# Arabic calligraphy and its employment in Islamic and contemporary architecture

### Prof. Mohamed Makkawi

Head of Decoration Department and former Dean of the College of Fine Arts

mekawy\_meks@hotmail.com

Assist. Prof. Dr. Gehan Zahran

**Assistant Professor, Department of Art History** 

gzahran42@gmail.com

Researcher. Rania Adel Abdel Tawab

freelance interior designer

rania.adel.abdeltawab@gmail.com

#### **Abstract:**

The Arabic calligraphy in which the heads of the surahs are written are the same that adorn mosques, schools and palaces, and the editorials of the mothers of books of fiqh, grammar, exegesis and history. The verses of the Holy Qur'an moved from its pages to walls, domes and mihrabs. Al-Karim as the source of all values and themes that the calligraphy carried in the folds of these buildings, as it was present in all Islamic arts. Thus, calligraphy has become an effective cultural medium that carries various contents, starting with architecture and ending with the smallest details of these collectibles and miniatures. The calligraphy carried a sublime and sacred message, the Arabic calligraphy was expressing a religious content in the first place and carrying a documentary aspect that is consistent with the architecture of its religious buildings, and it harmonizes in its details and designs with a more comprehensive decorative system in which the writing motifs harmonize sometimes with the plant motifs and at other times with the geometric motifs, and it remains Calligraphy among all decorations is the strongest and most attention-grabbing art in the visual arts system, due to the cultural aspect of calligraphy and the visual aspect that complements aesthetic formulas.

# **Keywords:**

the effect of Arabic calligraphy! Islamic inscriptions! the relationship of written motifs to contemporary architecture

#### **An Introduction**

The relationship between Arabic calligraphy and architecture arose through the concept of engineering in the proportions of Arabic calligraphy and the proportion between the letter and its parts and dimensions that made it an element to be employed in architecture, and the possibility of forming buildings according to the methods of shaping the letter, where Arabic letters appeared in engineering and organic architecture, and that formation is evident In the design of minarets that are characterized by grace and flow and share with the Arabic calligraphy patterns and shapes that compose the flow of the building to split together the sky.

DOI: 10.21608/jsos.2021.150998

# **Research Problem**

What is the relationship between Arabic calligraphy and architecture, which made it a decorative element that was employed in the room from the Islamic era until the modern era, not only as an element that possesses a language of expression, but as a well-deserved formative element.

- To what extent has this decorative element succeeded in shaping it inside and outside the architectural void and its possession of formative capabilities that made it a shadow element that has developed until our modern era.

# The goal of the research

Shed light on the relationships that linked Arabic calligraphy and architecture, which made it a distinctive decorative element of Islamic architecture from any other civilization.

- Demonstrating the ability of Arabic calligraphy to form, along with its ability to document in Islamic architecture and arts, which made it a shadow element that develops in modern and contemporary architecture and related arts.

# research importance

- Focusing on the importance of Arabic calligraphy as an element that possessed the formative and artistic dimensions and its suitability for religious buildings in order to study the studies related to it to continue work on its development in line with the characteristic of the modern era in buildings and employ them to give buildings in the Islamic world a distinctive characteristic and civilized identity.

# Research Methodology

Historical - Analytical.

Timeframe: In the Islamic and modern era. Spatial framework: the Islamic world.

#### **Results**

- It became clear through the study the extent of the link between Arabic calligraphy and architecture, which made the calligraphy a special decorative pattern that expresses the contemplative from the apparent feeling to the mystical beauty that the feelings of divine majesty possess. Through the flow of his lines, he expressed the serenity and the ease of religion, and through the strength of its composition about frankness and awe, with a musical rhythm. Balanced combination of physical and moral beauty.
- The study concluded that inscriptions contributed to Islamic architecture, in both its religious and civil parts, to emphasize the artistic personality of Islamic architecture and its possession of formative capabilities that enabled architectural designers to employ in contemporary architecture, which carried the Islamic architectural identity and the need to preserve it and use new techniques that contribute to employing it in internal and external architecture.

#### Recommendations

- The need to pay attention to the study of Arabic calligraphy and its inclusion in the curricula to teach it in schools and technical colleges to develop a sense of the historical and artistic value of calligraphy and to taste the arts of calligraphy in order to develop the capabilities of talented people in this field in order to preserve it as a value not only historical but also artistic.
- The necessity of employing calligraphy on a larger scale within facilities and on architectural facades, in order to preserve the civilizational identity of the Islamic world and emphasize the pride in the historical and archaeological value of the Islamic civilization, its outputs that affected the arts of the West.

#### **References:**

falih , 'iisra' abrahym: jamaliat al'ashritat alkitabiat fi aleutbat aleutbat almaqadasatu. bahathu manshur , jamieatan babil , kuliyat alfunun aljamila

- -alaitrqji, thayir shakir: al'asasiaat altsmymyt lil'ashritat alkitabia .2011.
- -ghunum, smyr: jamaliat alkhati alearabii w tathirih fi 'iighna' aleamarat walfaragh alddakhili. majalat jamieat dimashq lileulum alhandasiat , almujalid althlathun , aleadad alththani , 2014 m
- -Elqhtany,hany: tahlil tarikhiun li'ahami tajaliyat alkhati alearabii fi aleamarat al'iislamiati. majalat aldirasat w aldirasat alquraniat , aleadad alththamin
- -jamali , eimara: alkhatu alearabiu , aleamarat al'iislamiat , albued altashkiliu waleumq alruwhiu. majalat yanabie 2018
- bindari, yasr: al'athar alfaeil lilshakl w almadmun lifan alkhati alearabii fi ealaqatih biwadeih 'atarah manhu. bahath manshur , majalat aleamarat w alfunun , aleadad alththamin