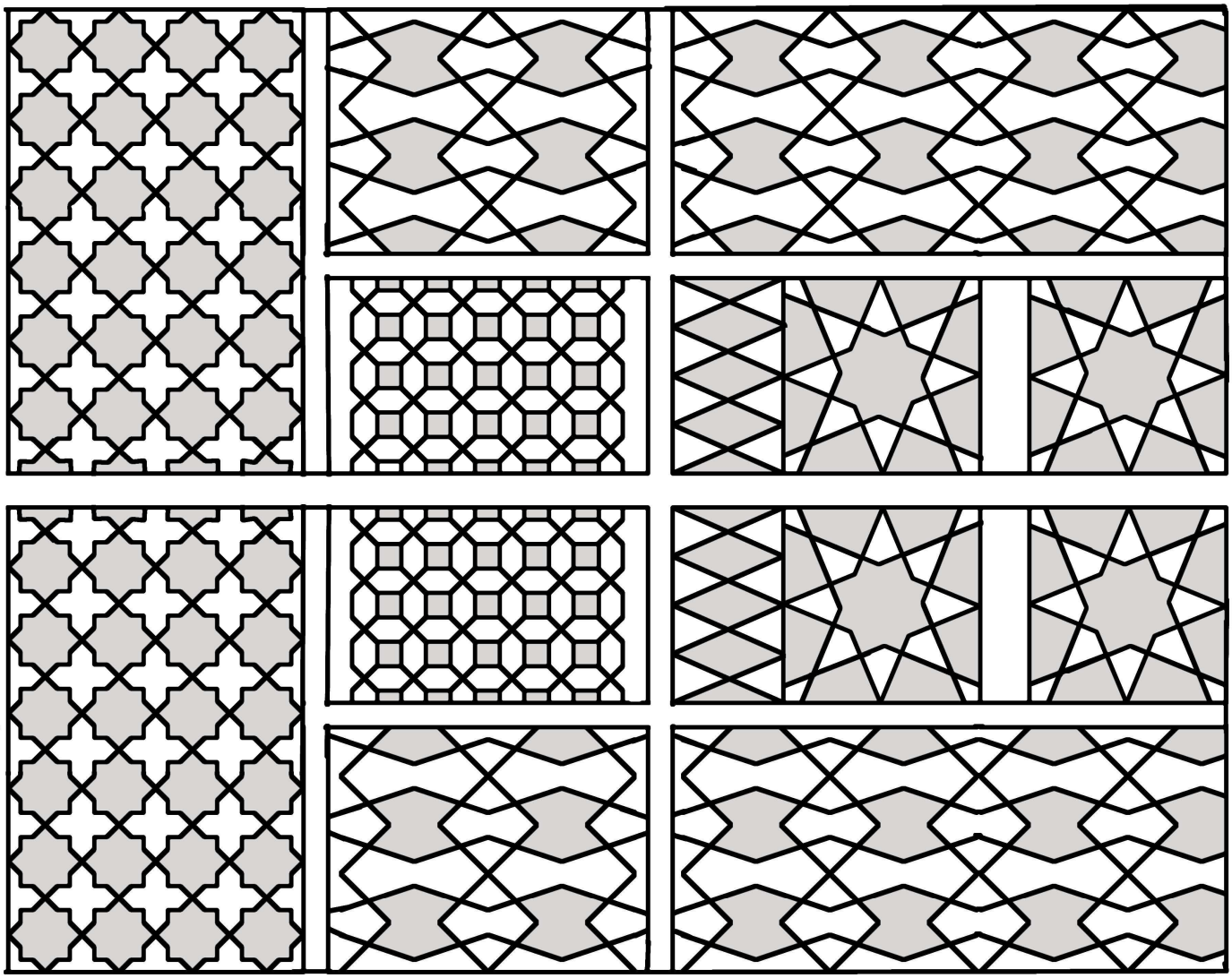
- Villes du Rajastan : Jaipur ; **la forteresse d'Amber**.

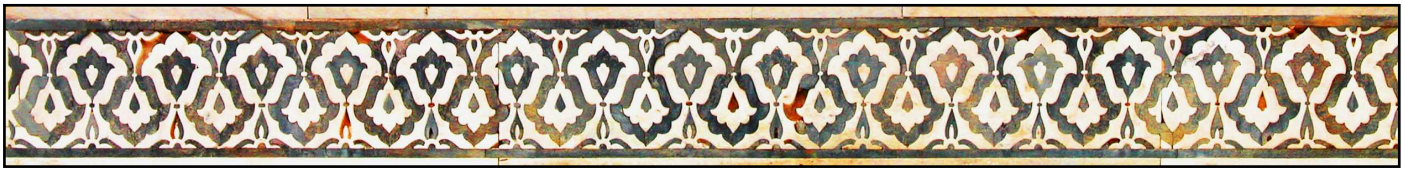
Palais des maharadjas de Jaipur, le complexe d'Amber se caractérise par son ampleur : deux châteaux défensifs, l'un situé près du lac artificiel servait de résidence fortifiée, l'autre, situé au sommet de la colline était uniquement défensif. Les deux palais étaient reliés par un passage fortifié ; le tout entouré par des murs de fortification de plusieurs dizaines de kilomètres.

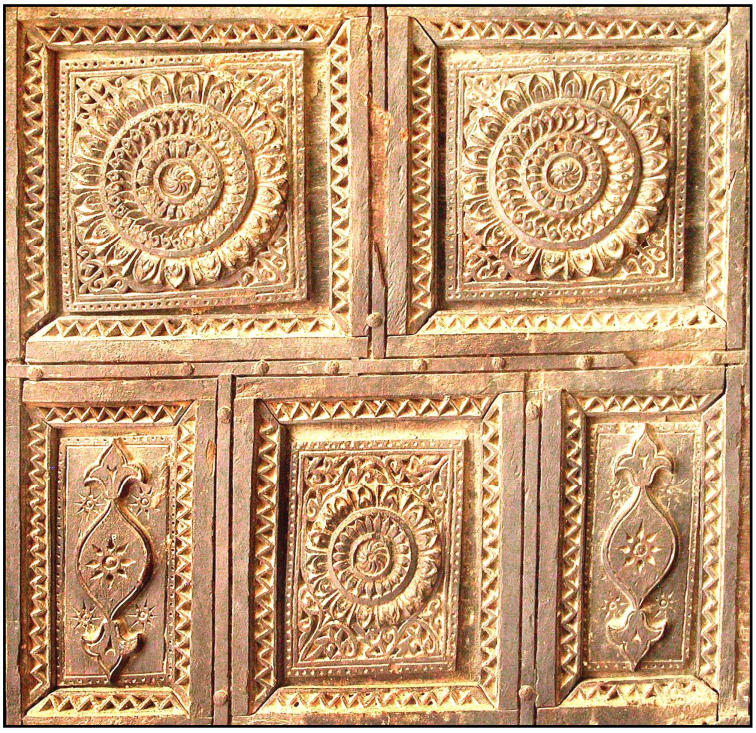
de glace et plafond du Shish Mahal (palais de verre).

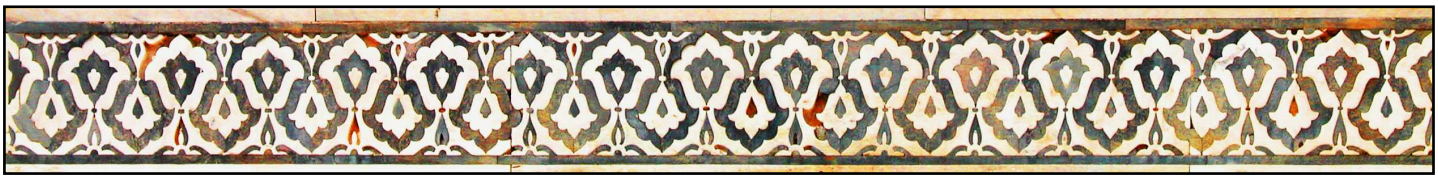


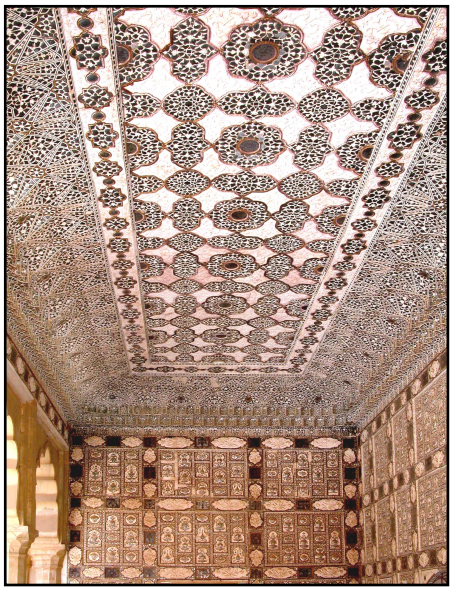
Plan du jardin du lac d'Amber avec ses plates-bandes formant des motifs géométriques.

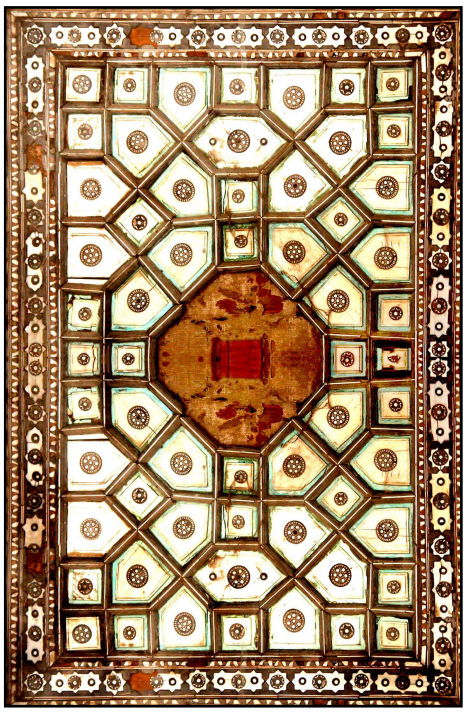




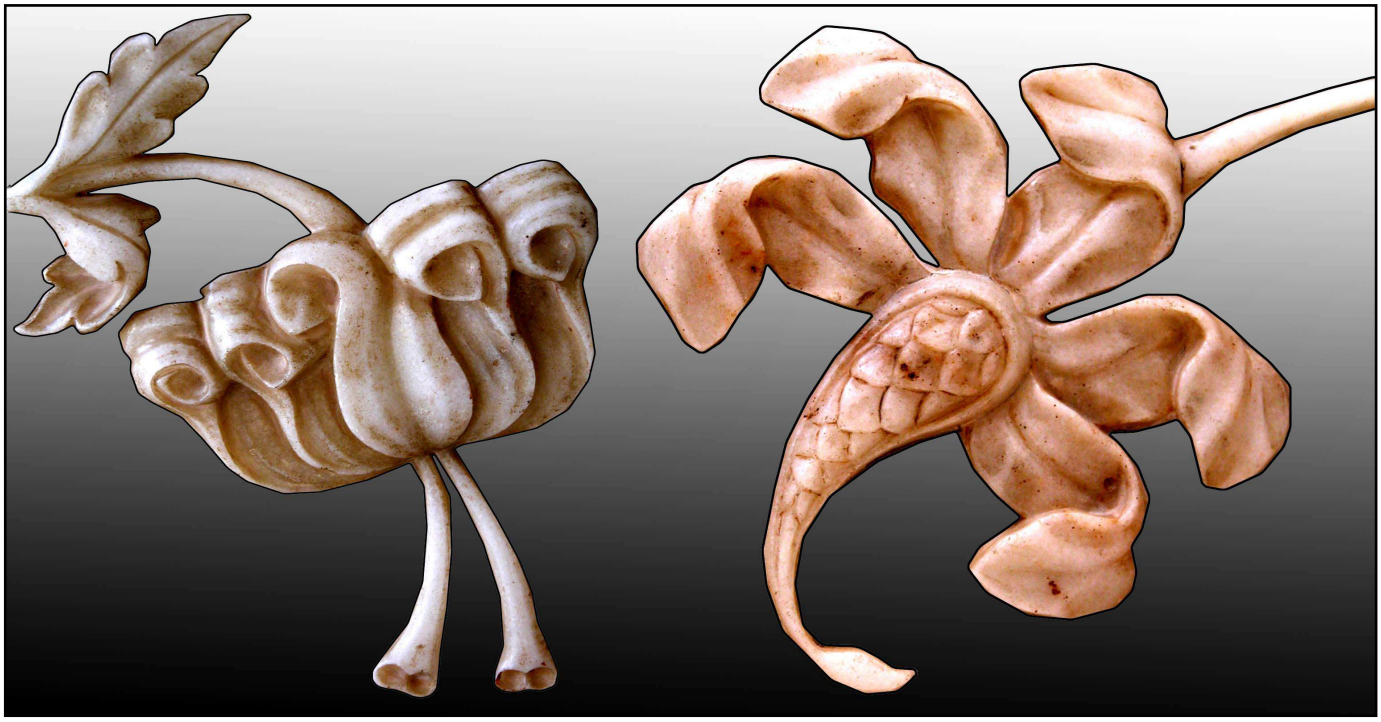


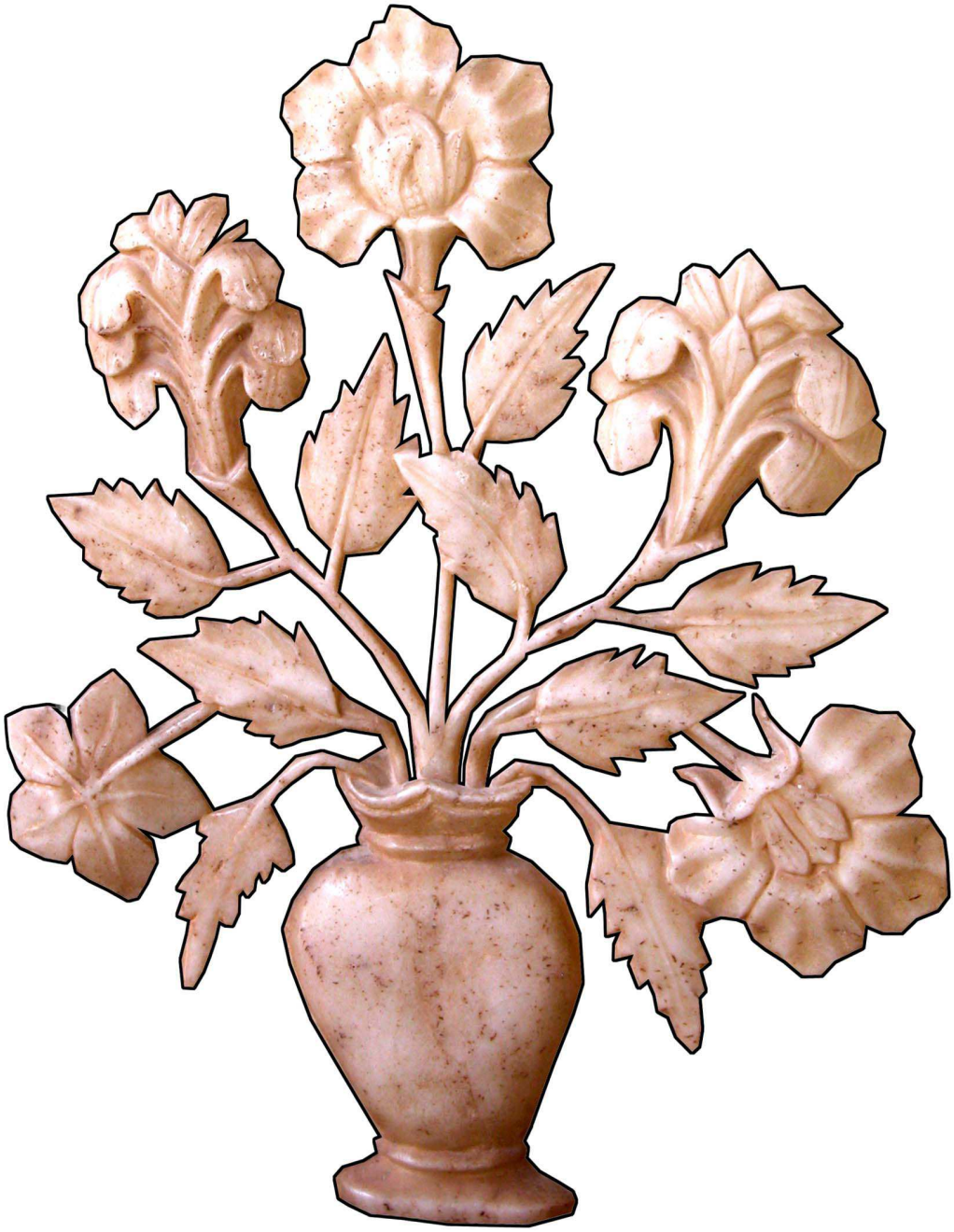




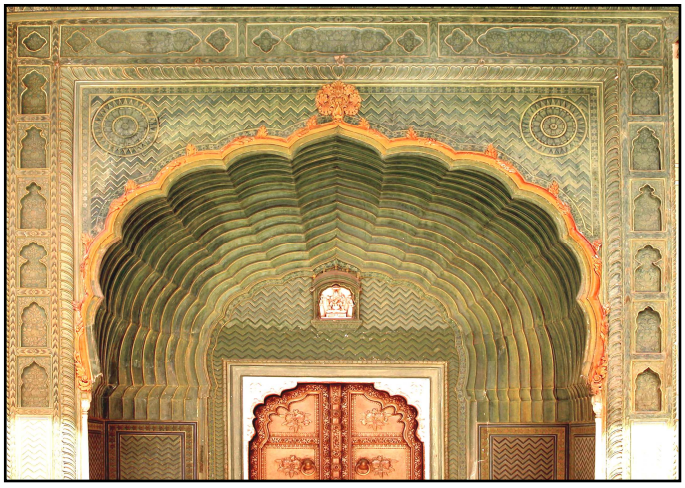


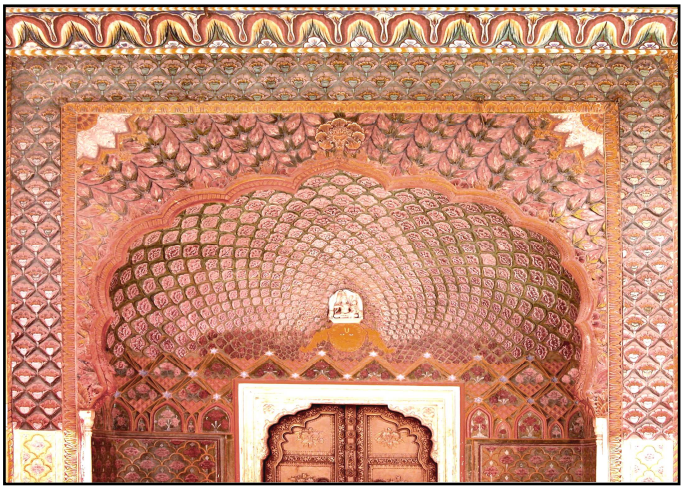
Diversité des décors géométriques : peintures, sculptures sur marbre, pietra dura, marqueterie, vitraux, travail du bois, zelliges de glace …

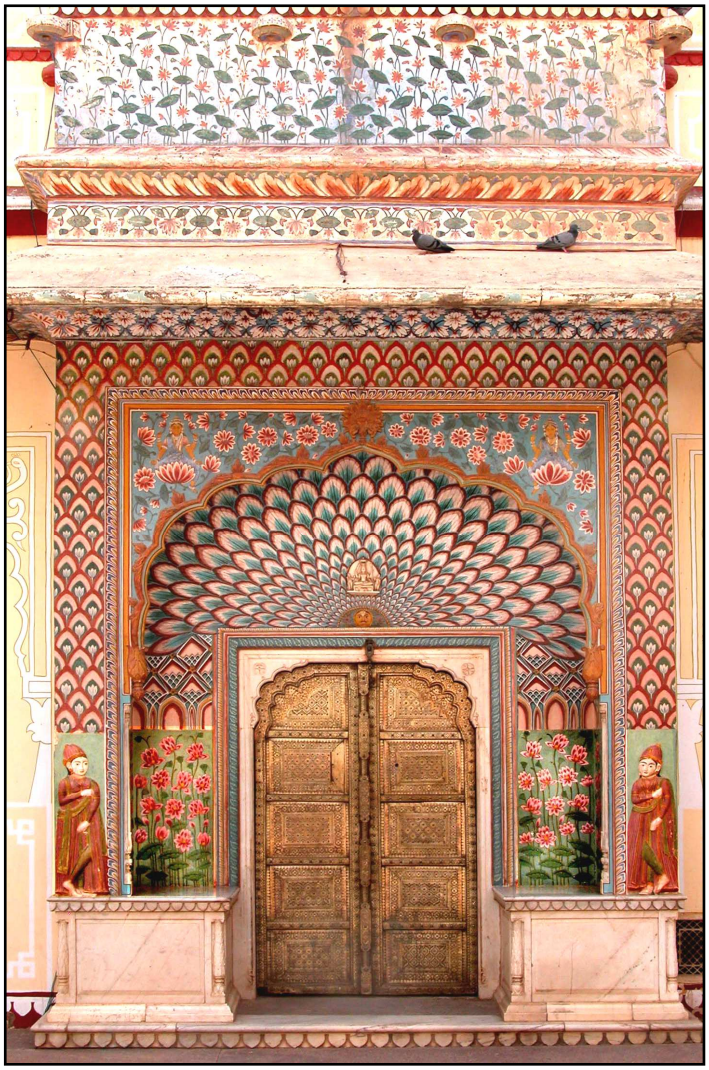


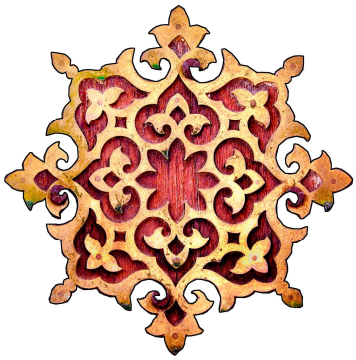


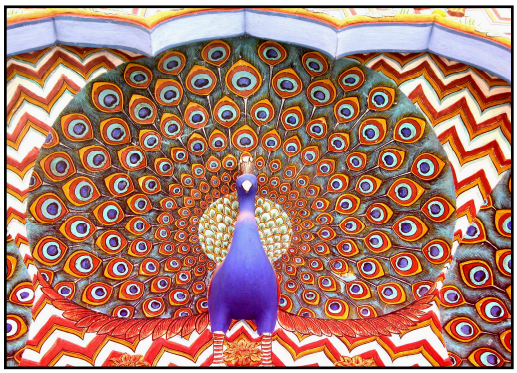
- Jaipur : **le City Palace**.

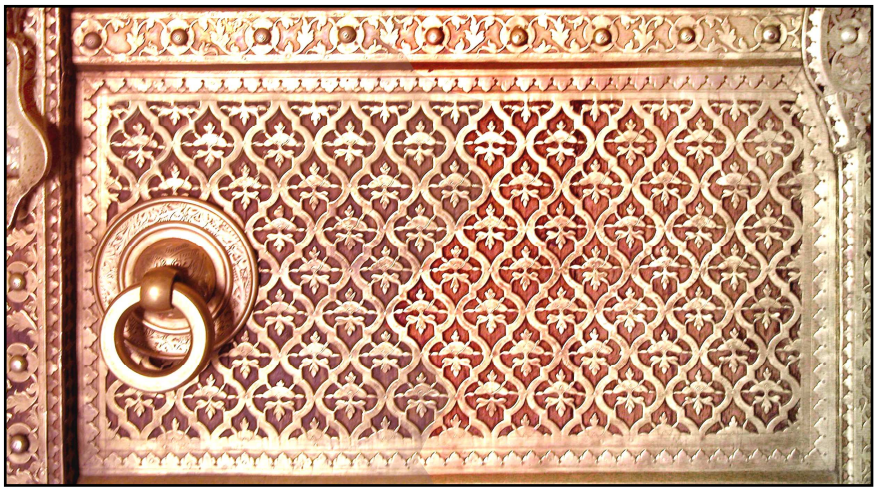


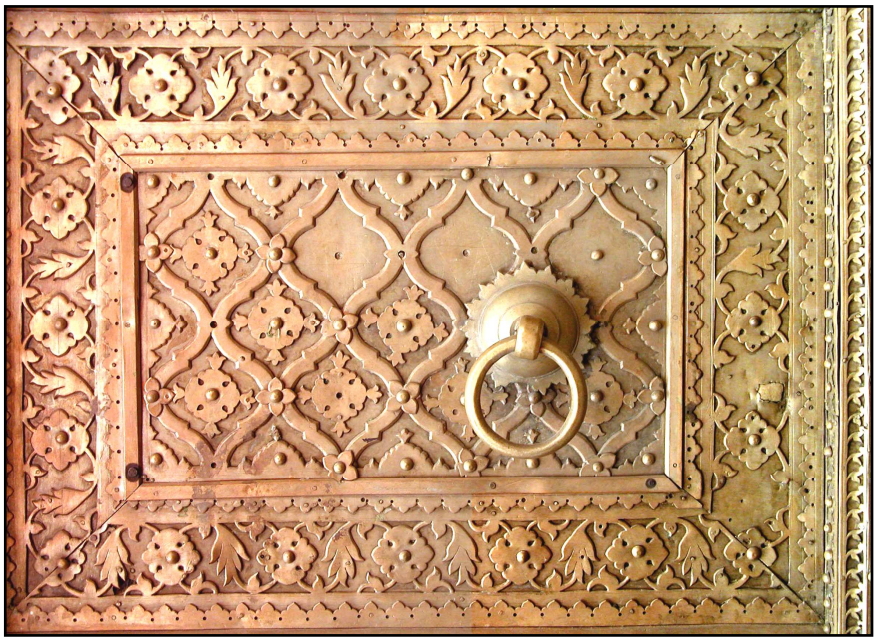






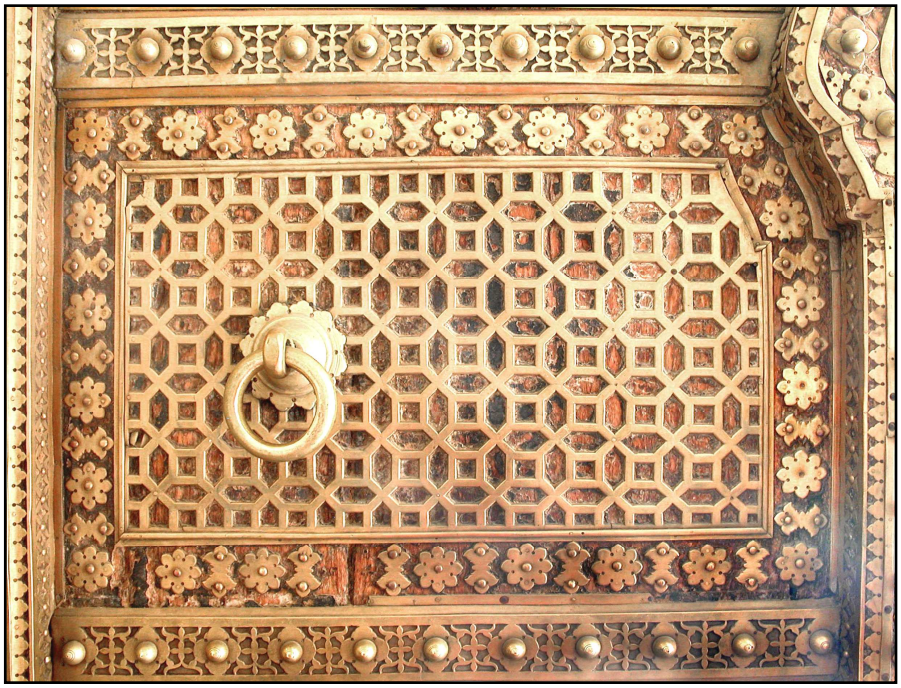


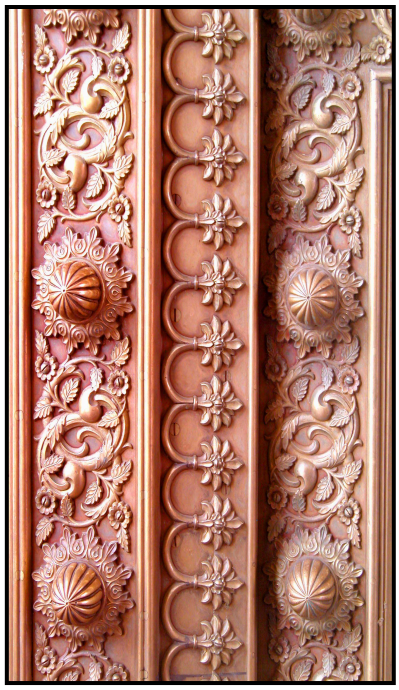


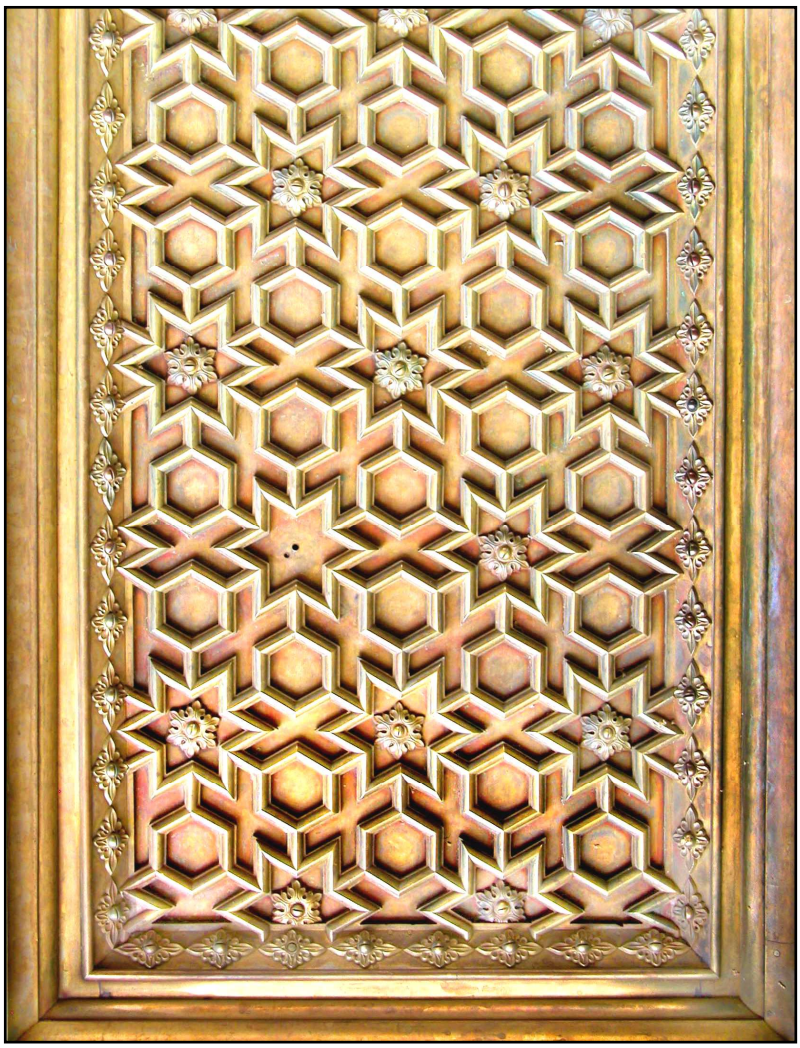


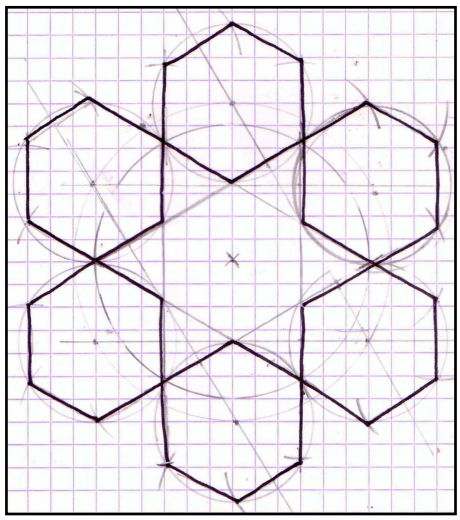
Des plaques de cuivre embellies de motifs géométriques recouvrent les portes du palace ; elles sont encadrées de frises florales.

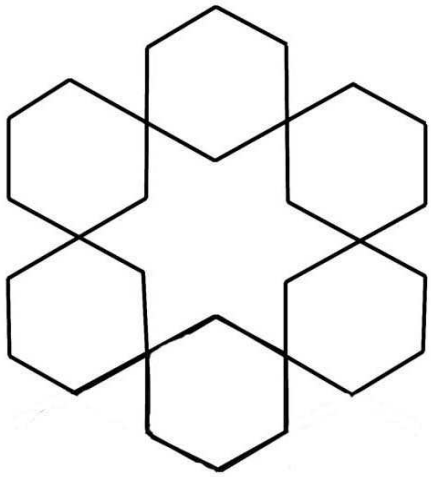
Comme dans toutes les créations des Moghols et des Rajputs, ces motifs géométriques simples forment des compositions de pavages peu élaborés comparées aux créations seldjoukides, mameloukes ou andalouses.

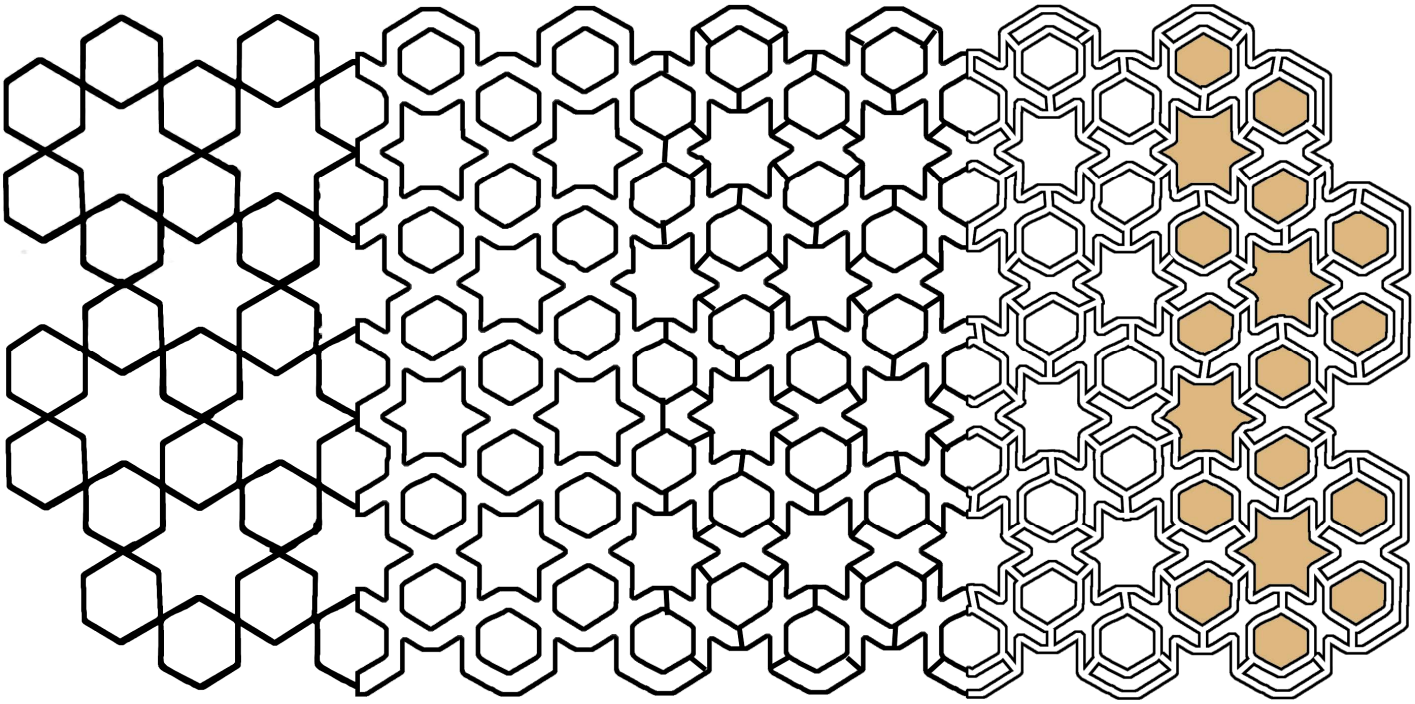


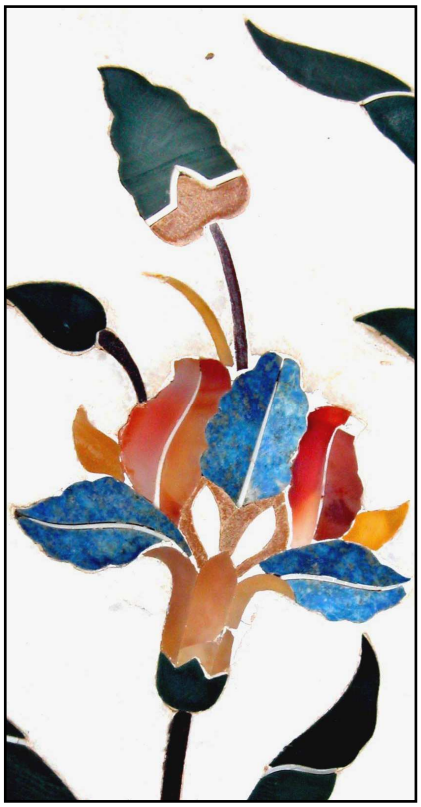




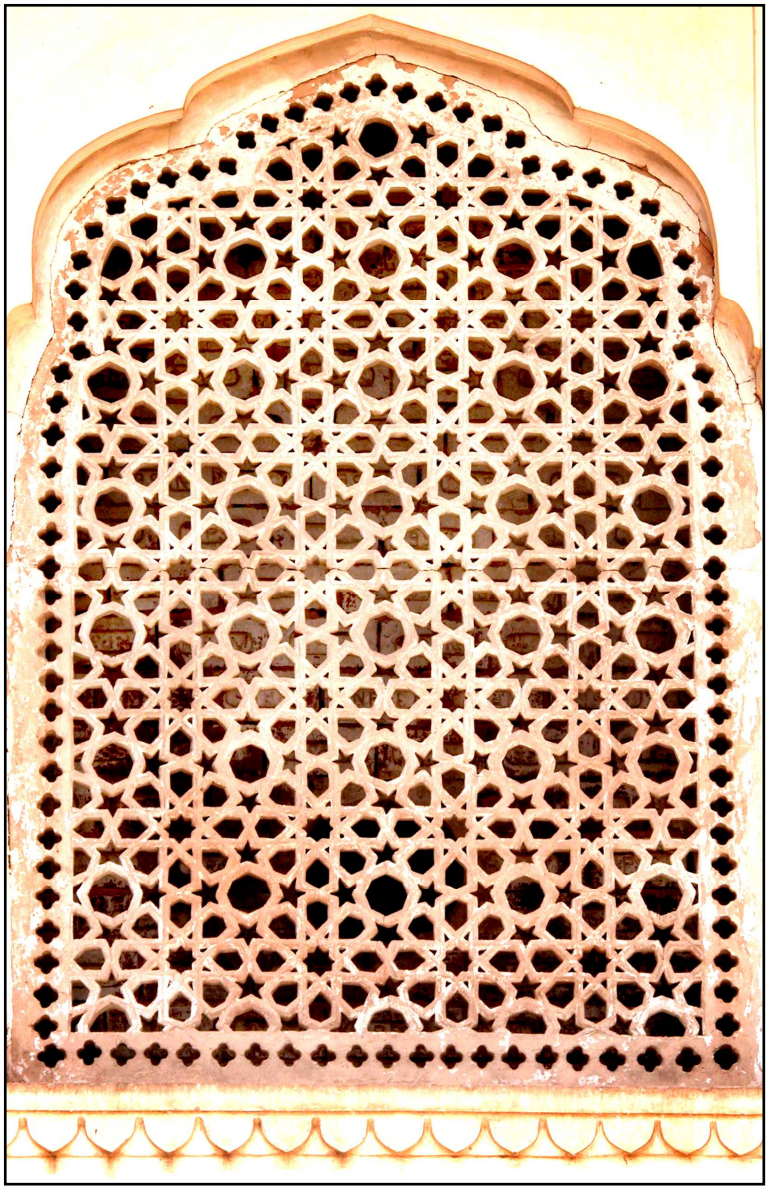


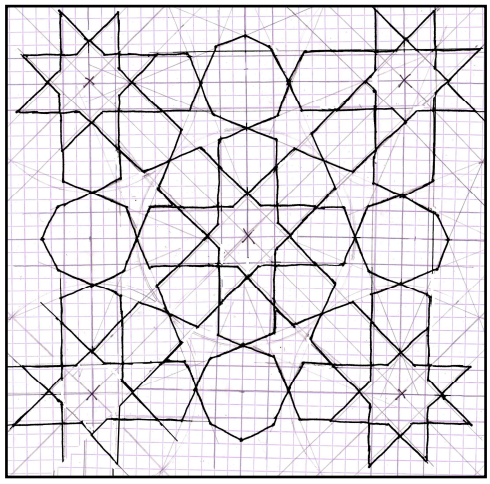


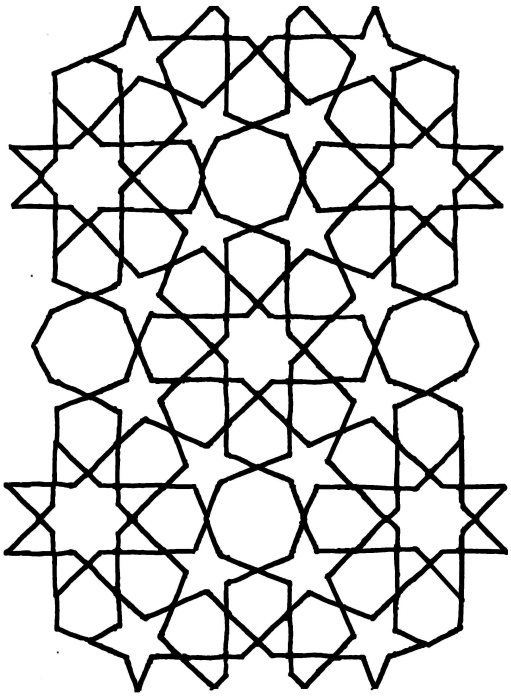


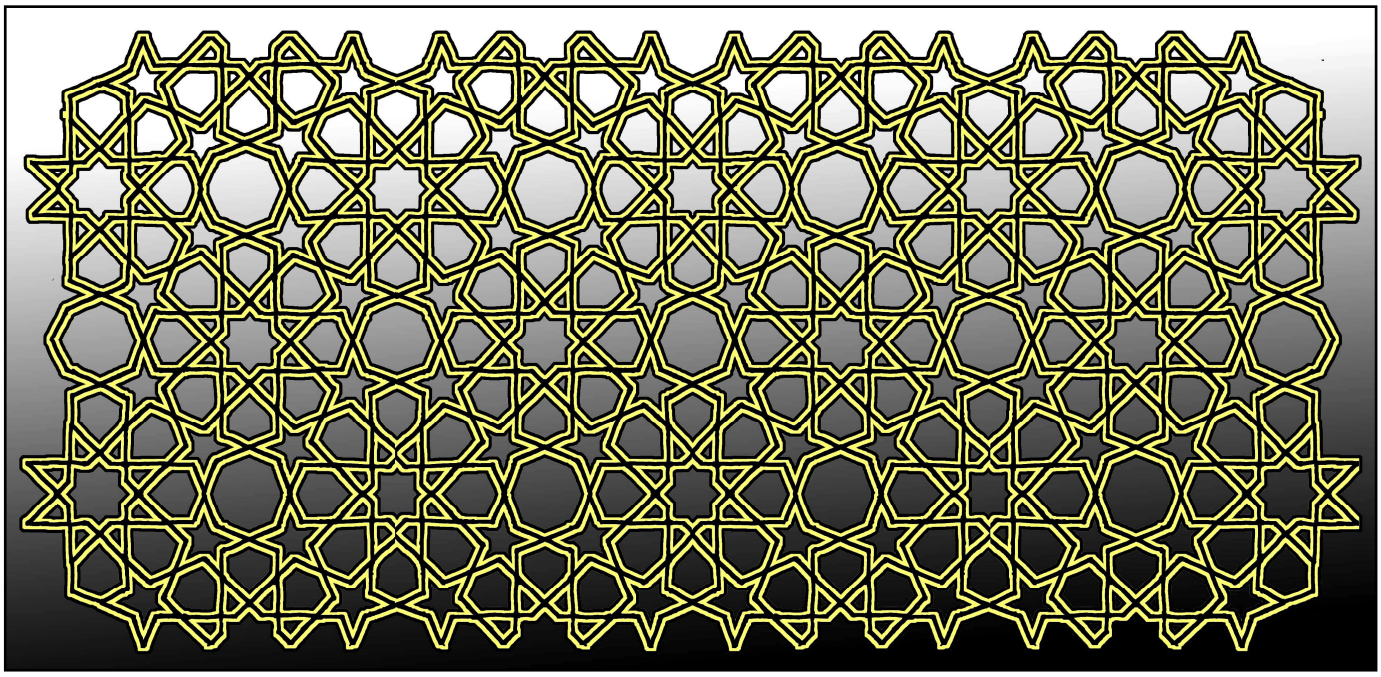


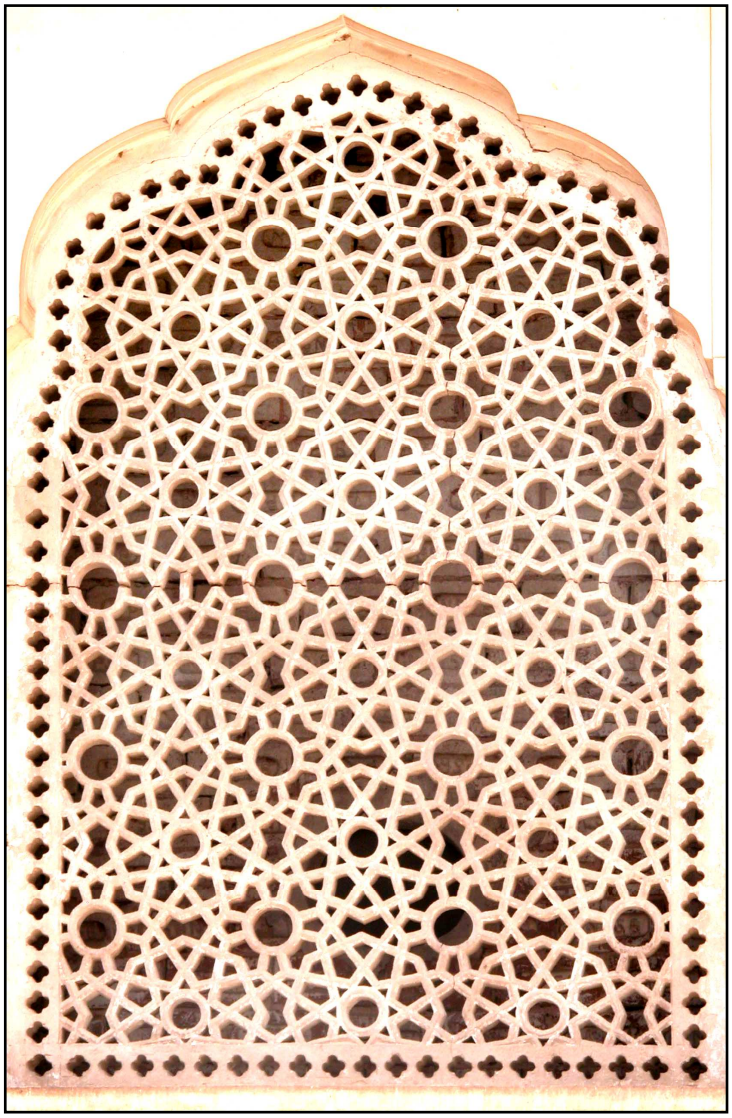
Tout comme dans les monuments Moghols ; tableaux de pietra dura sur marbre.

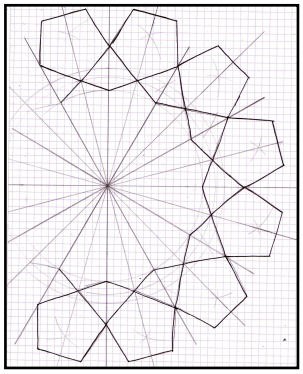


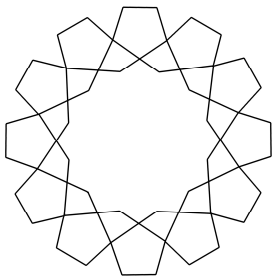


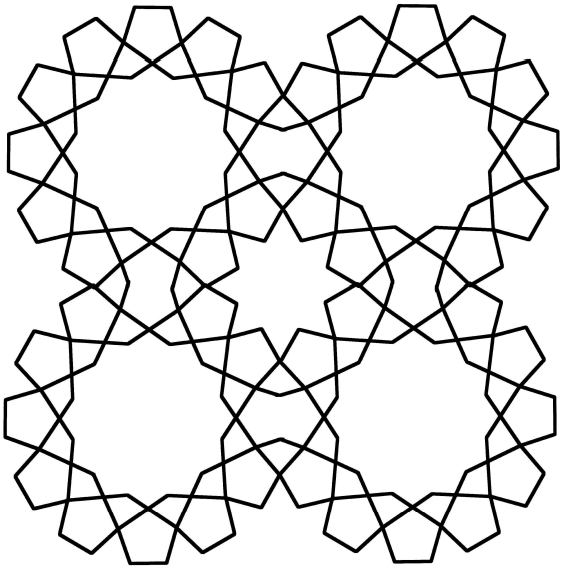


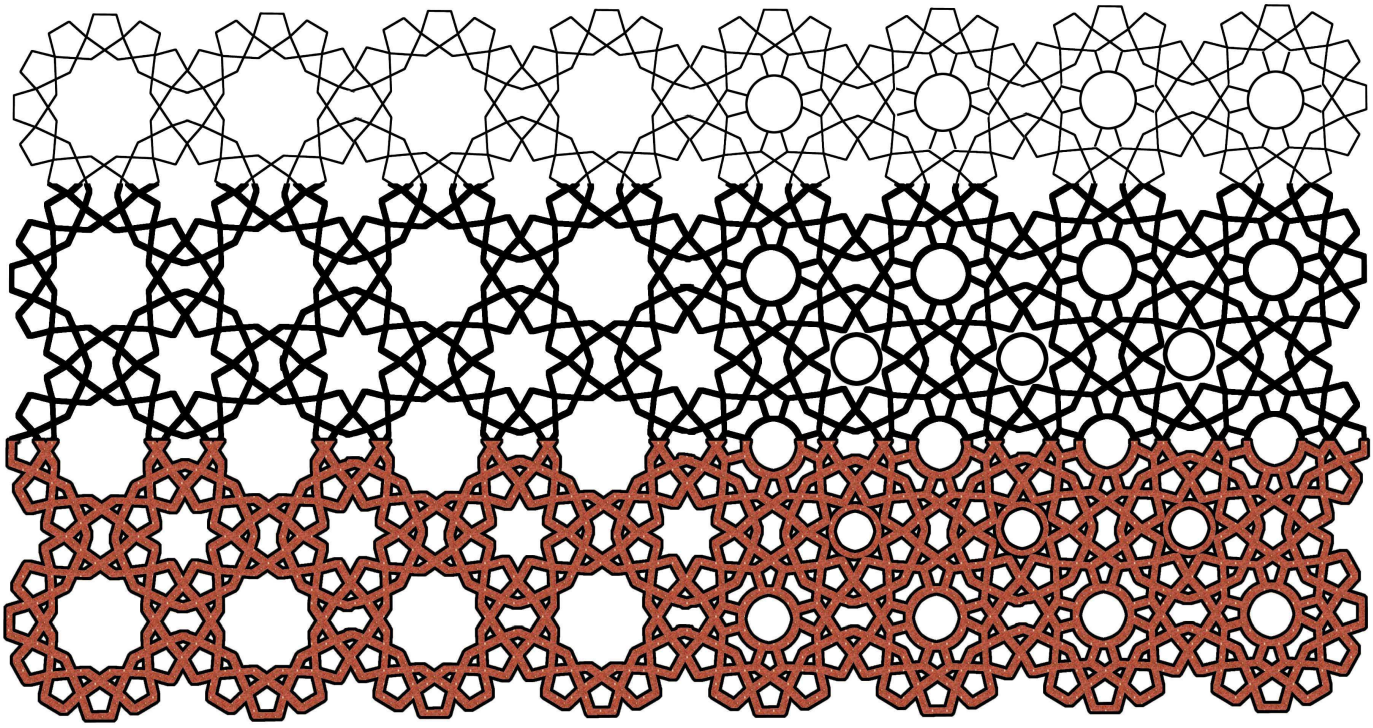








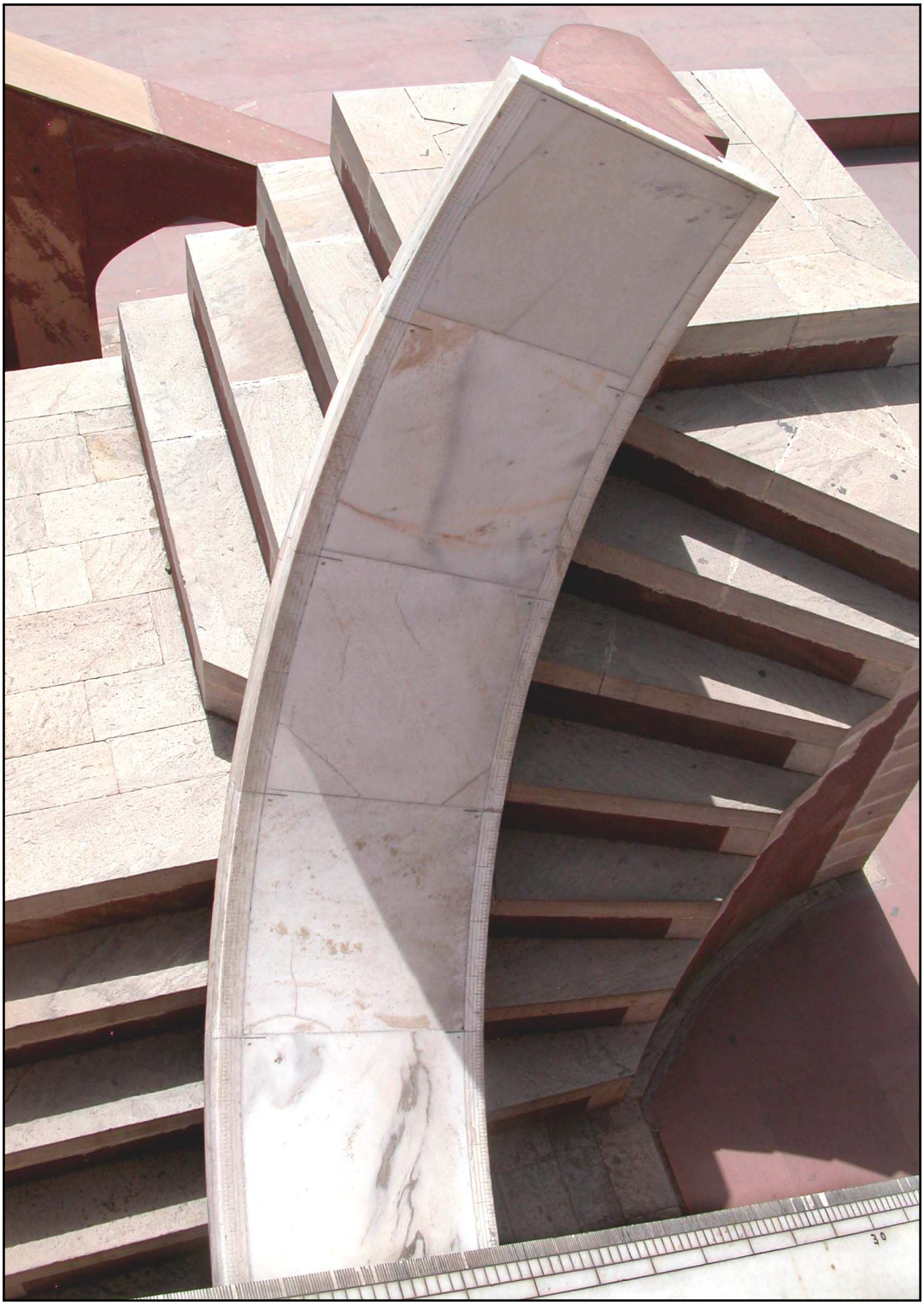




- Jaipur : le **Jantar Mantar** (observatoire).

C’est pour le calcul du parcours des planètes en vue d’une hypothétique interprétation pour la divination de l’avenir que furent construits ces gigantesques instruments de mesure ; le plus haut mesurant jusqu'à trente mètres de hauteur.

Alidade du grand sextant donnant l’heure universelle exacte à une seconde près



L’astronomie et la géométrie font bon ménage pour le plus grand plaisir des yeux.