

**The flexibility of the Islamic architecture  
(architecture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Cairo as an example)**

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A new era of opening up to the western, European culture in Egypt began after the departure of the hostile French campaign, that lasted for 3 years outside Egypt (1803A.D.-1218 Hejri).

Though Egypt was still influenced with the artistic and architectural styles that dominated at the Ottoman era, the styles were affected with what was known as the coming style, which was coming from Turkey or the local style that was in Egypt since the previous Islamic eras especially the Mamluk era, but by the time when Mohamed Ali Basha was ruling Egypt (1805A.D.-1220 Hejri) some new architectural styles appeared, that was coming from and affected by the coming arts from Turkey or Europe, as the artists and architectures used them at that period of time. A new style known as the "Romanian style" appeared, that the architecture in Egypt got affected by it whether in the external design of the buildings or the internal design or the artistic ones, the expression "Romanian" was used on the type of decoration that was common in the Ottoman country and transferred to the other states that were under its ruling. That type of decoration relied on the botanical branches that were drawn in a specific way that didn't apply to the nature system not in the shape or the direction, which gave them a unique impression allowed us to call it the name of Ottoman leafy decoration or what's known at the books of the orientalist by the name of Ottoman Arabesque.

That kind of decoration appeared first by the hands of Muslims in Samraa-Iraq , then developed by the hands of Seljuks in Iraq and Iran then moved to small Asia where it was developed by the Ottoman due to the hatred of human drawing and manifestation, and it was forbidden ,so Muslims used the variable botanical decorations or what was known as the leafy or the Arabesque, in addition to multiple geometrical decorations