Turkish & Syrian Cities: Culture and Architecture

Mr. Breault
Istanbul, Turkey
Central to traditional Middle Eastern cities?

Mosques
• Built by the Ottoman Emperor Suleymaniye the Magnificent
• Designed by Sinan (1550-1557)
• Into Symmetrical forms and domes, influenced by Italian architecture
Sinan: Like a Boss

- 94 large mosques (camii),
- 57 colleges,
- 52 smaller mosques (mescit),
- 48 bath-houses (hamam).
- 35 palaces (saray),
- 22 mausoleums (türbe),
- 20 caravanserai (kervansaray; han),
- 17 public kitchens (imaret),
- 8 bridges,
- 8 store houses or granaries
- 7 Koranic schools (medrese),
- 6 aqueducts,
- 3 hospitals (darüşşifa)
• Corinthian columns inside
• Byzantine features
• Most impressive mosque ever built (706-715)
Minaret of Jesus
Mosque Courtyard
Before you go in, a few rules:

• Remove your shoes!
• Women, cover your heads, shoulders, and legs!
• No photographing people praying or otherwise disturbing them!
What happens inside of a mosque?
Rüstem Pasha Camii
What do you NOT see inside the mosques that you DO see in most kinds of churches?
Why is this one different?
Design and Art

• The depictions of human forms could be considered idolatry, a sin
• Primary forms of Islamic Art are
  – Ceramics
  – Architecture
  – Calligraphy
  – Geometric patterns
The simple neighborhood mosque
Friday Prayer inside a small mosque
Other Faiths

• 97% of the people of Turkey are Muslim
• Syria:
  – 87% Muslim
  – 10% Christian
A **hamam** is a Turkish bath (like a spa), once used all over the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Why provide a public bath?

- Because regular people didn’t have indoor baths and plumbing
- Also a good place to socialize
NOUR AL-DIN AL-SHAHEED
BATH

NAASB is considered one of the oldest public baths, still existing in the old part of Damascus. It is located in Al-Bzouria market, adjacent to Khan As'ad Pasha in Damascus. It was established by Sultan Nour Al-Din Al-Shaheed in the year 565 H. - 1169 AD. Repairsing invigilating directorate commonality for aftermath and museums 1979
The Souk
For Sale

- Cloth
- Clothing (used and new)
- Headscarves
- Jewelry
- Fruit
- Beans and rice
- Nuts
- Olives
- Fish
- Beef & chicken
- Coffee
- Tea
- Soap
- Souvenirs
- Hookahs (tobacco pipes)
- Shoes (used and new)
- Dishes
- Pots and pans
- Silverware
- Live chickens, chicks, and ducklings
- Puppies
- Rabbits
- Plants
- Plants food/fertilizer
- Seeds
- Animal food
- Baby turtles
- Antiques
- Flags
Caravan Saray

- These building housed traveling merchants & traders, as well as their animals
- Served as business centers
The Silk Road
The Door in the Wall
Public vs. Private Spaces
New Uses for Old Buildings

- Many caravan sarays and large private homes have been converted to other uses, including hotels, office and retail spaces, and restaurants
Where the other half lives

Just like any city, Middle Eastern cities have affluent neighborhoods and poor ones.

Many affluent neighborhood contain well-maintained buildings and older ones are filled with crumbling ones.
The Heart of the European Quarter:
Istiklal Caddesi
New Neighbors