II. Les Ilkhans : le mausolée de Soltanyeh :

Ancienne capitale des tribus nomades mongoles, Soltanyeh abrite un mausolée de forme octogonale construit de 1303 à 1312 par le khan mongol Uldjatu et destiné, à l'origine, à abriter la dépouille d'Ali. En définitive Uldjatu y fut enterré.

Cet édifice est l'un des exemples de la richesse de l'architecture perse post Seldjoukide. Son dôme exceptionnel de 48 m de haut est recouvert de briques émaillées de couleur turquoise ; pour la première fois, une coupole cache l'appareillage destiné à équilibrer les poussées latérales. Ce procédé fera école dans toute l'Asie Centrale.

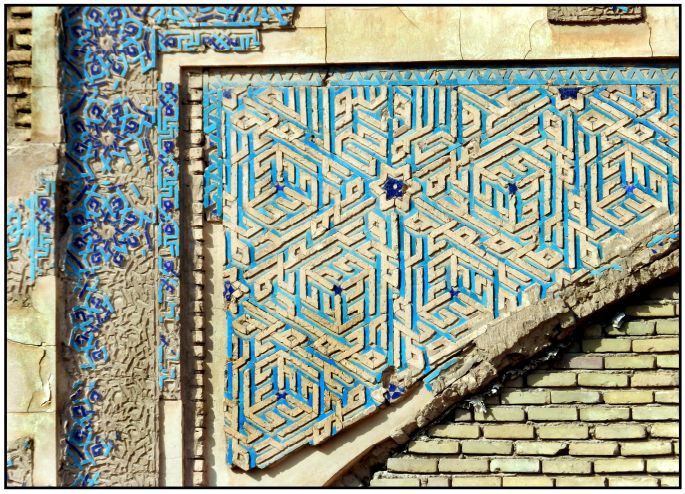
L'ornementation intérieure fait le lien entre la décoration géométrique chère aux seldjoukides et celle plus florale qui sera développée plus tard par les timourides.

Les ravages du temps ont laissé de beaux restes montrant l'utilisation de matériaux classiques d'une manière élaborée, en particulier de nombreuses incrustations de plaquettes émaillées dans du stuc.

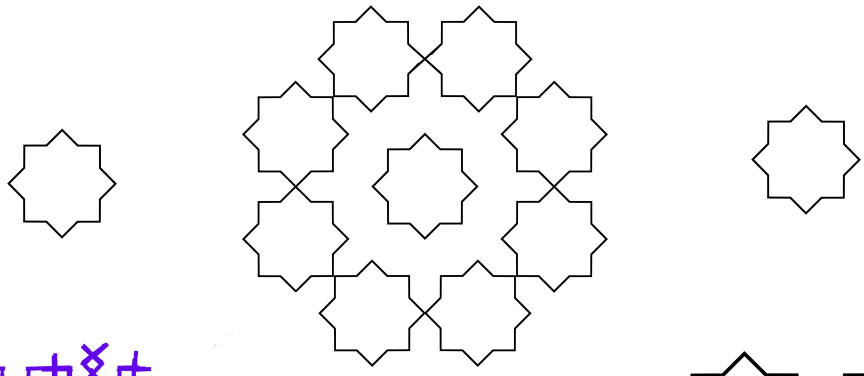
Les décors géométriques en argile rouge des galeries à triples arcades du premier étage sont remarquables.

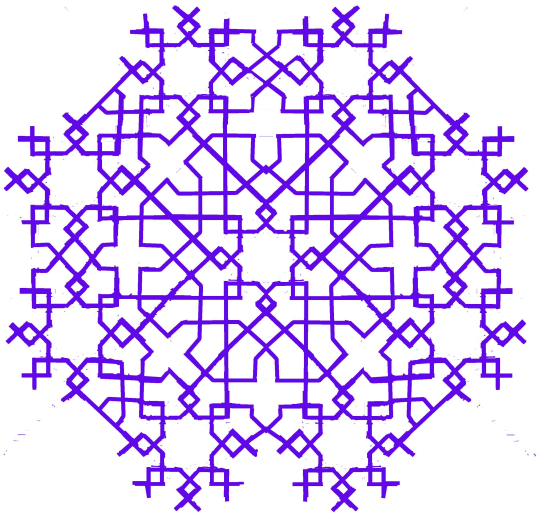
De l’ornementation extérieure, il ne reste que quelques vestiges préservés ou restaurés qui témoignent de sa qualité et de sa beauté.

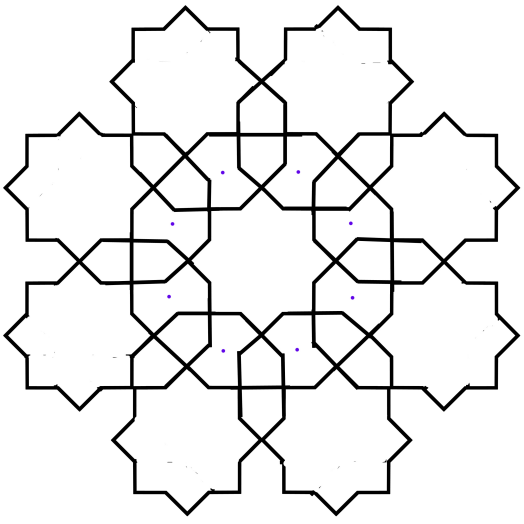
La galerie supérieure à trois arcades fait le tour du mausolée. Les six minarets sont ruinés. La frise de mouqarnas et le tympan des arcades sont en cours de restauration.

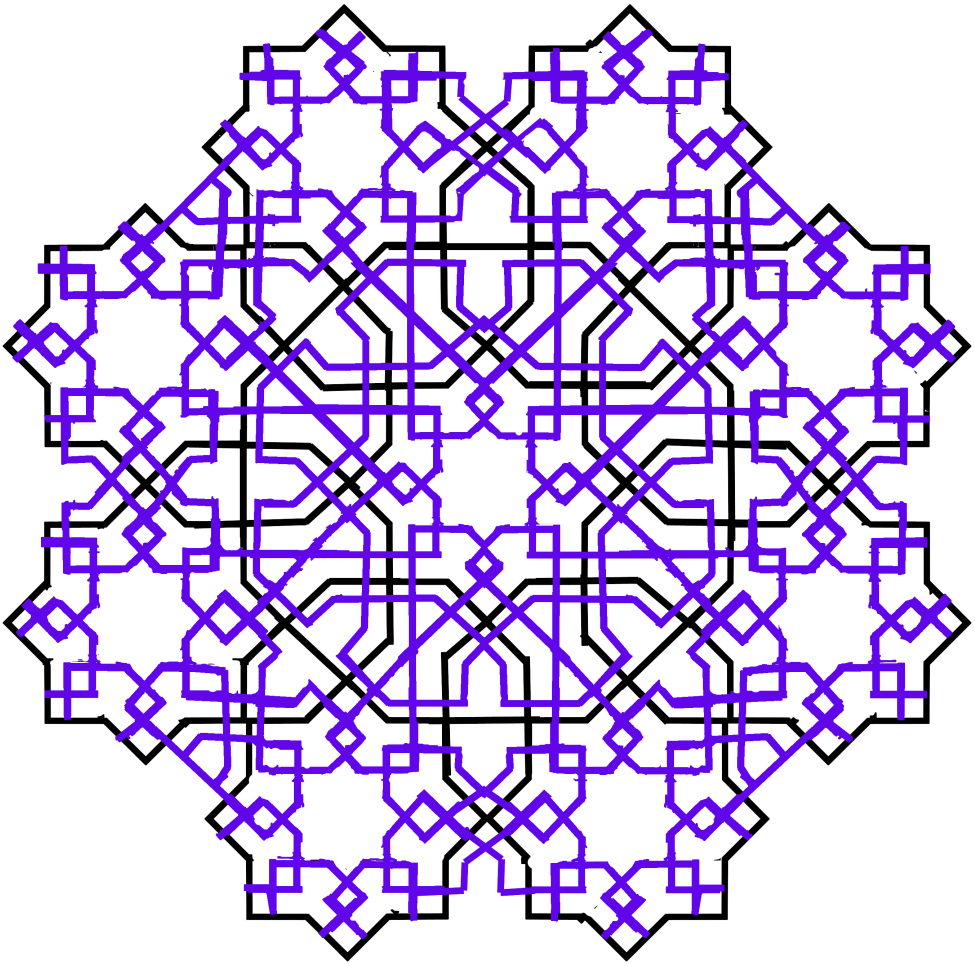


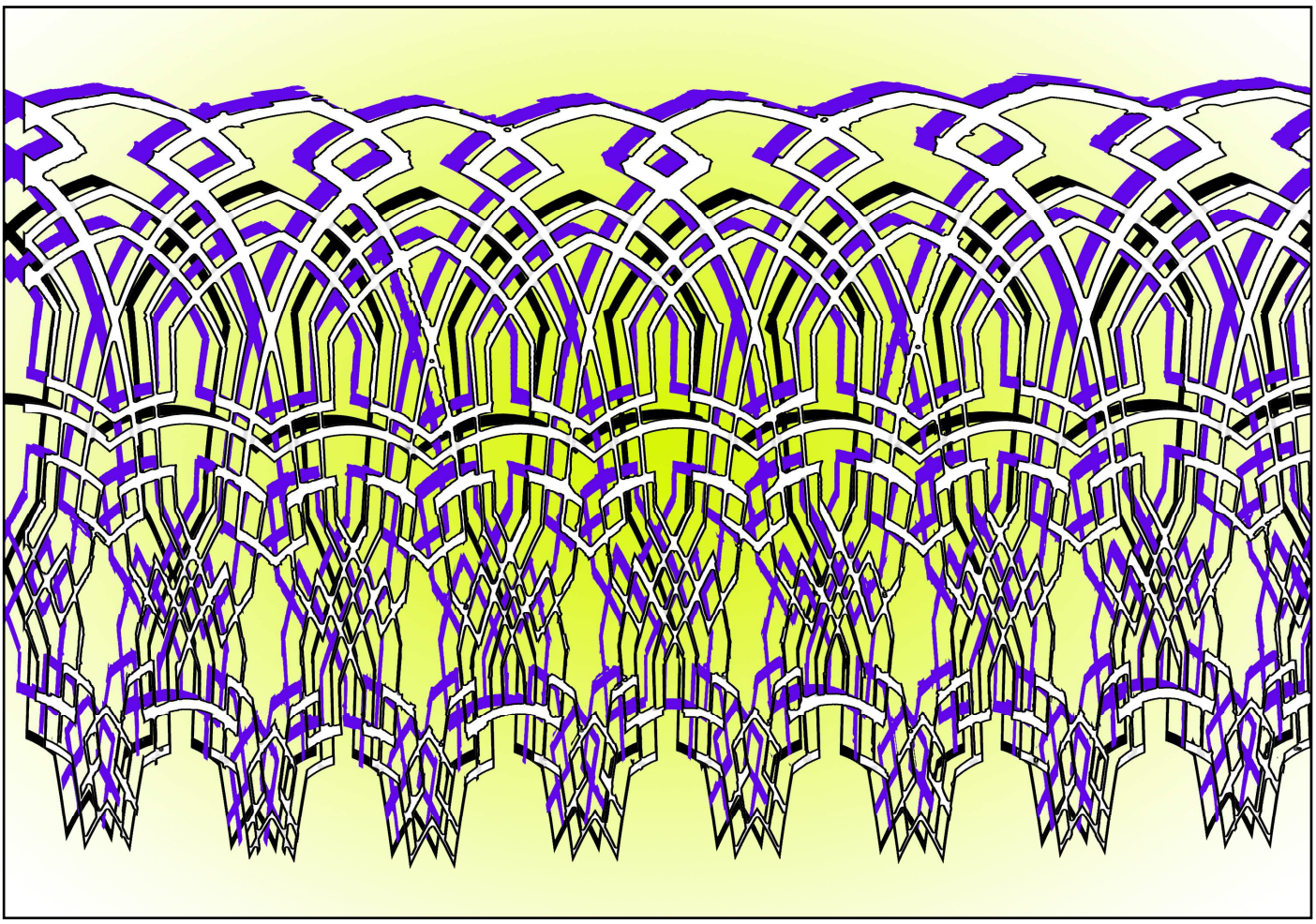
- Composition d’étoiles à huit.
- La superposition des deux constructions (ci dessous en bleu et en bleu clair) permet de créer le motif.

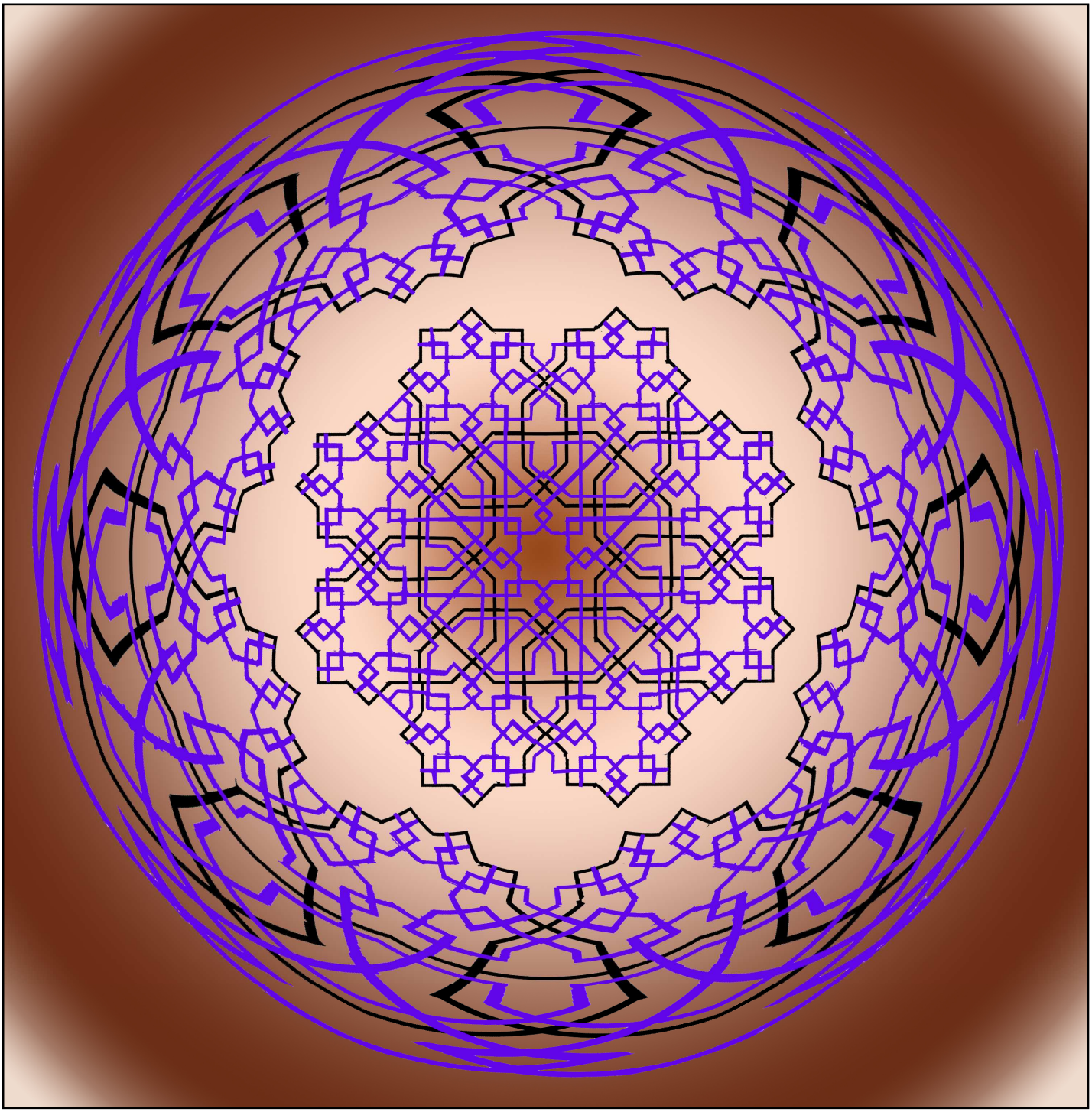


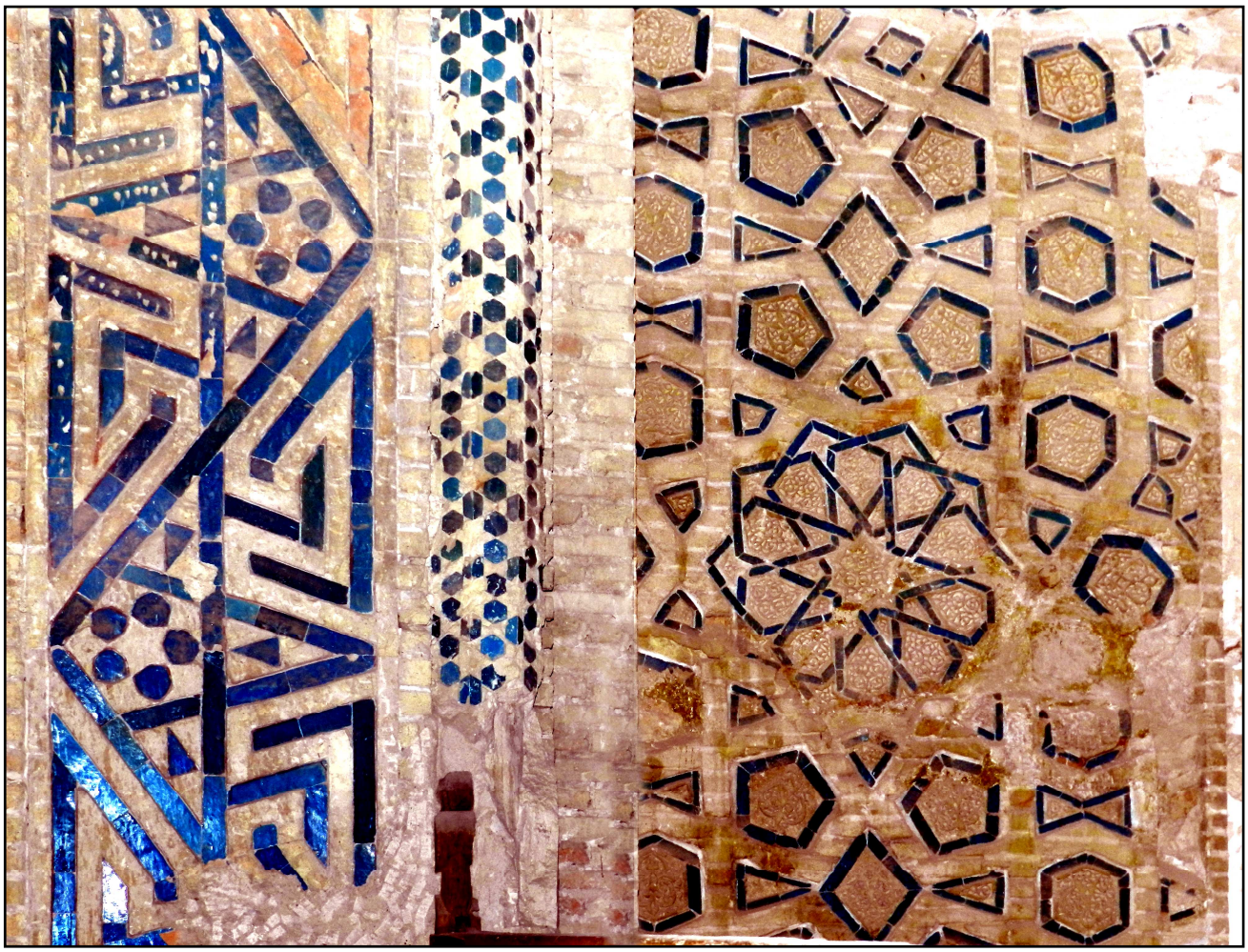




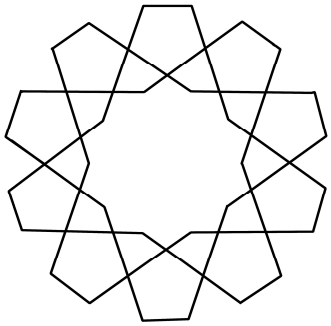


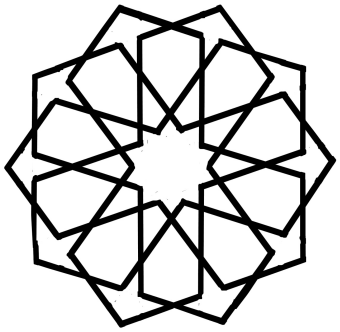


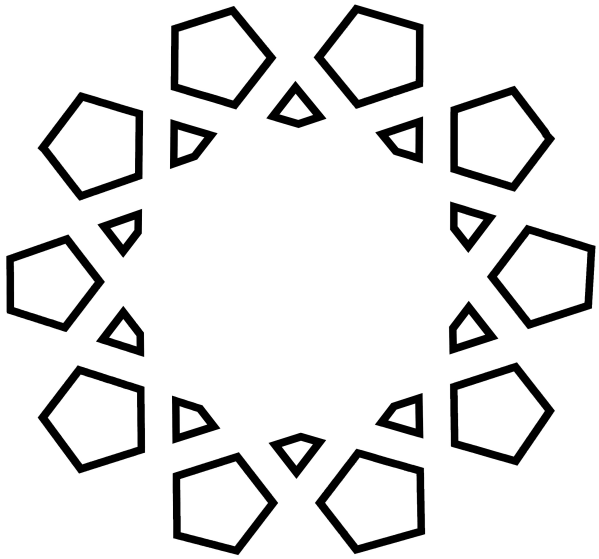


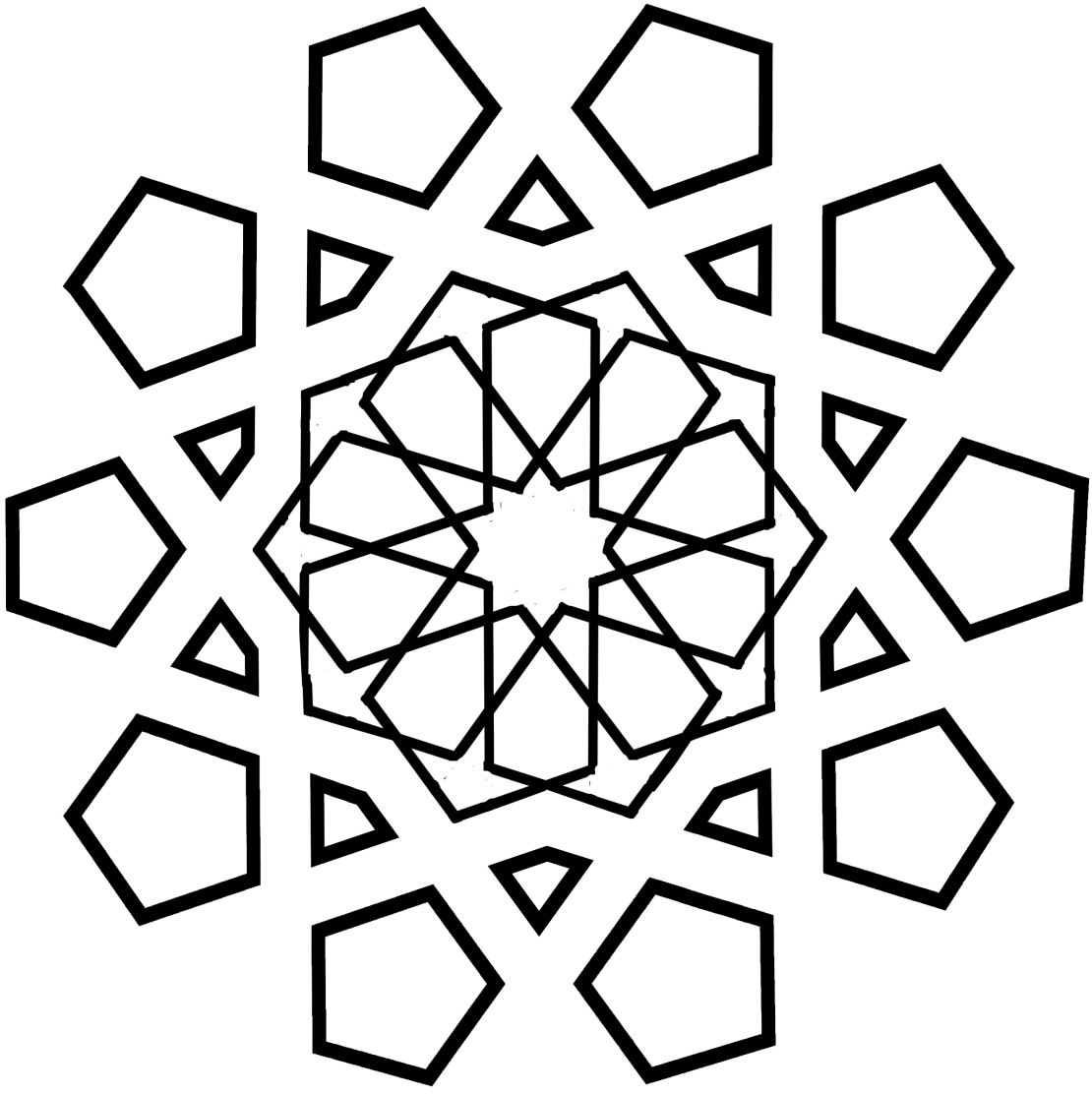


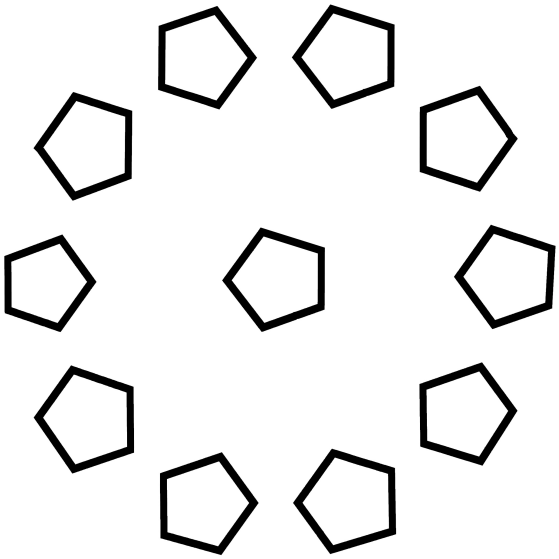
- Les deux modules sont construits avec dix pentagones convexes pour l’un et concave pour l’autre.
- La première construction est obtenue après réduction du premier et déplacement du second.
- Bandeaux émaillés noyés dans le stuc.

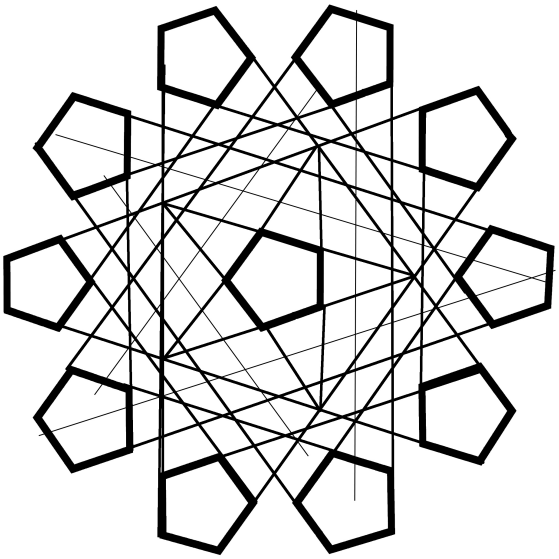


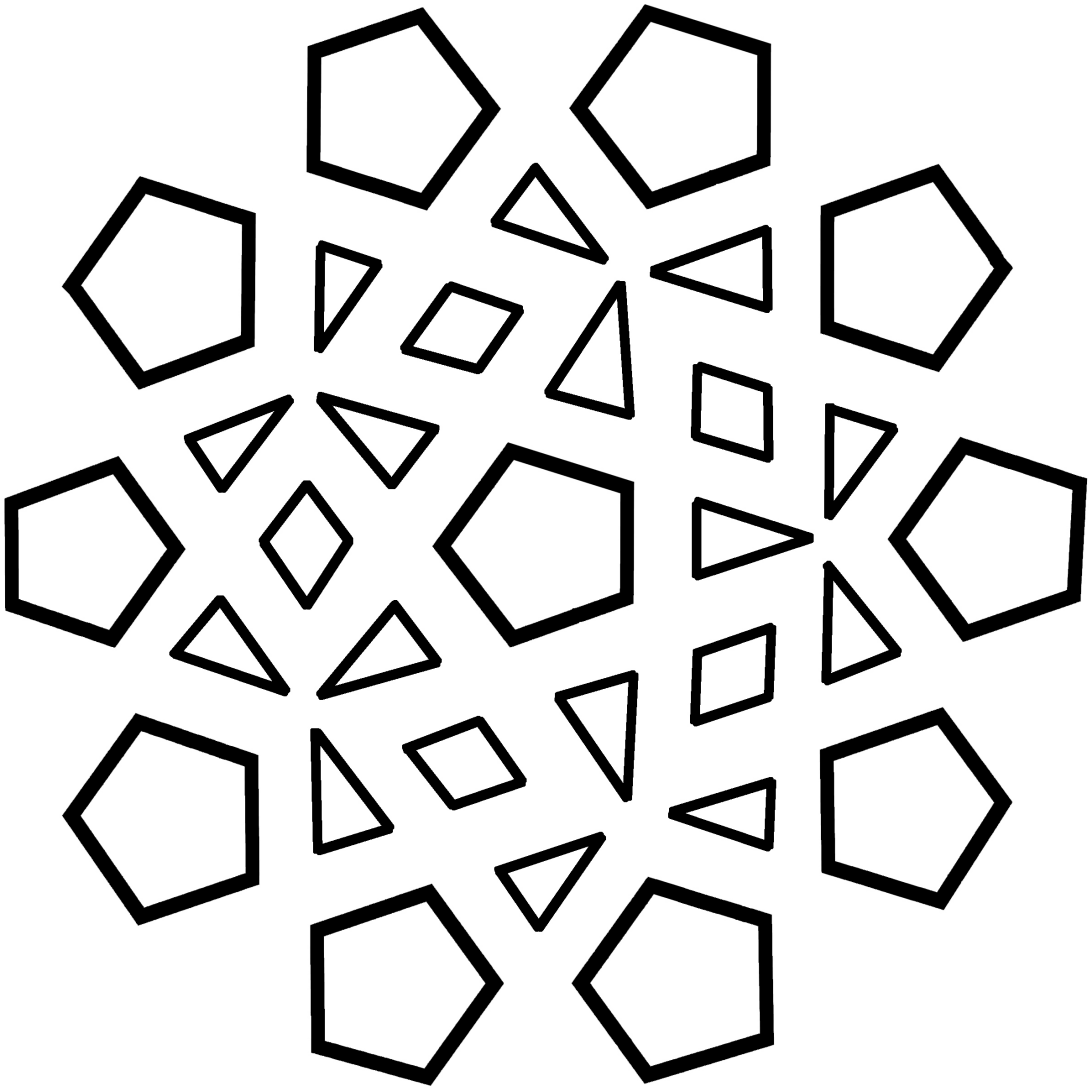


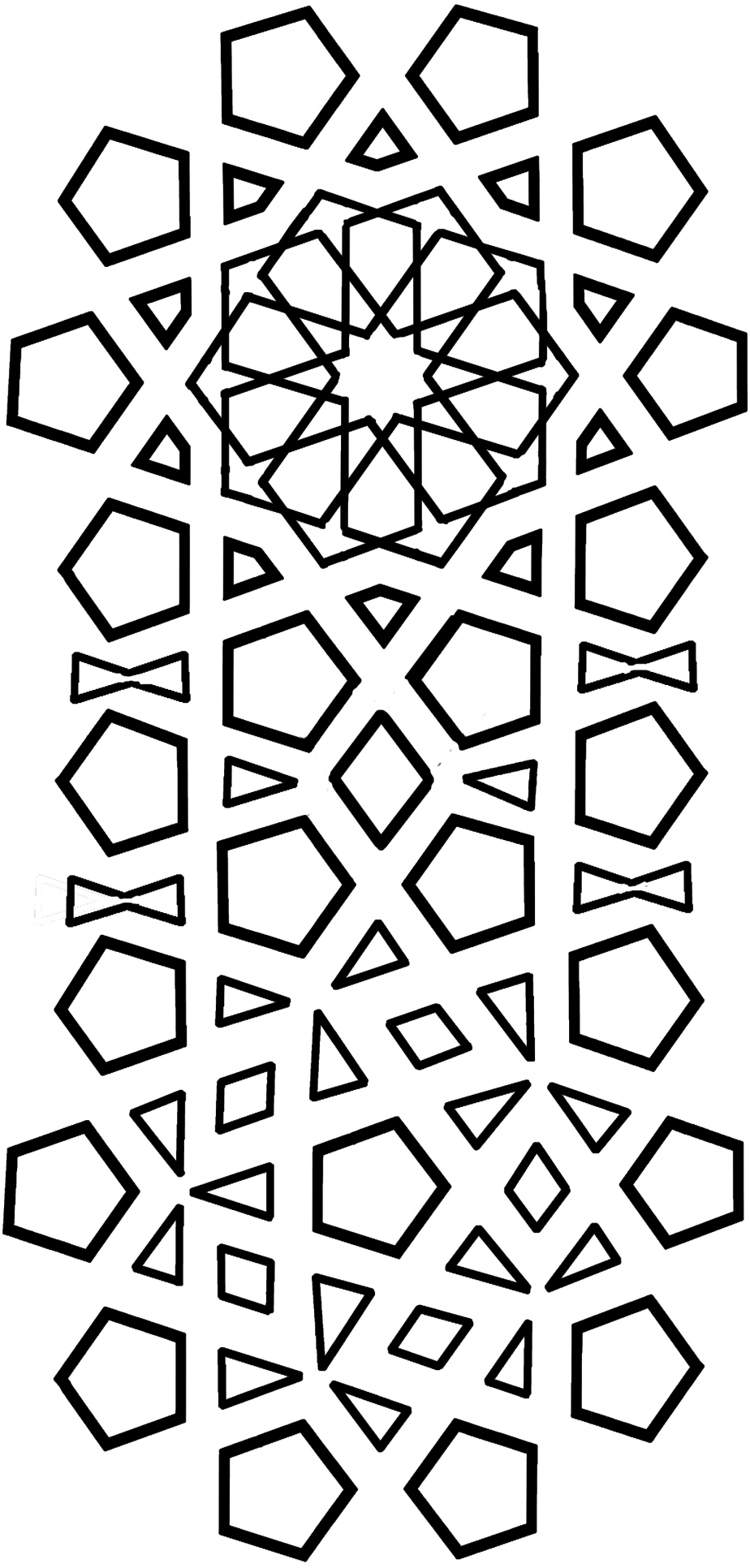


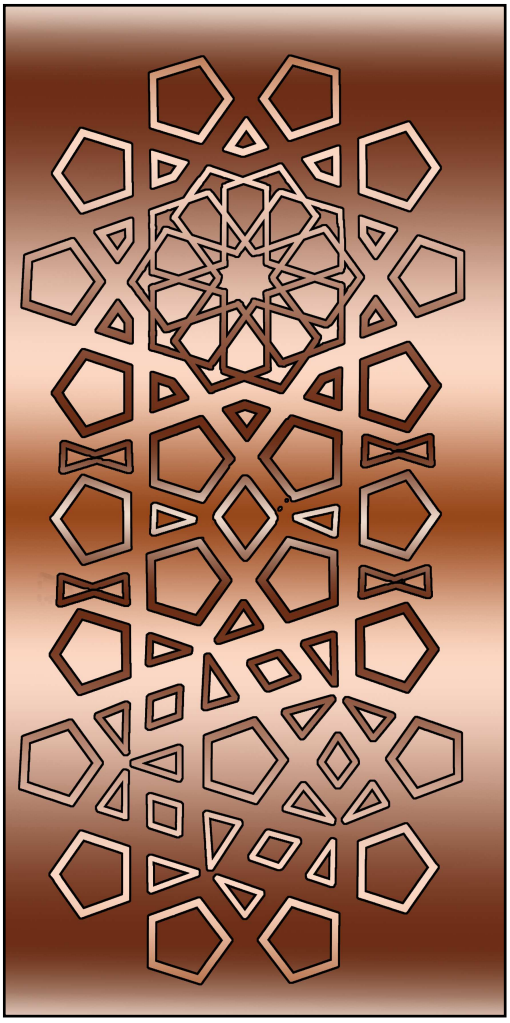


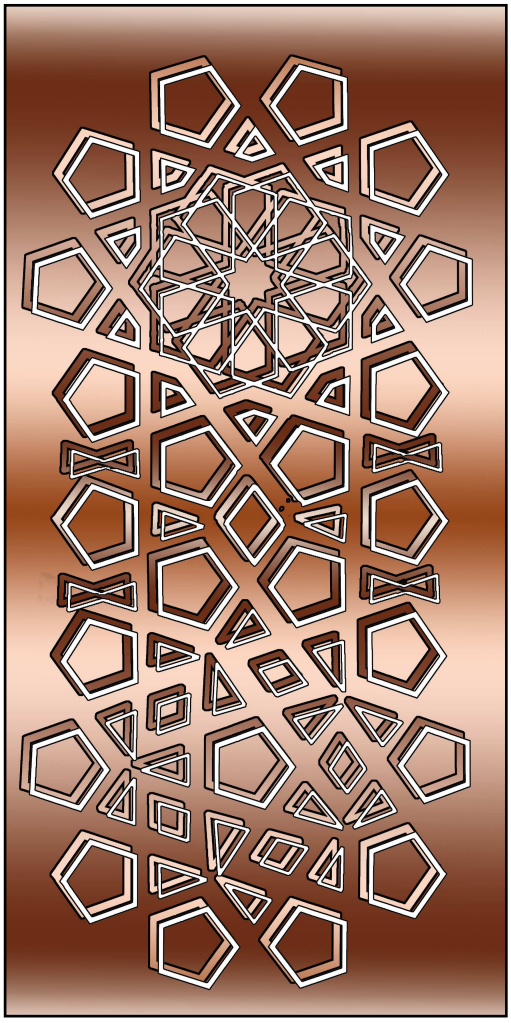


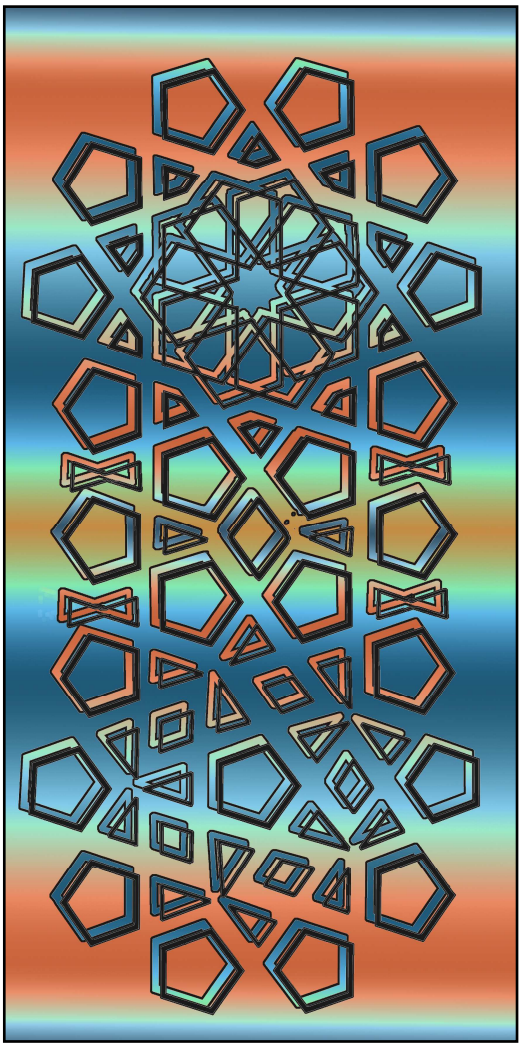


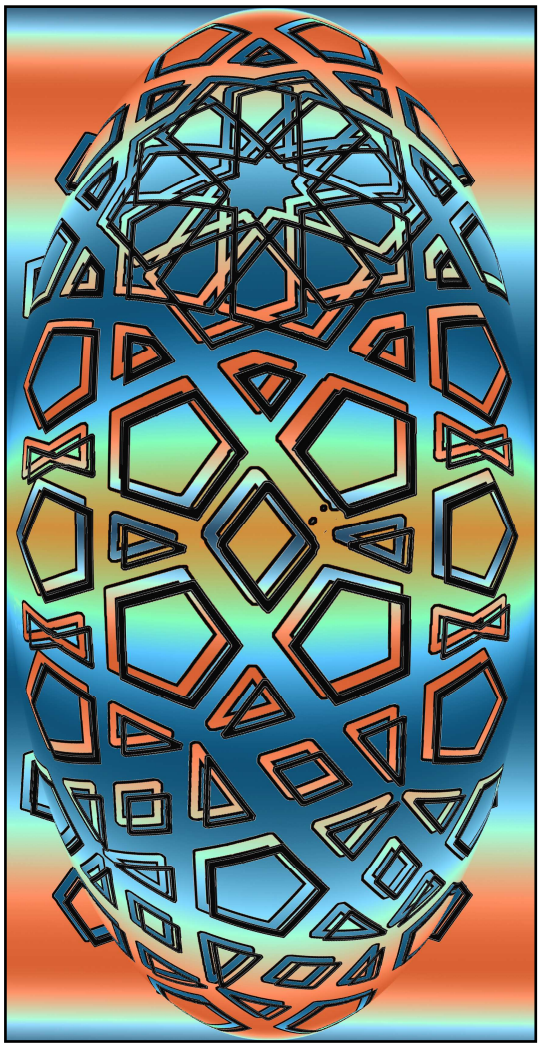


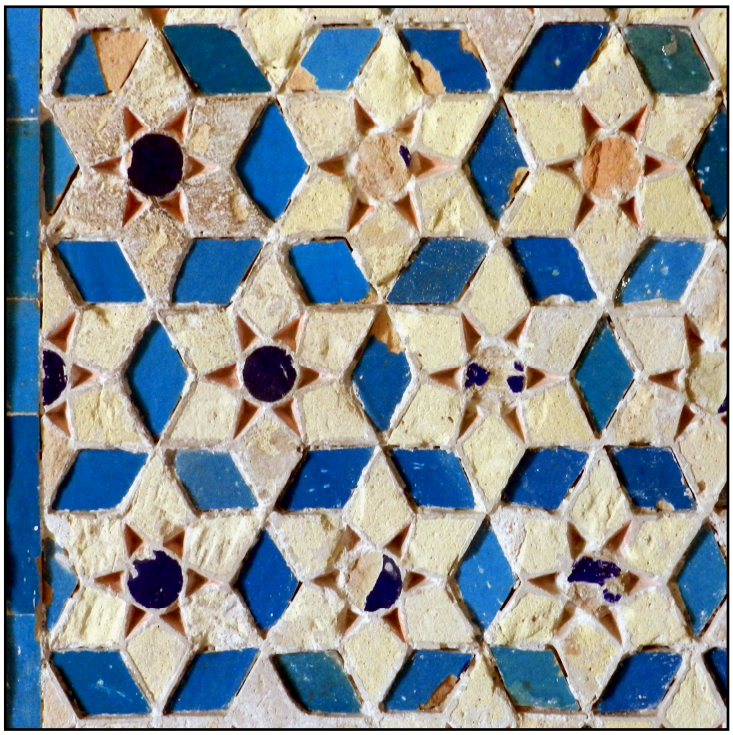






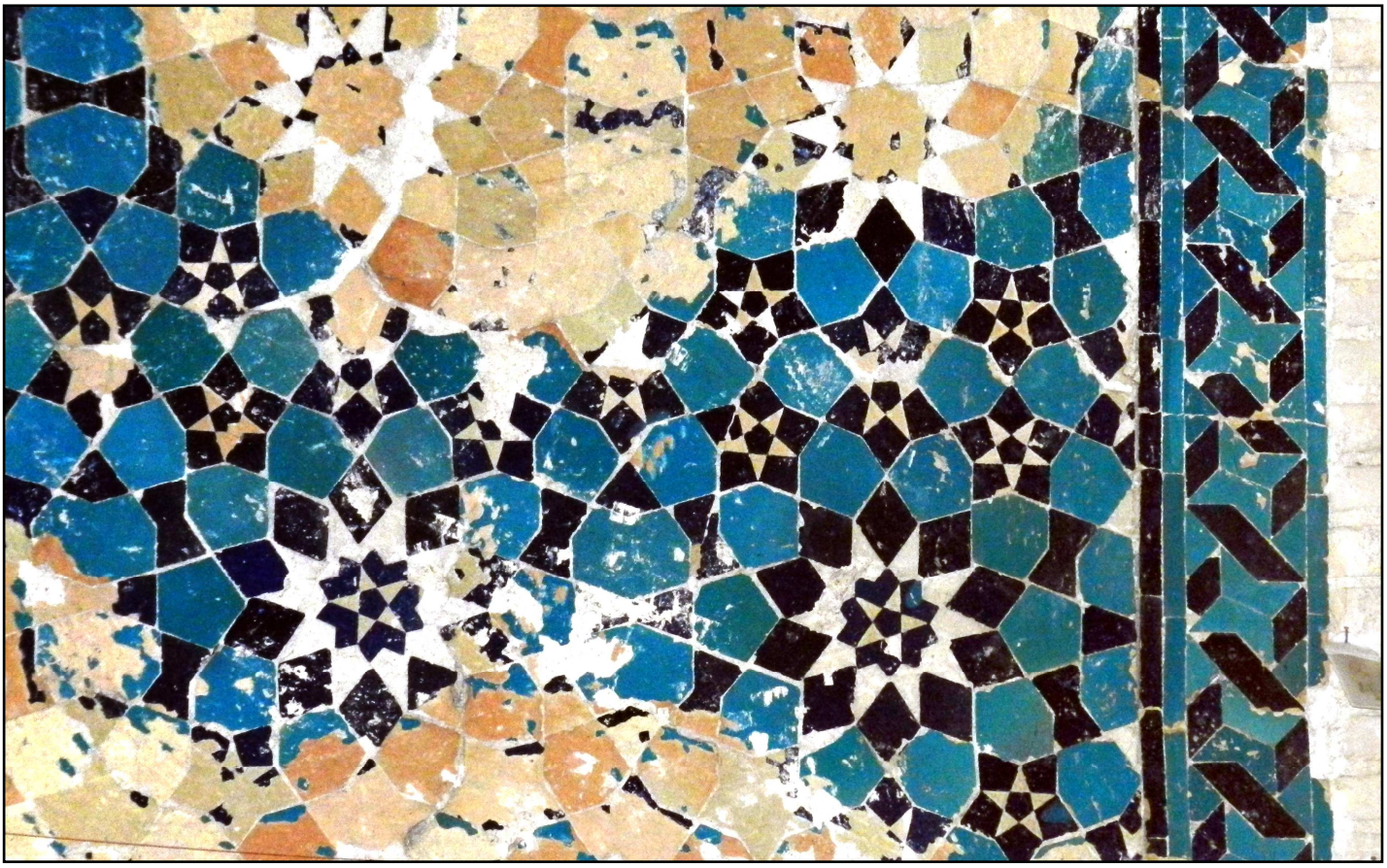


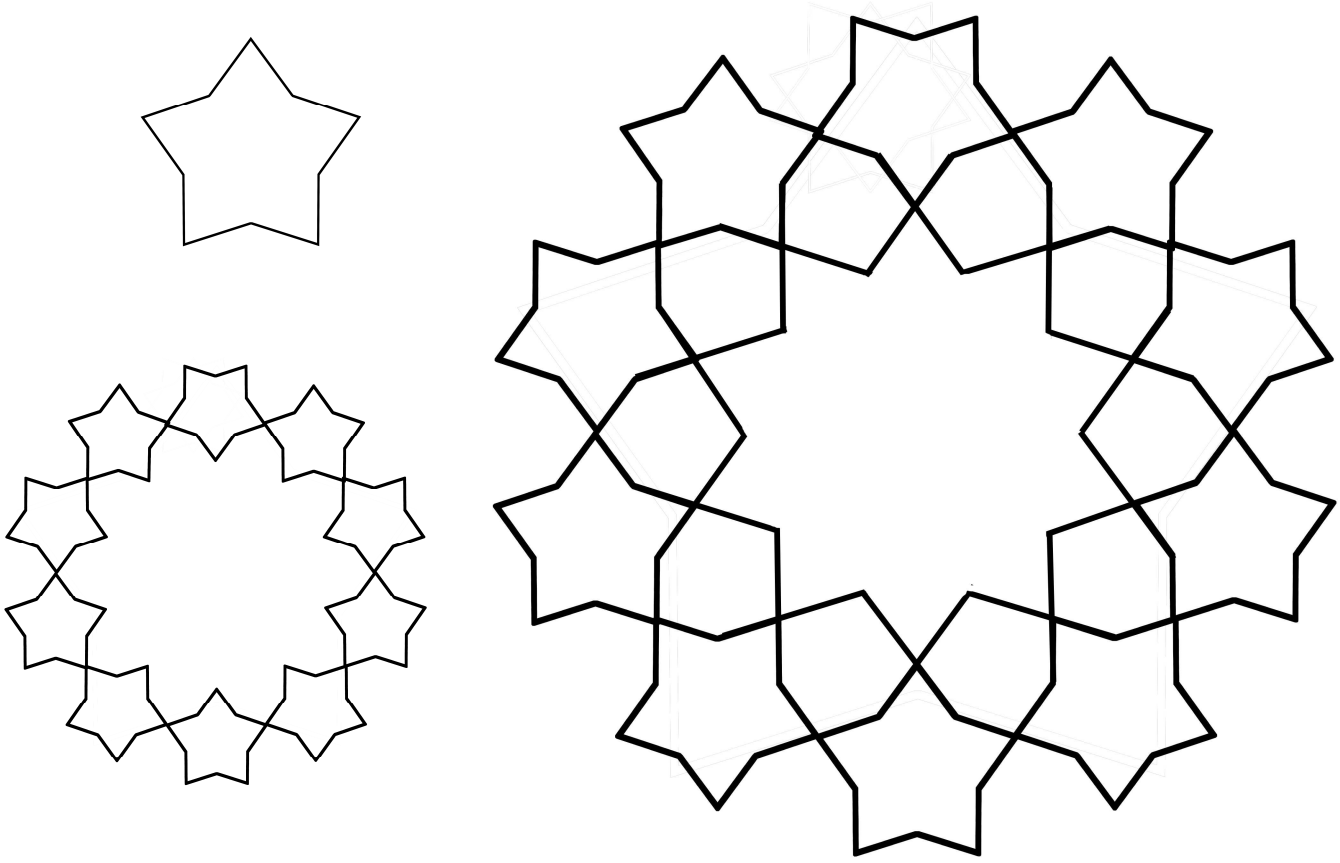


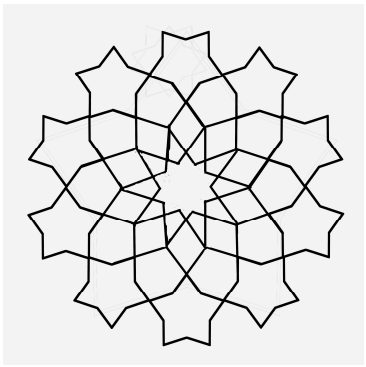


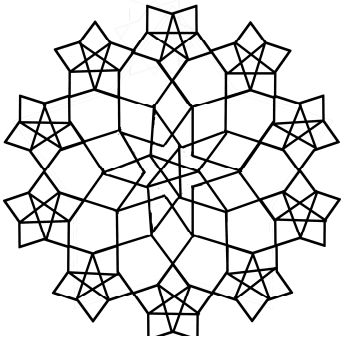
Incrustation de pièces de céramique dans du stuc ou inversement.

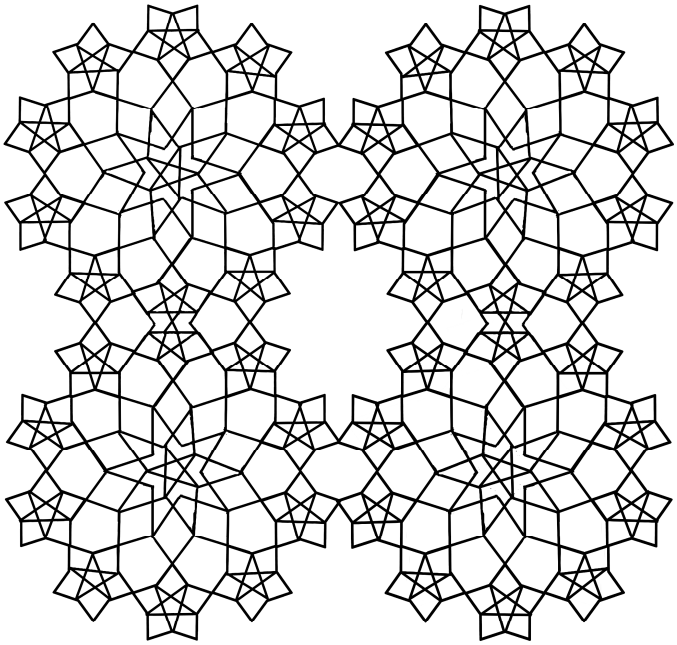
- Reste d’un panneau de céramique de la galerie supérieure.
- Composition d’étoiles à dix obtenue avec des pentagones équilatères.

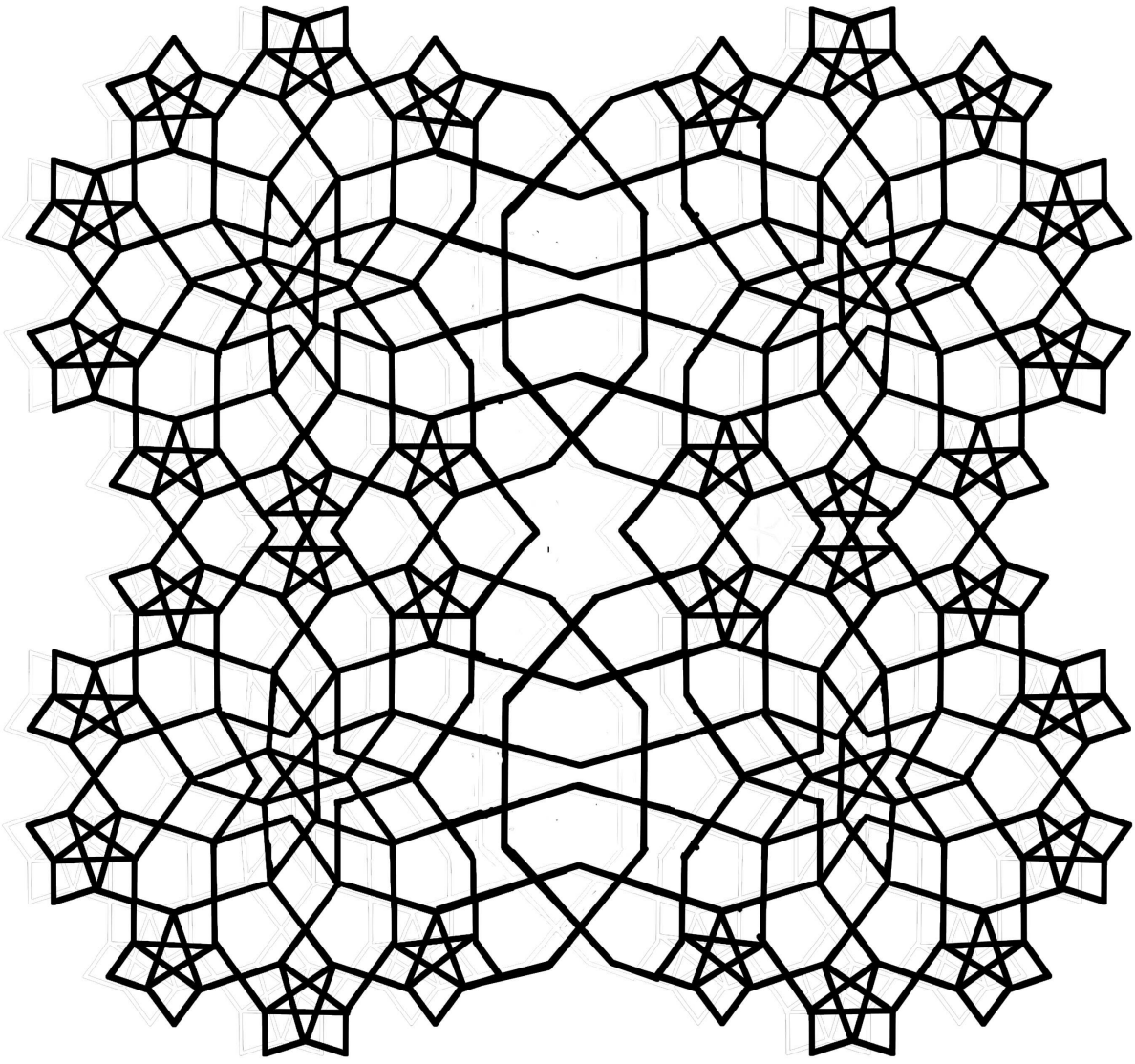


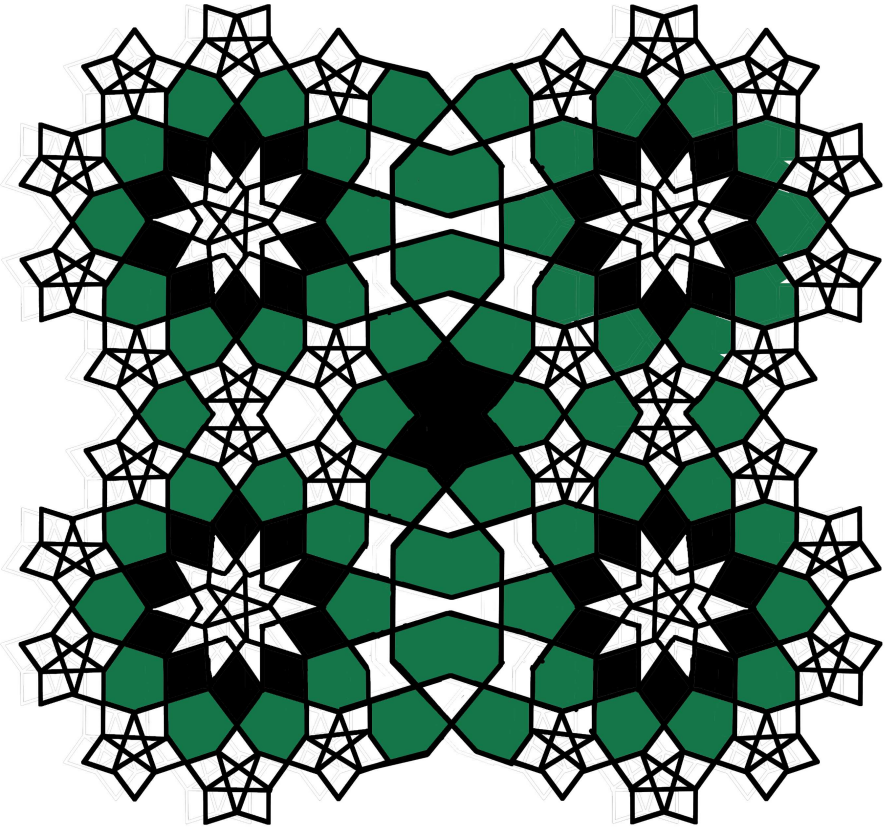


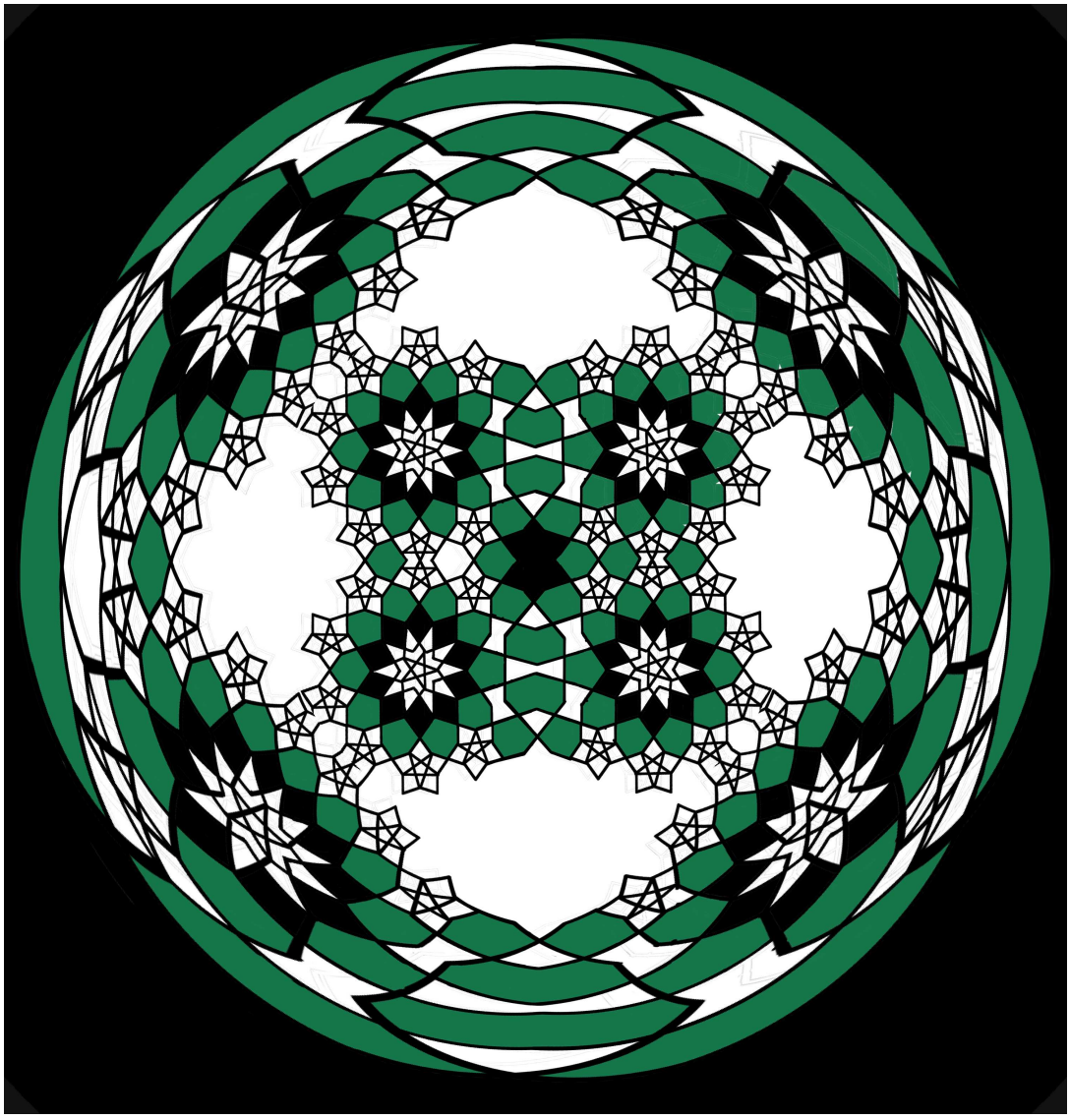


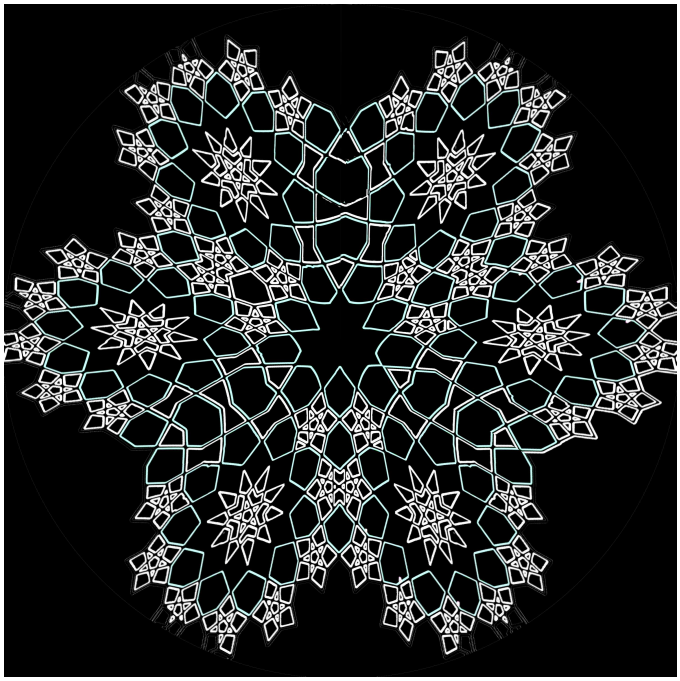


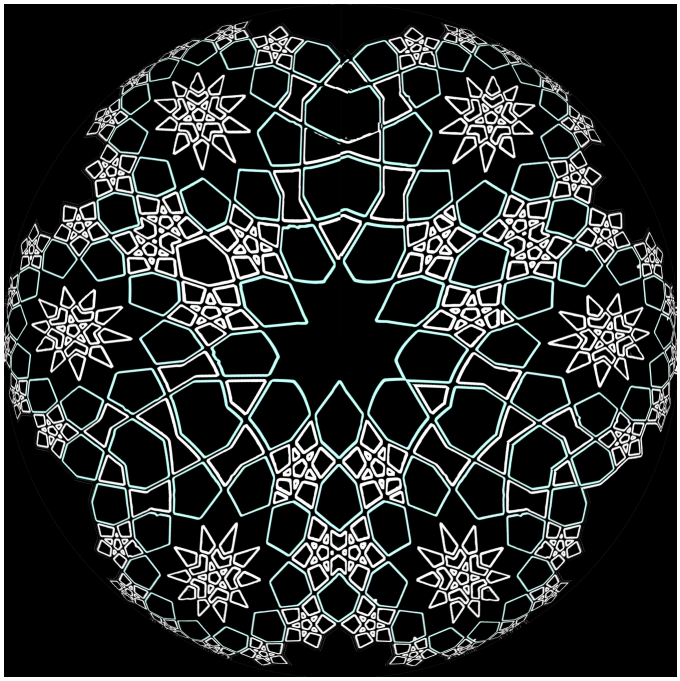


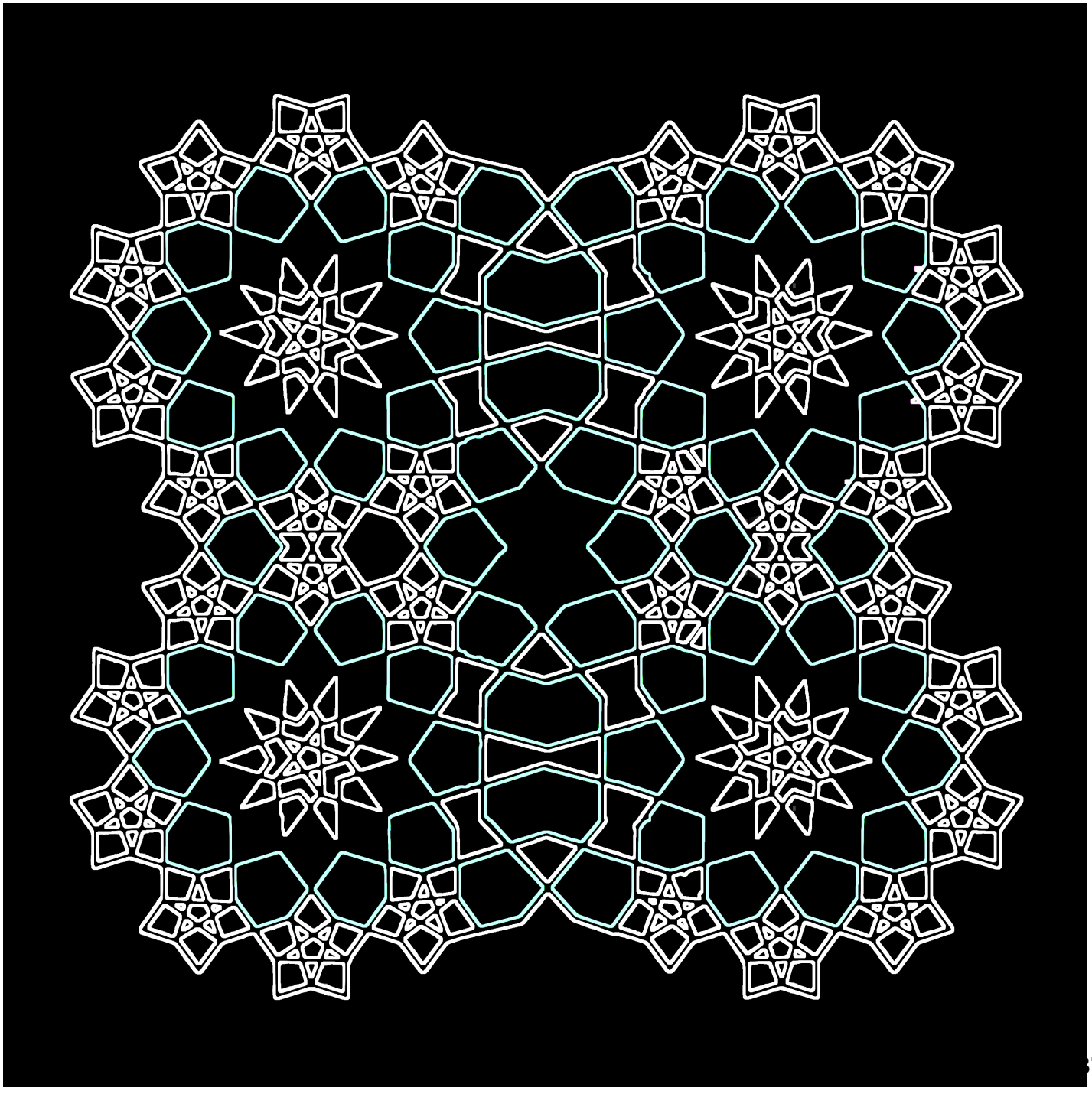


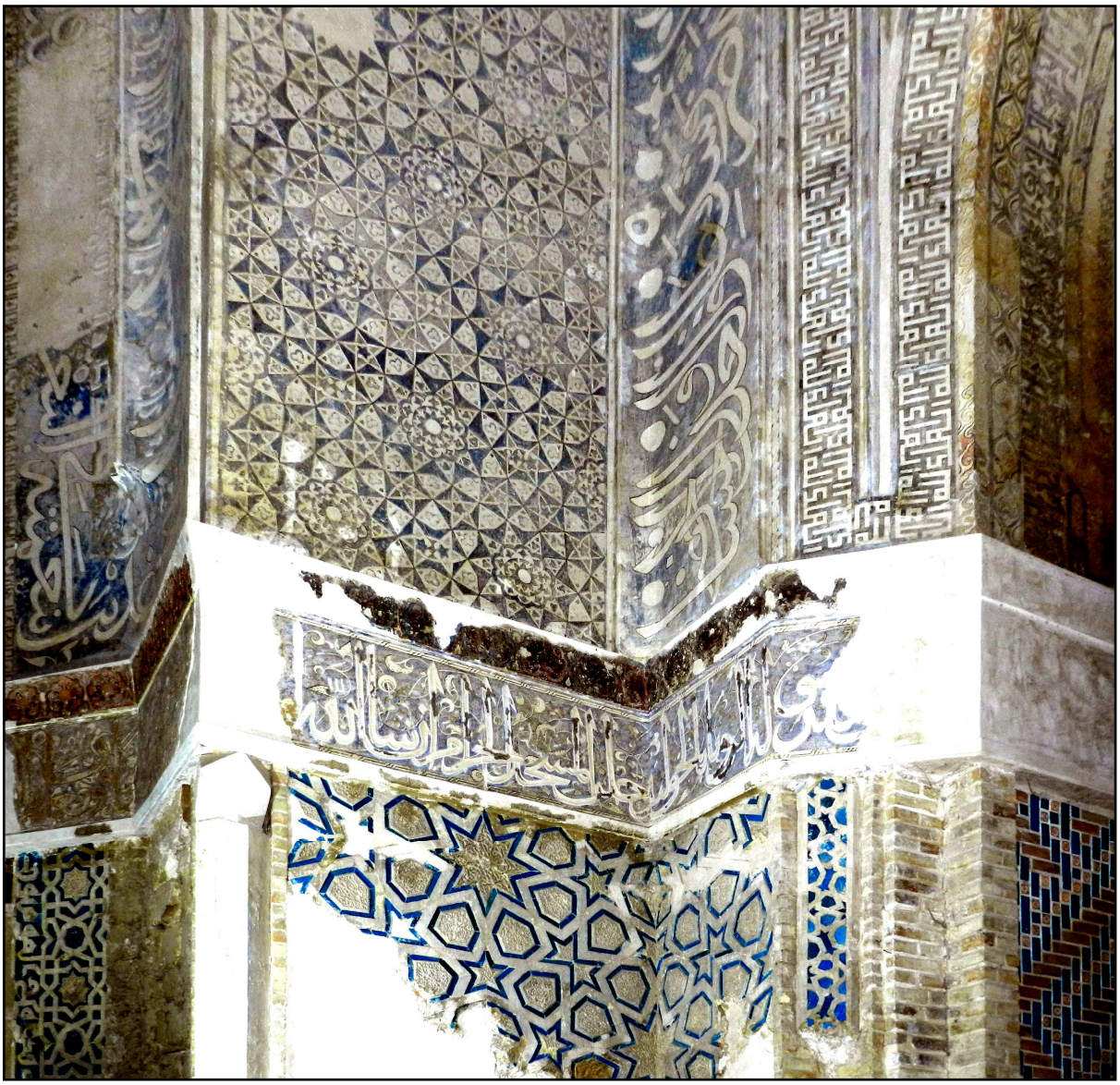




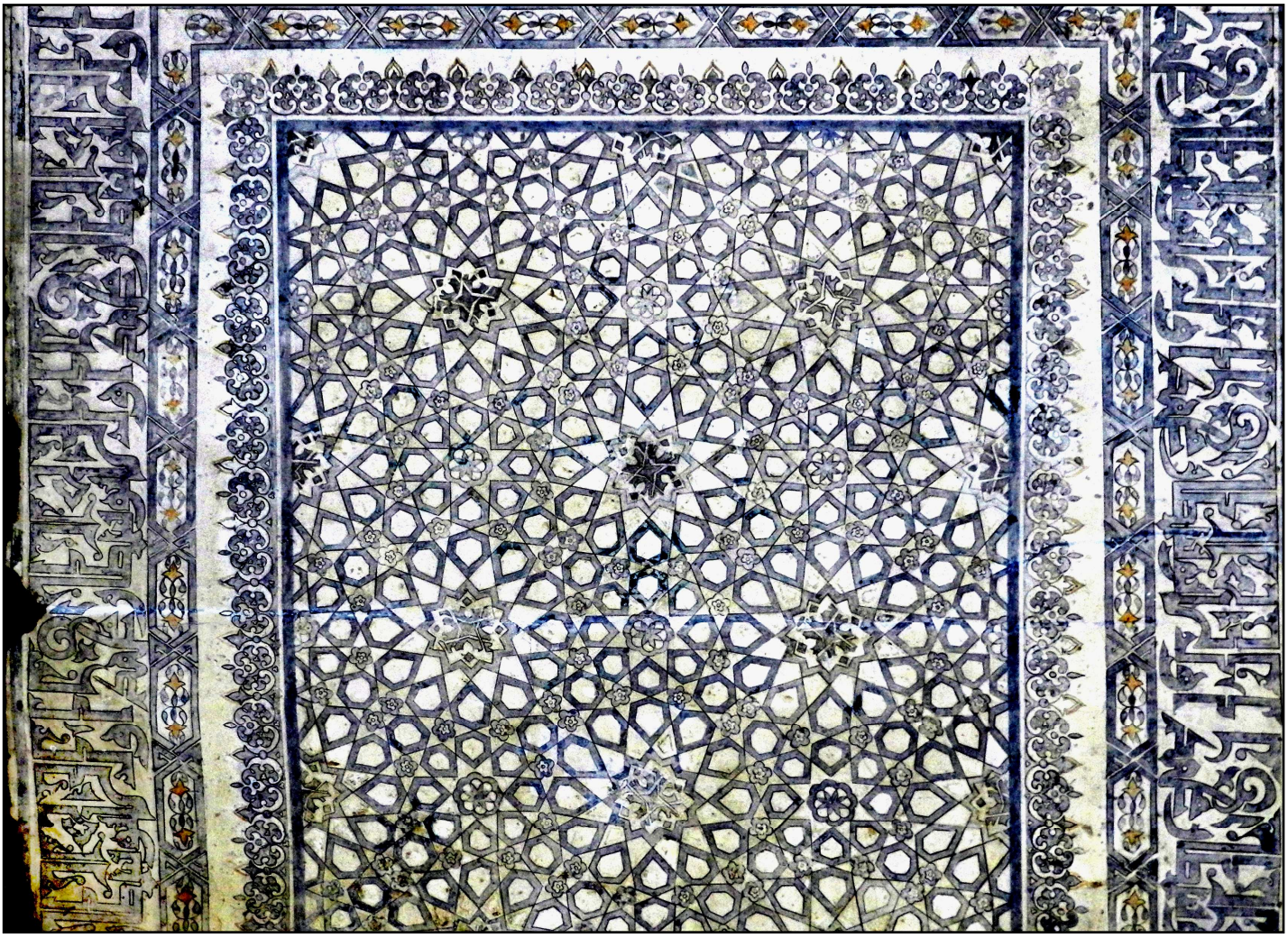


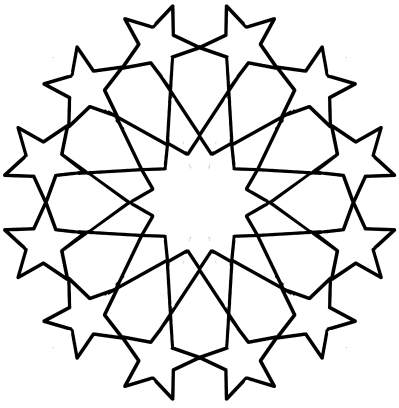


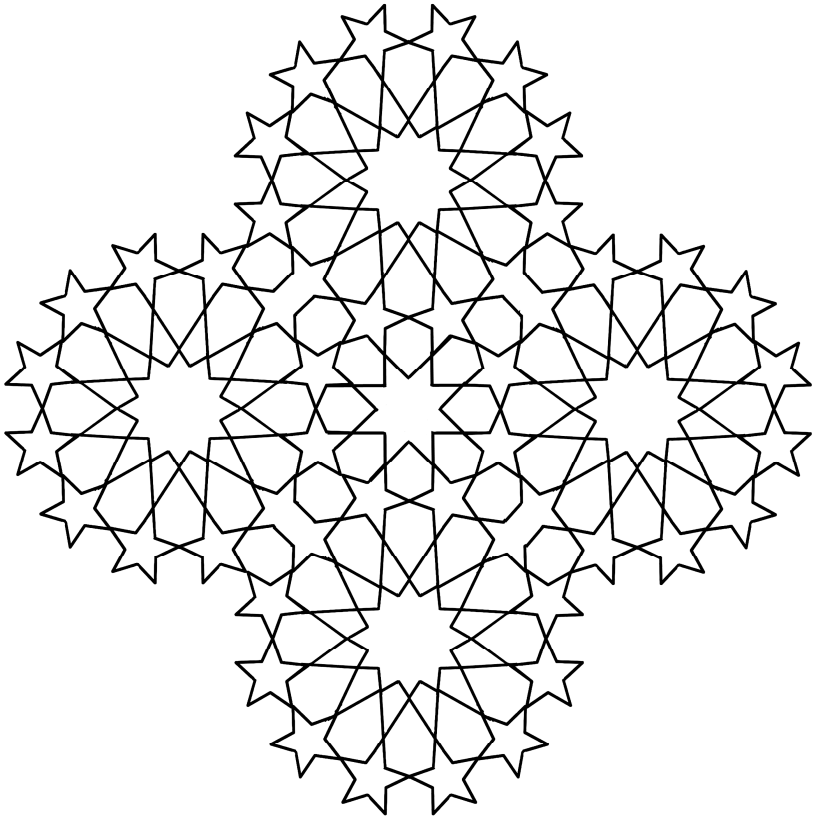


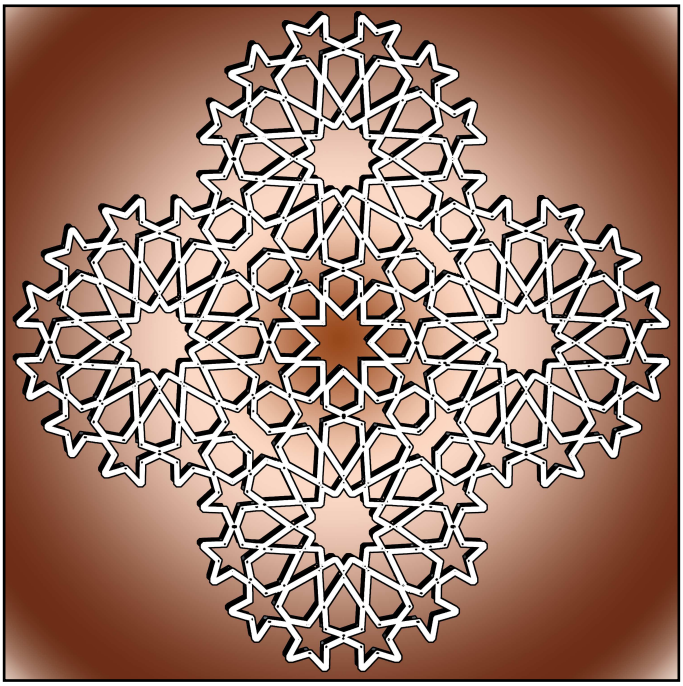


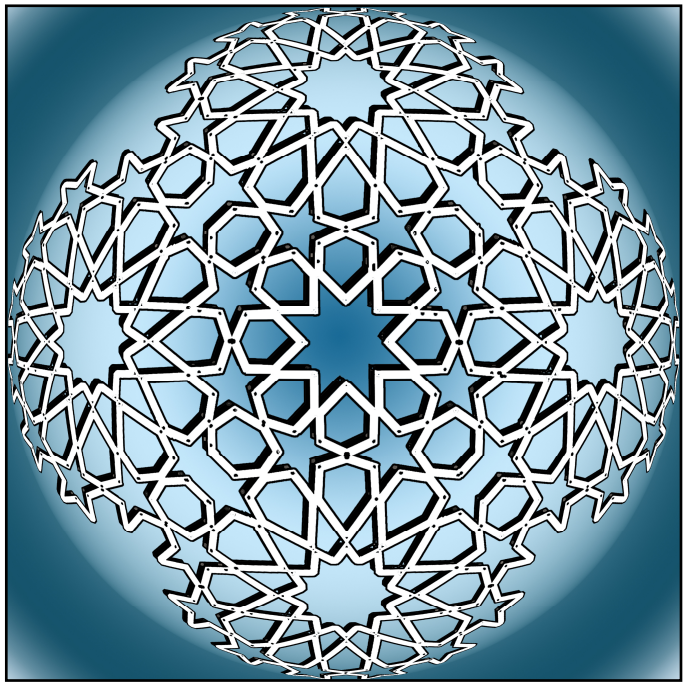
- Une couronne de douze pentagones convexes forme une étoile à douze.
- La composition de quatre de ces modules à douze crée une étoile à huit.

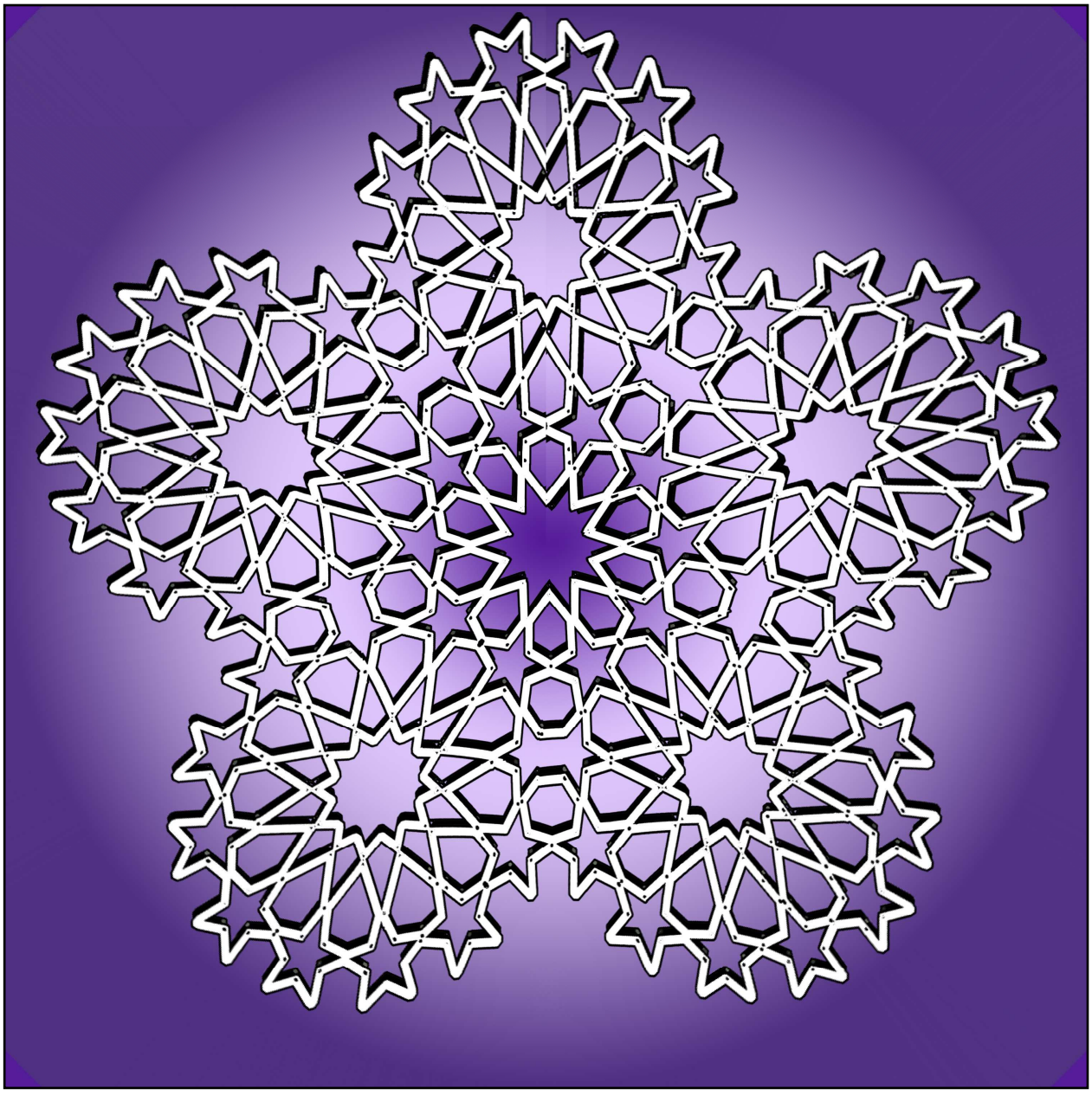


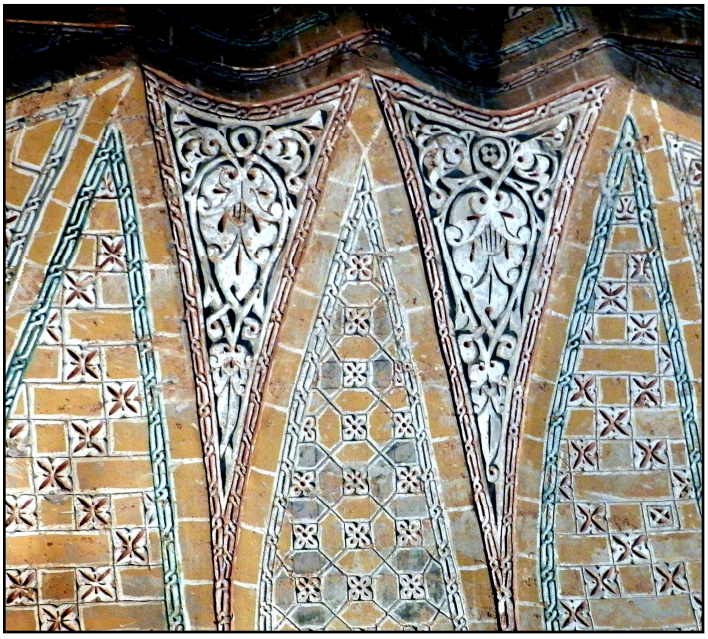




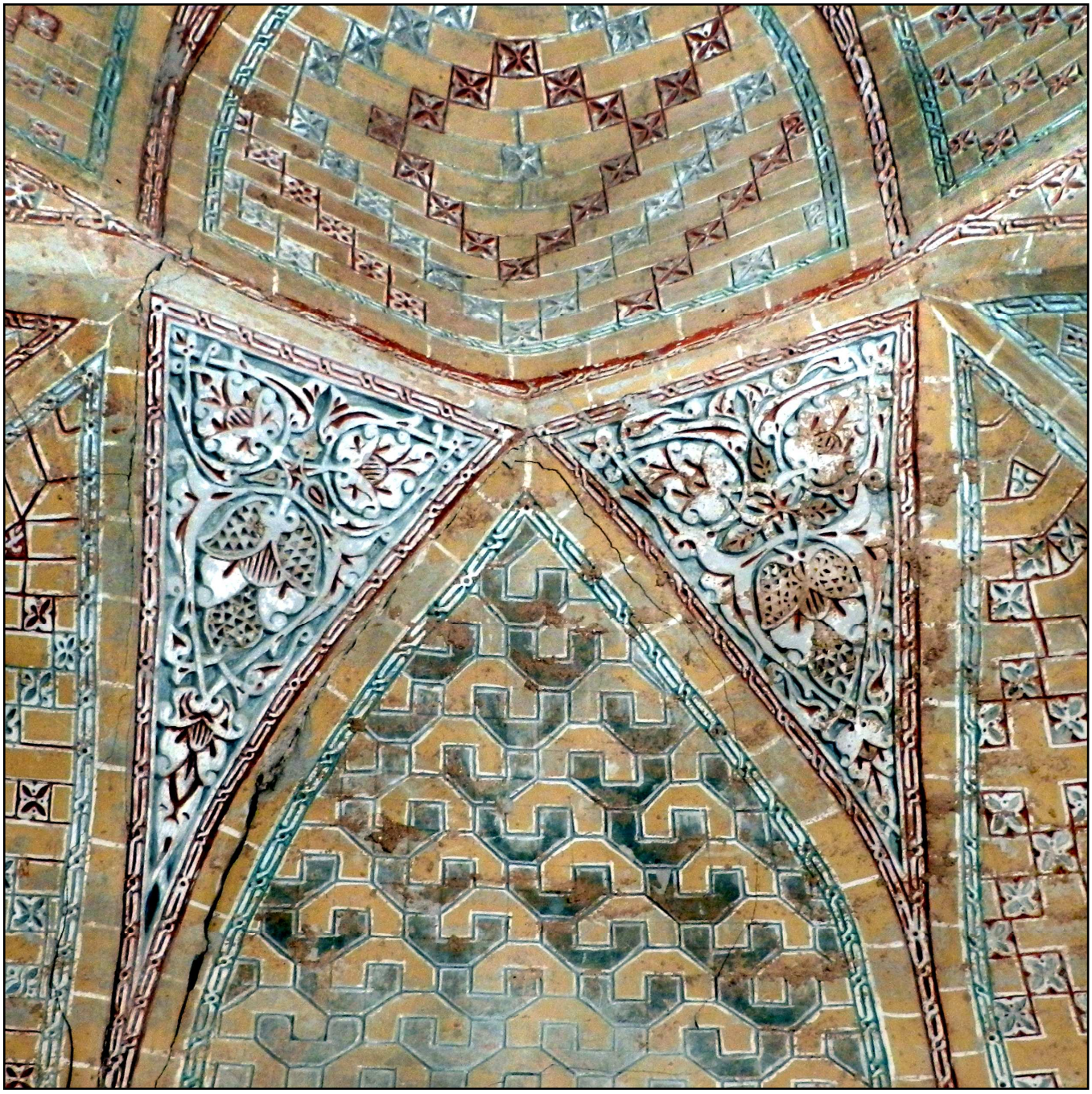




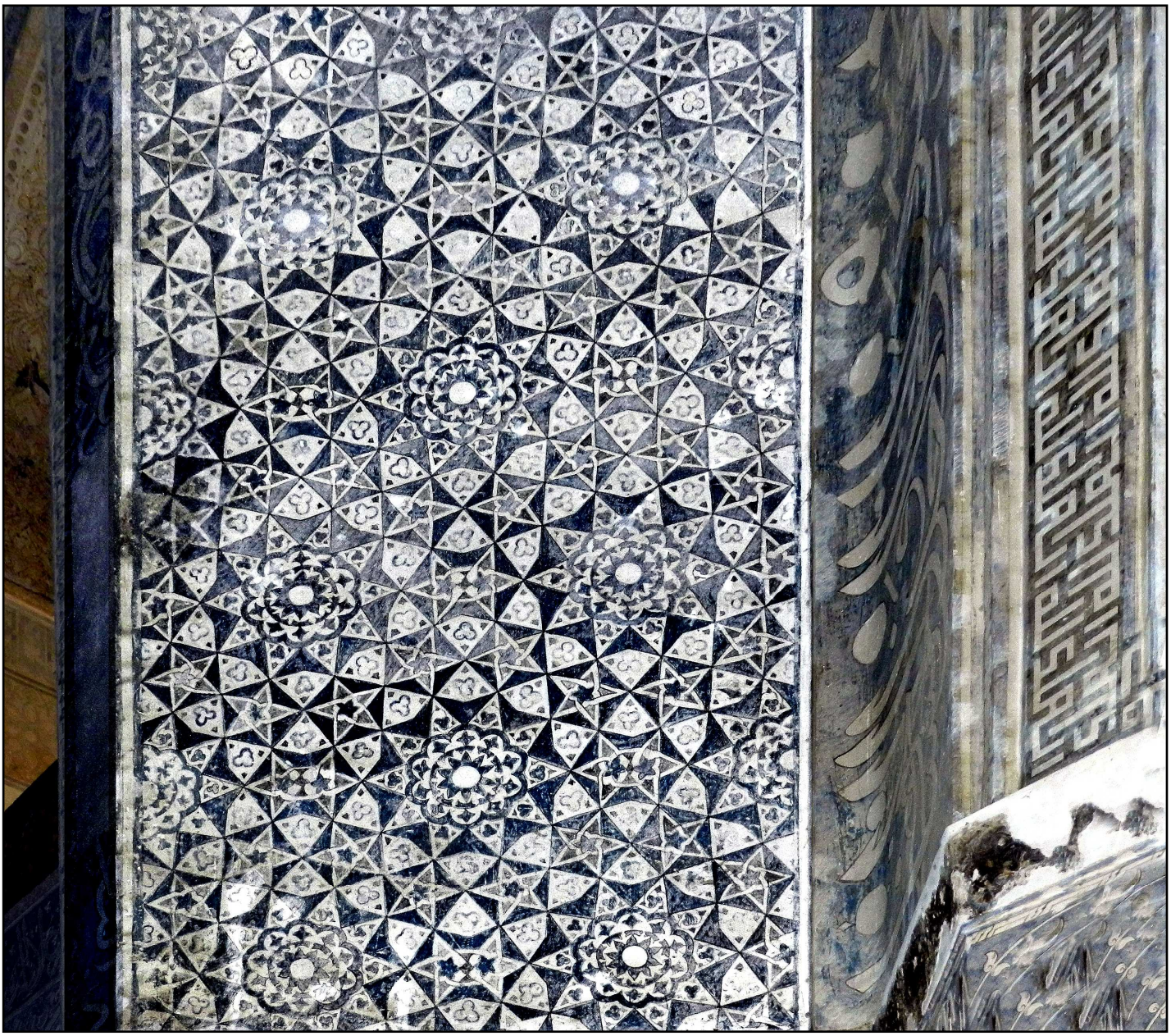


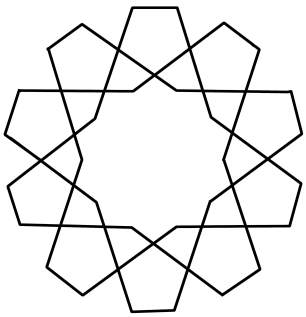


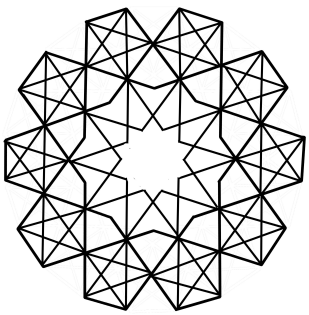
Travail du stuc et de la brique. Des décors similaires se retrouvent à la mosquée de Cordoue.

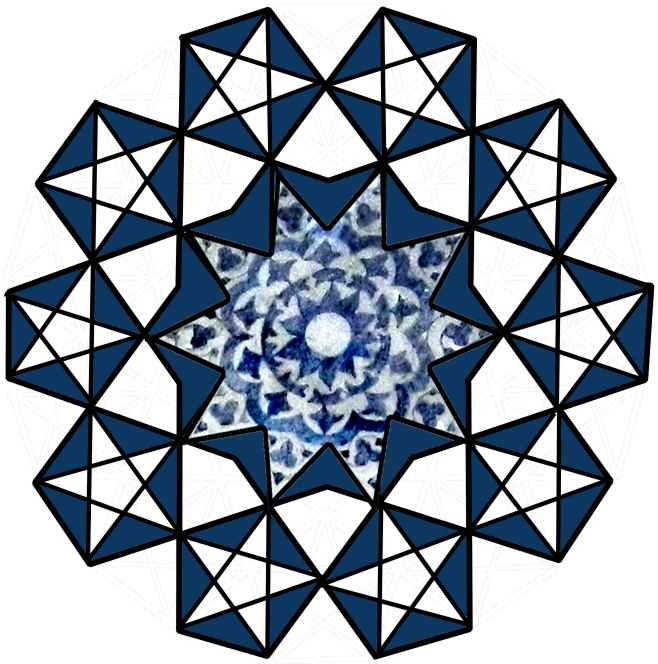


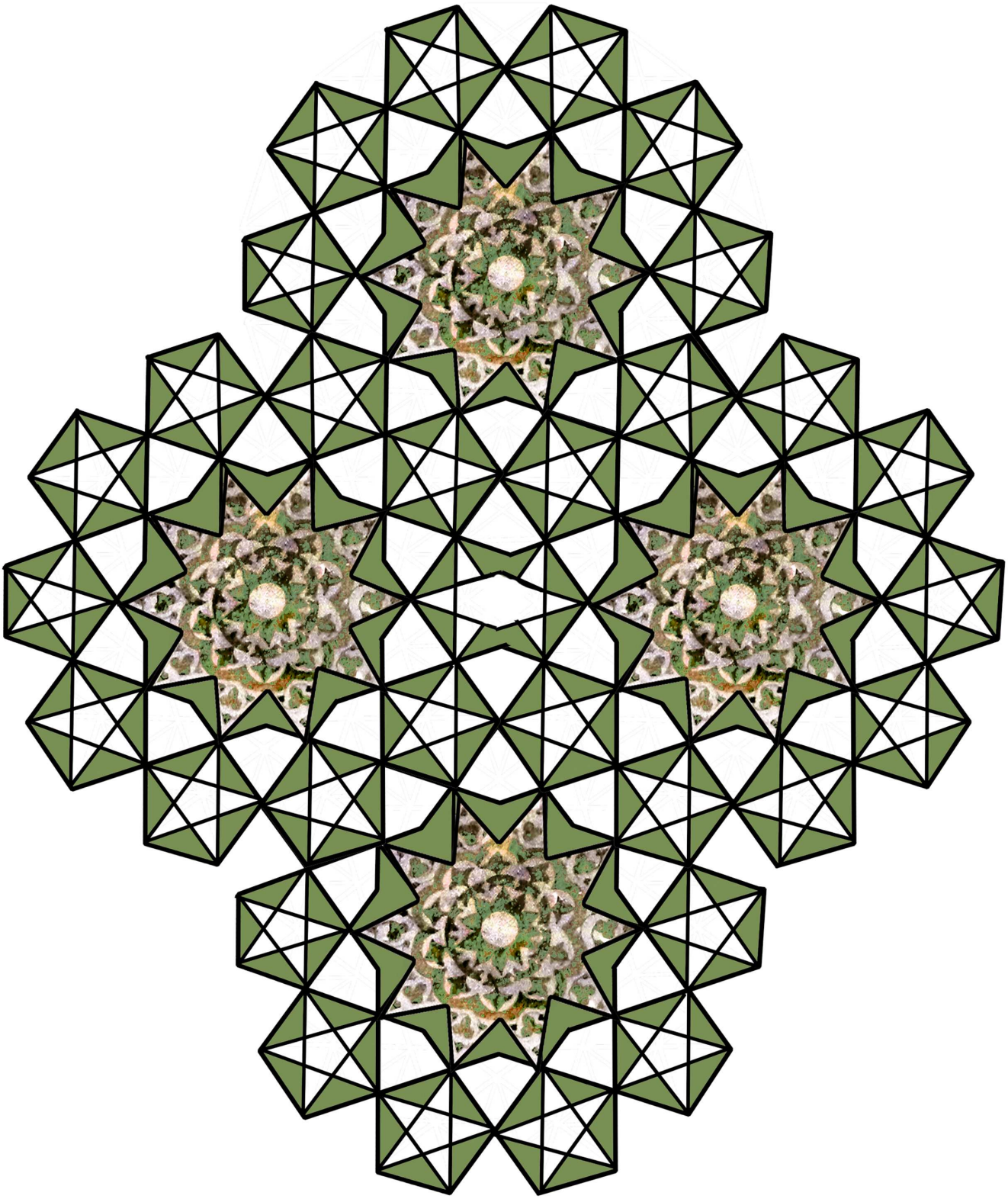
- composition de dix pentagones convexes réguliers formant une étoile à dix.

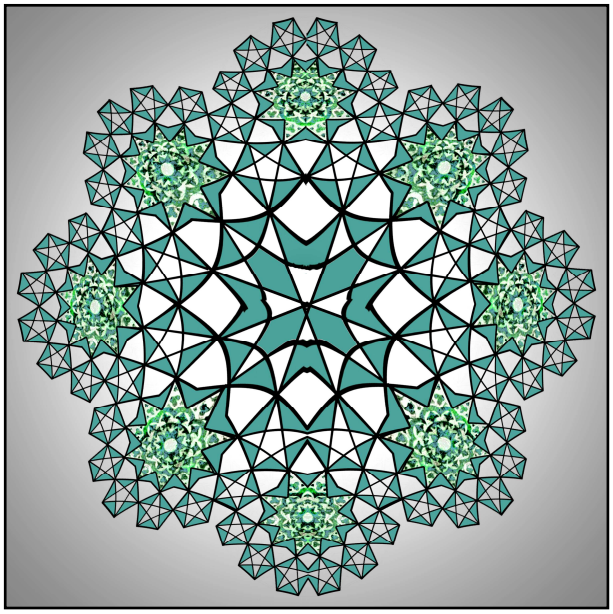


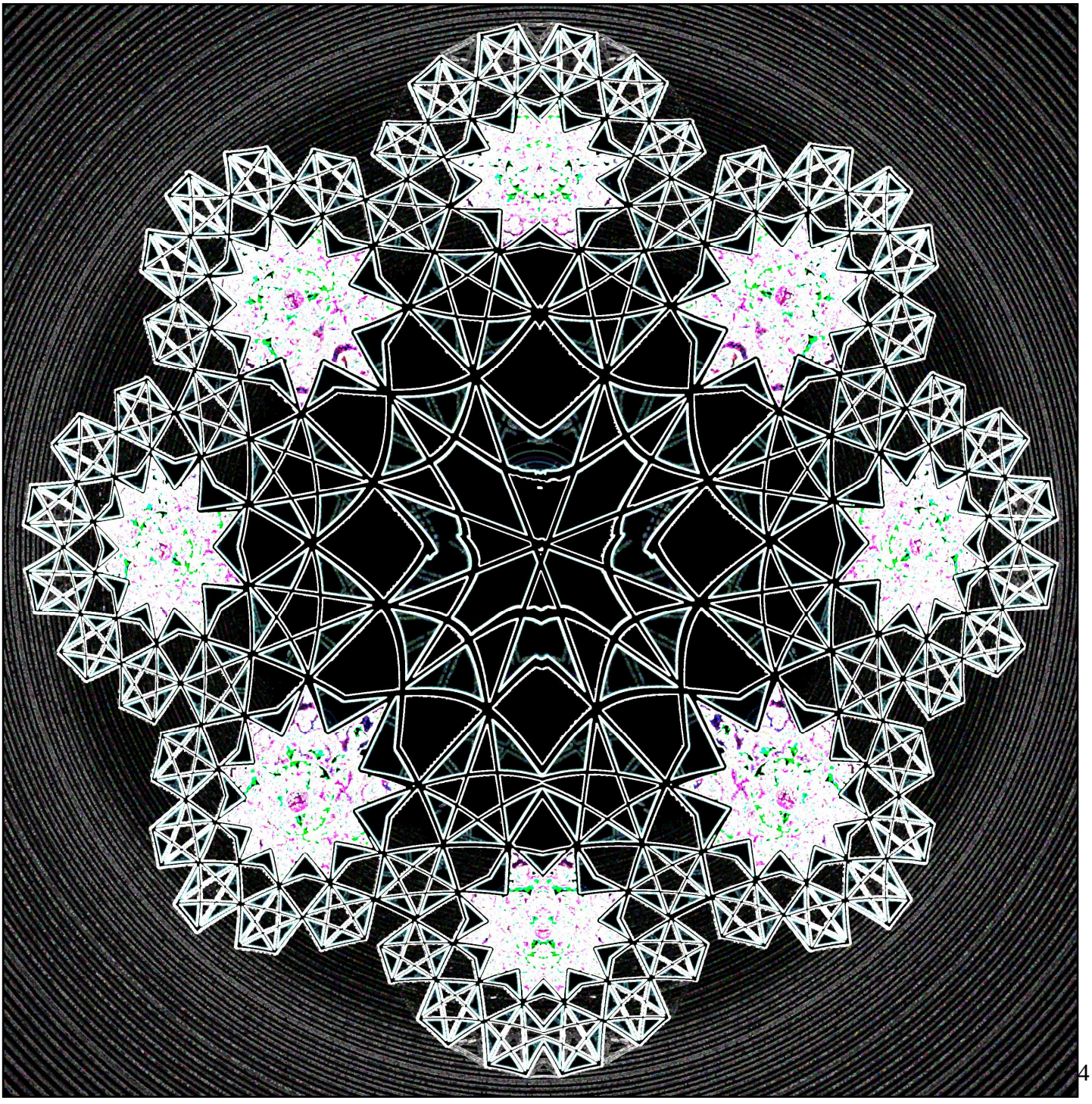




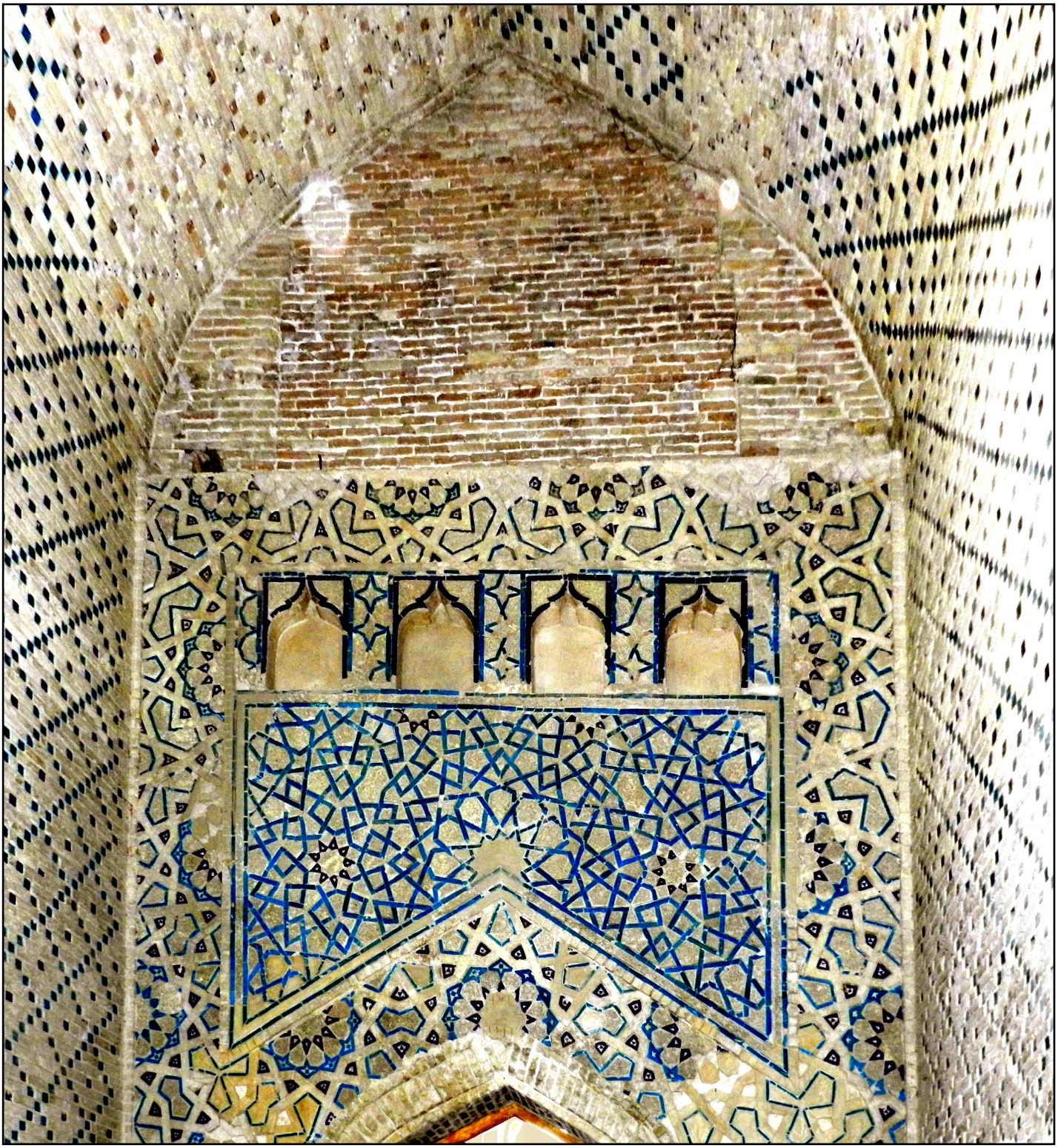


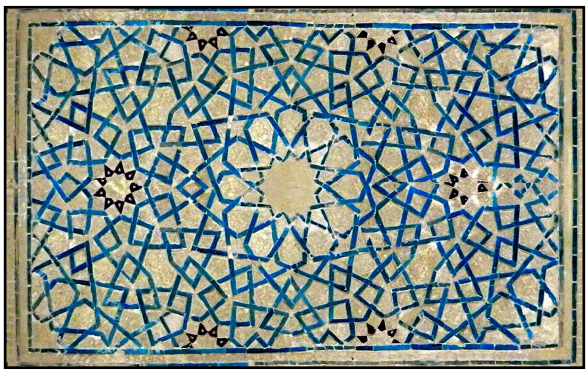


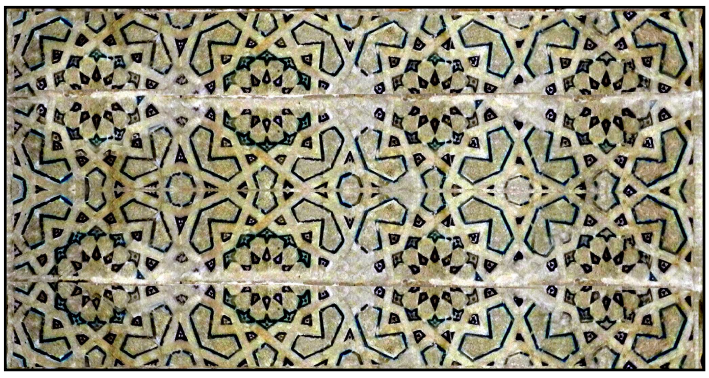


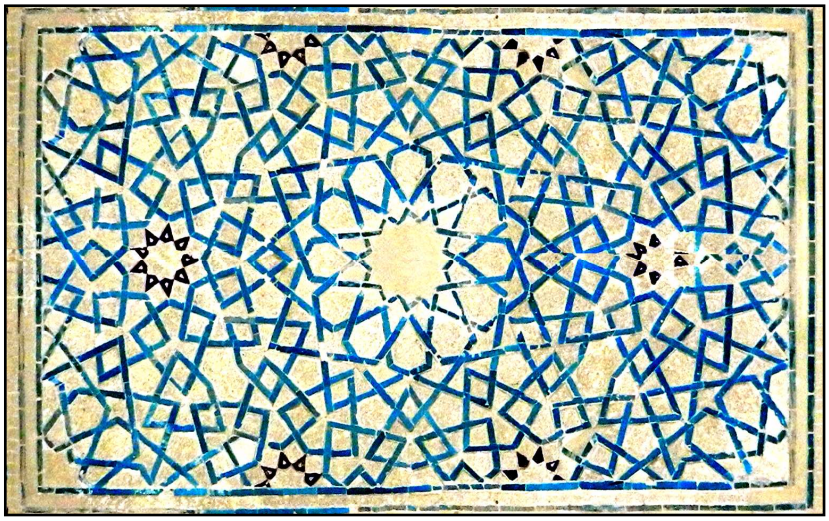


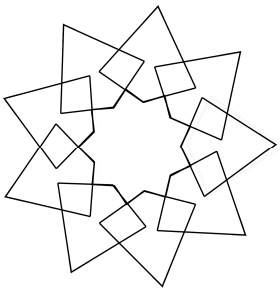
- Deux motifs coexistent sur l’alfiz de cet iwan.
- L’un formé par une composition de trois étoiles à douze formant une étoile à neuf.
- L’autre, en fond, par une juxtaposition d’étoiles à douze.

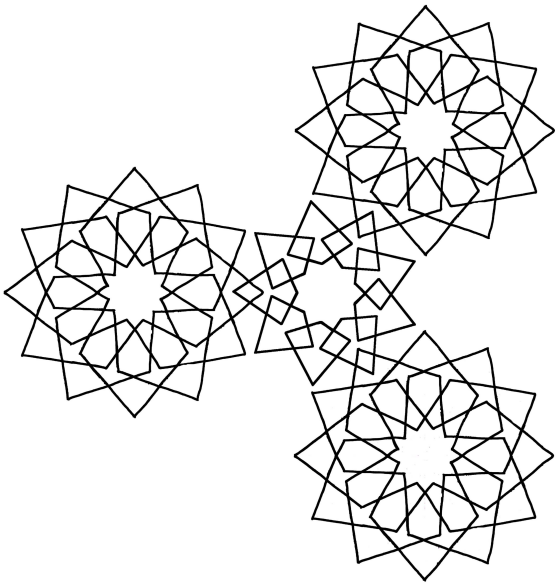


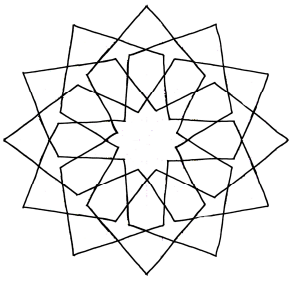


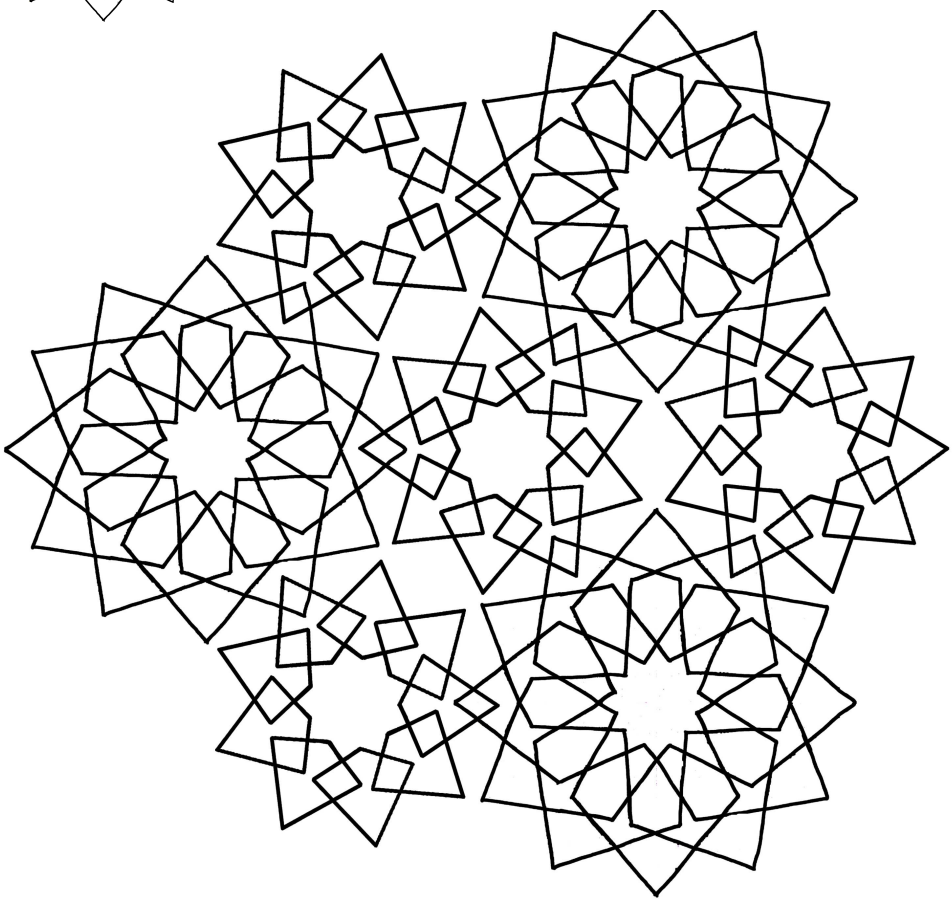


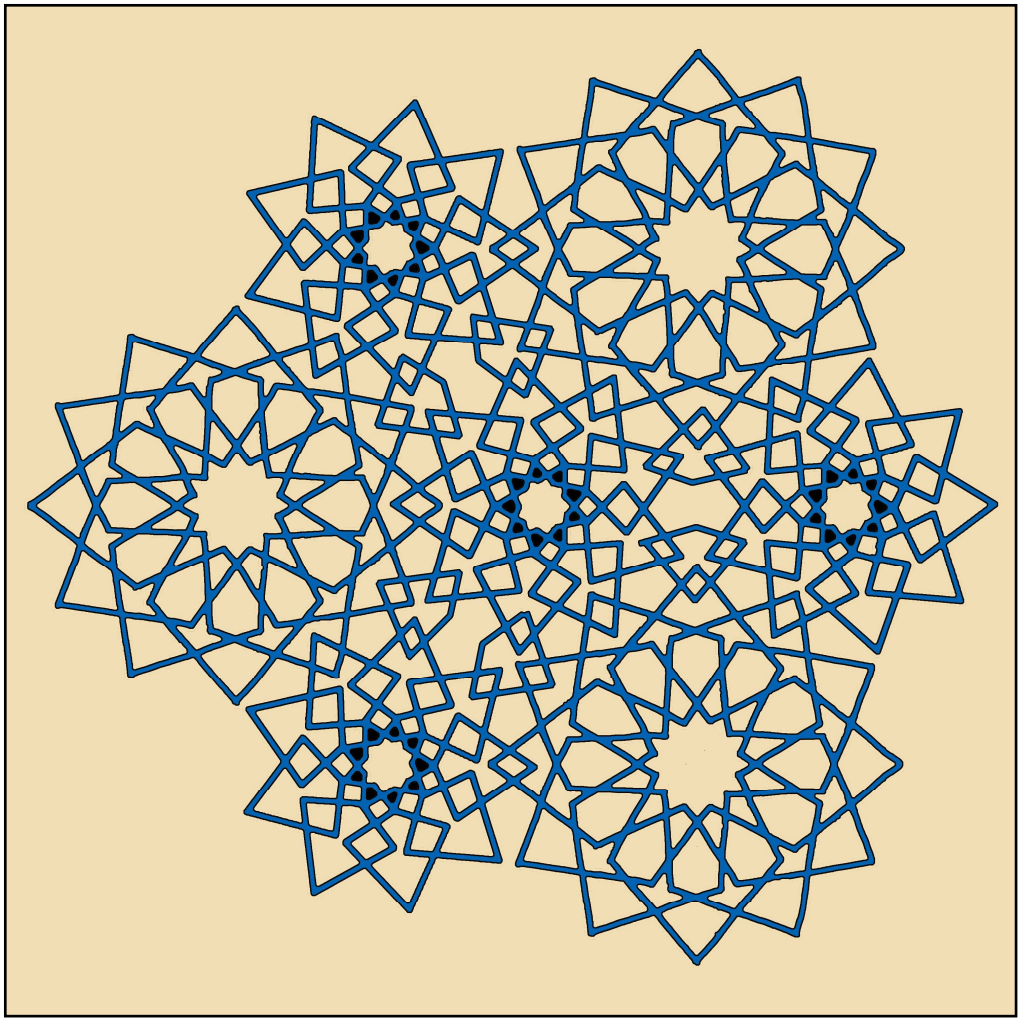


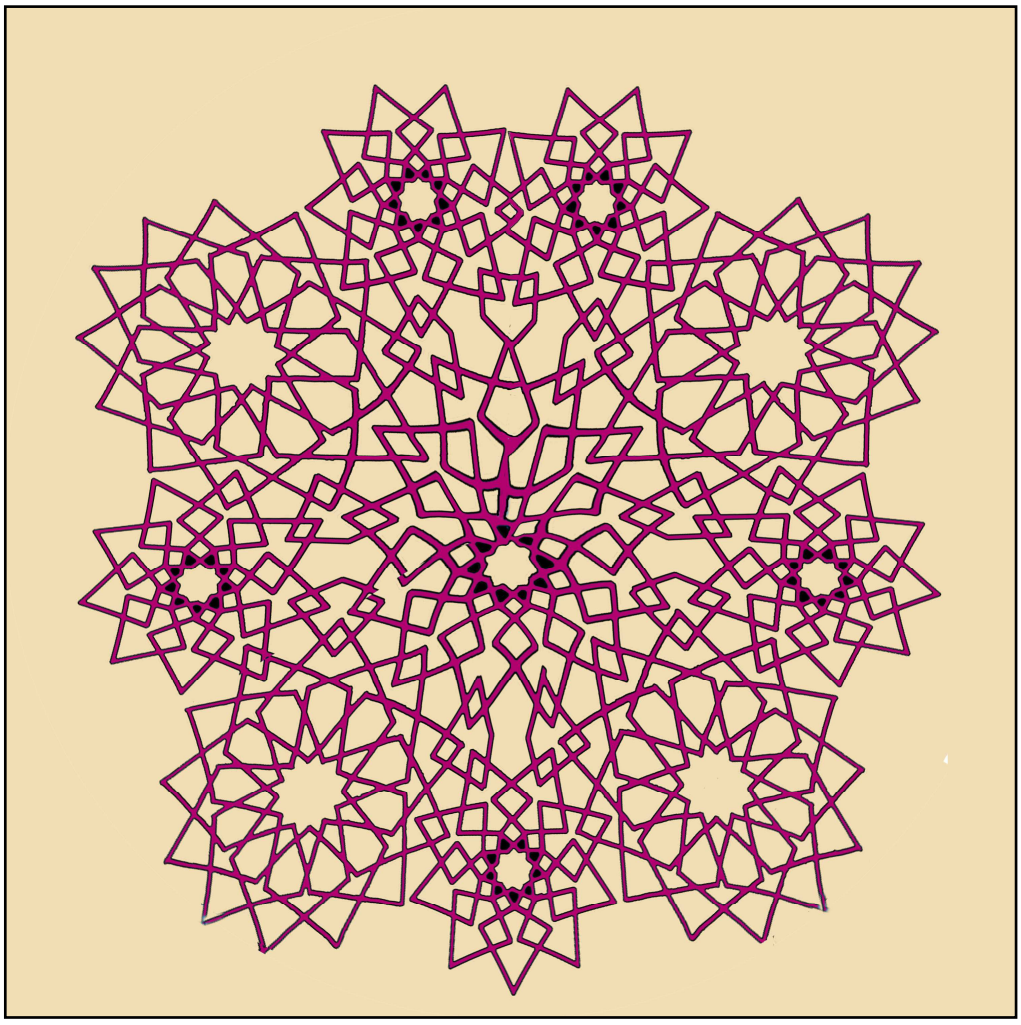


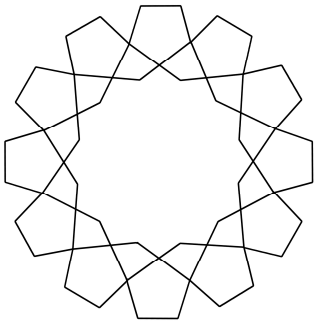


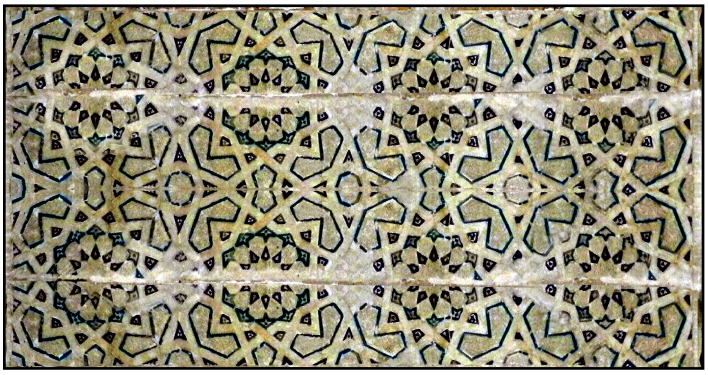


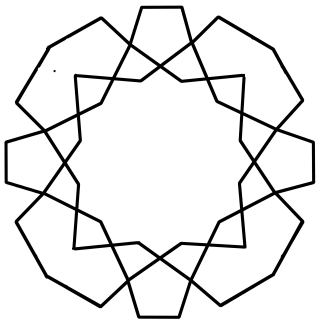


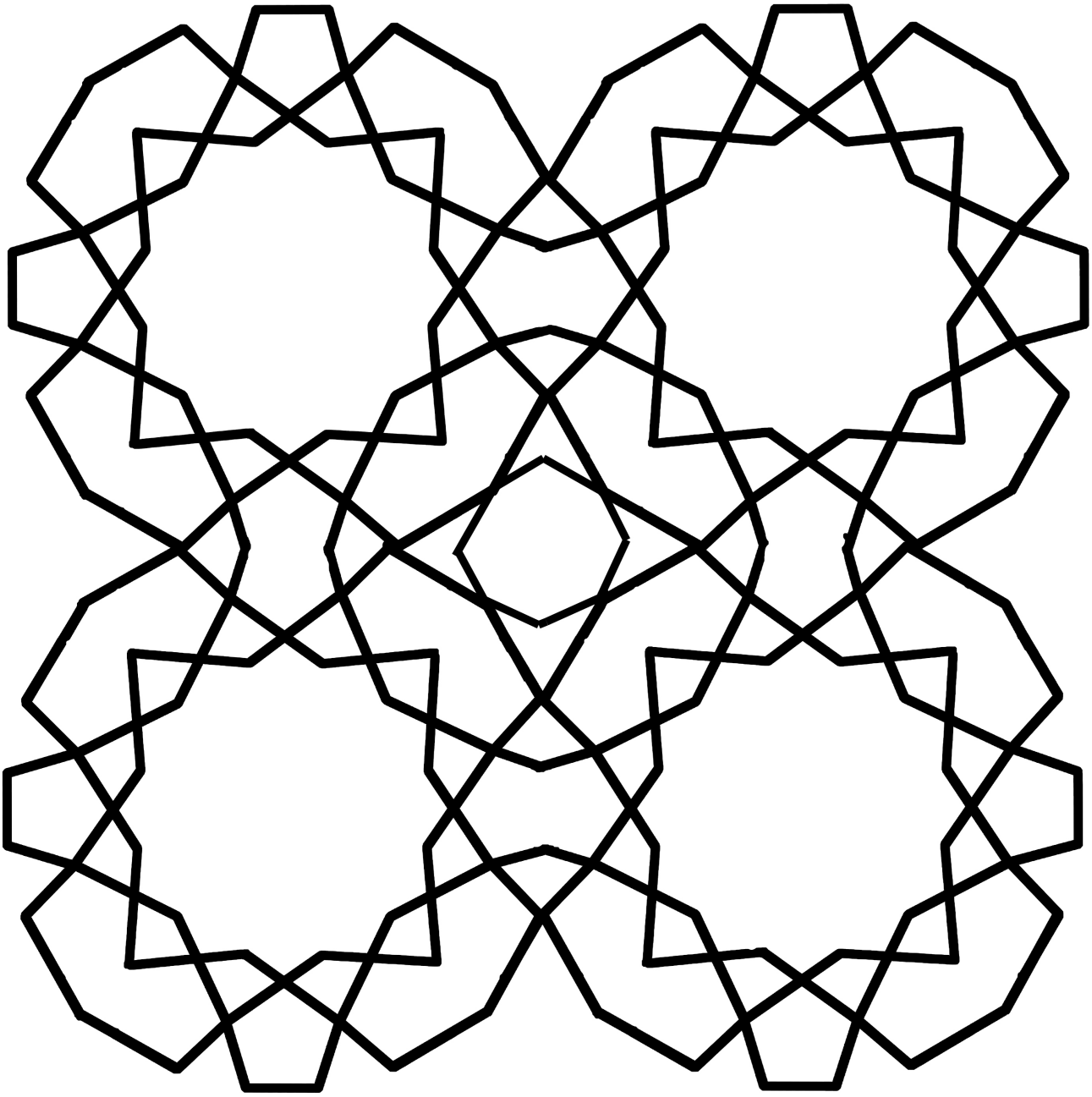


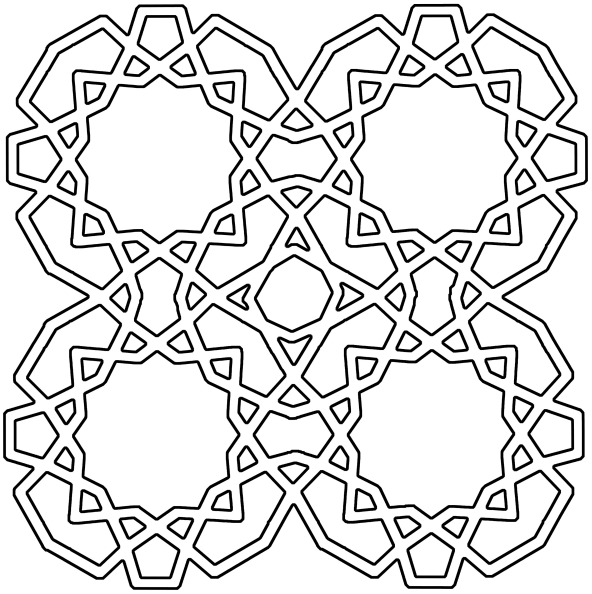


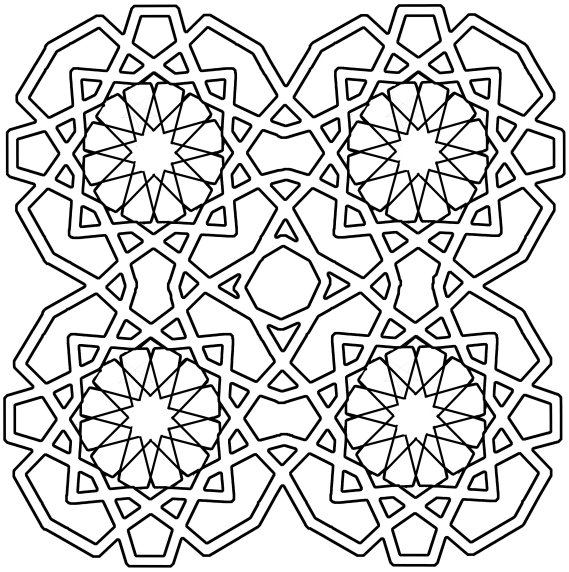


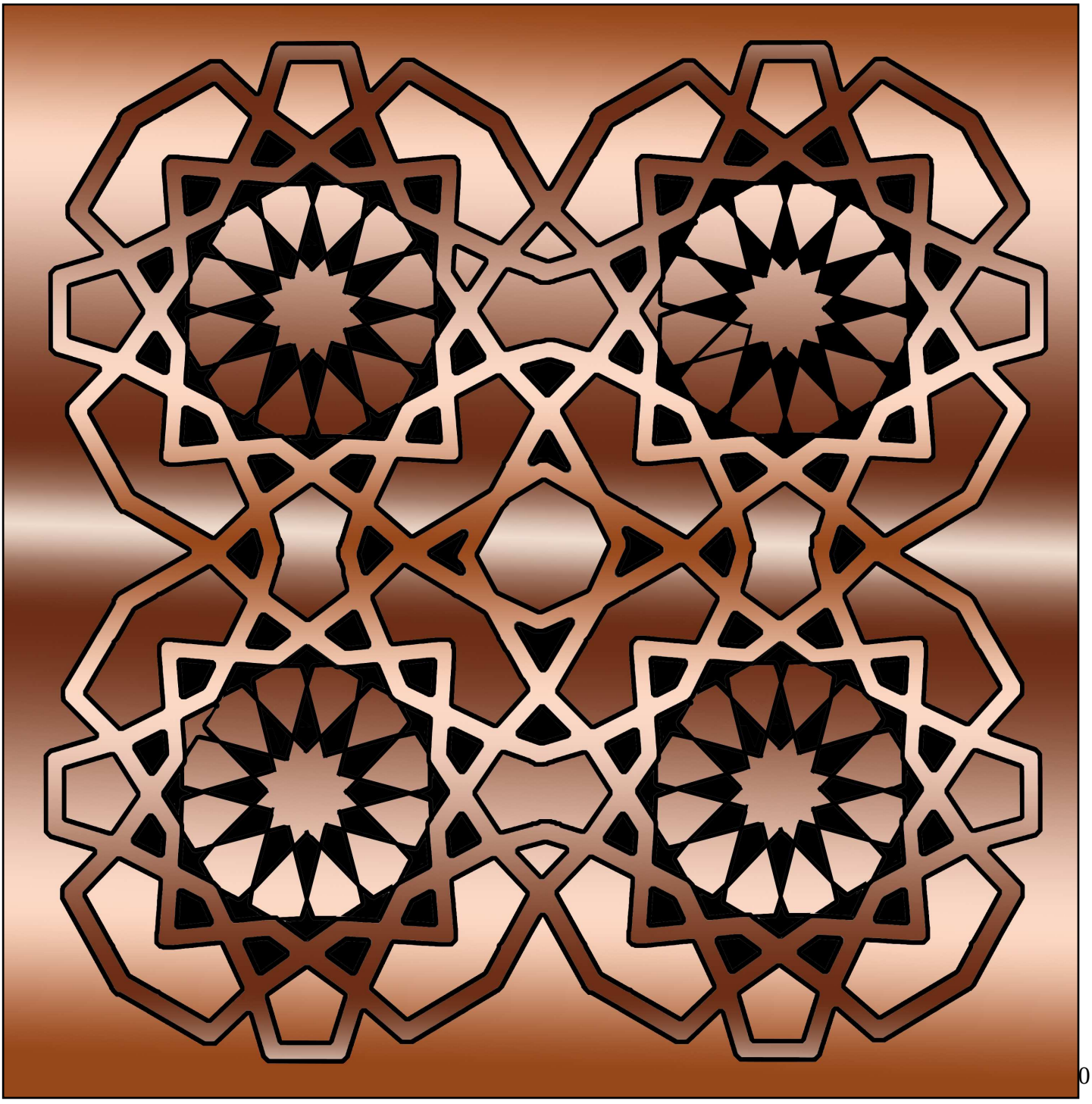


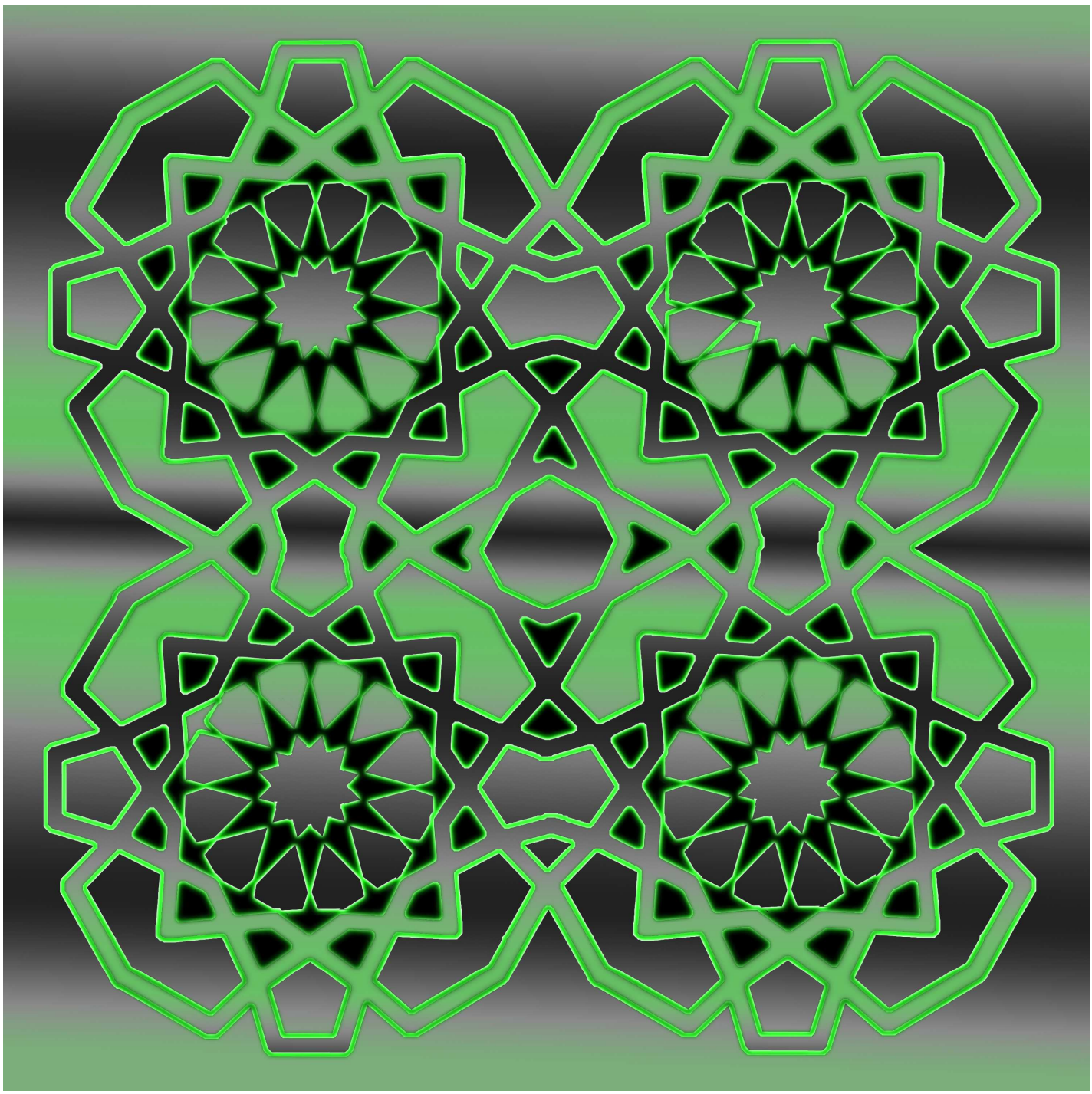


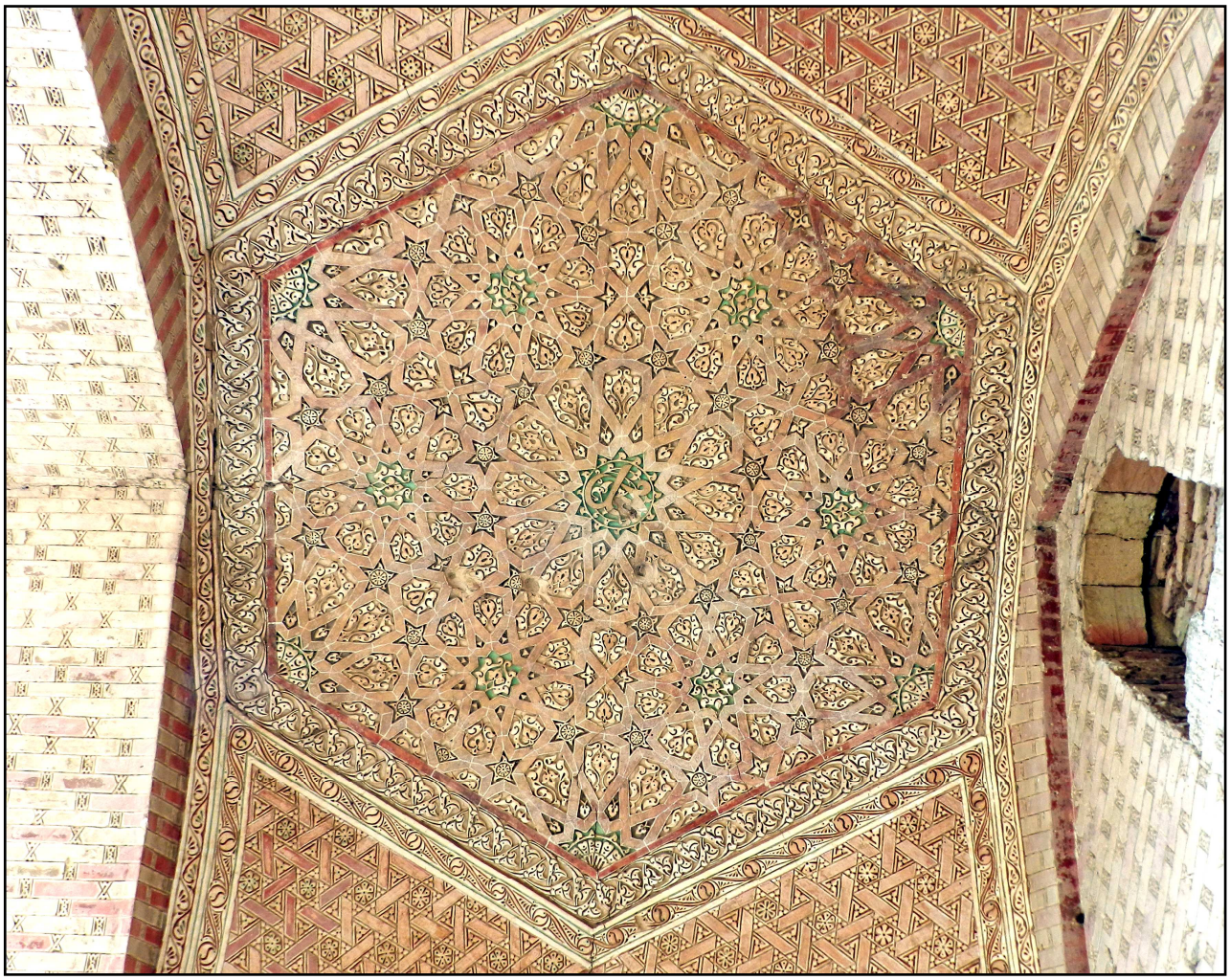


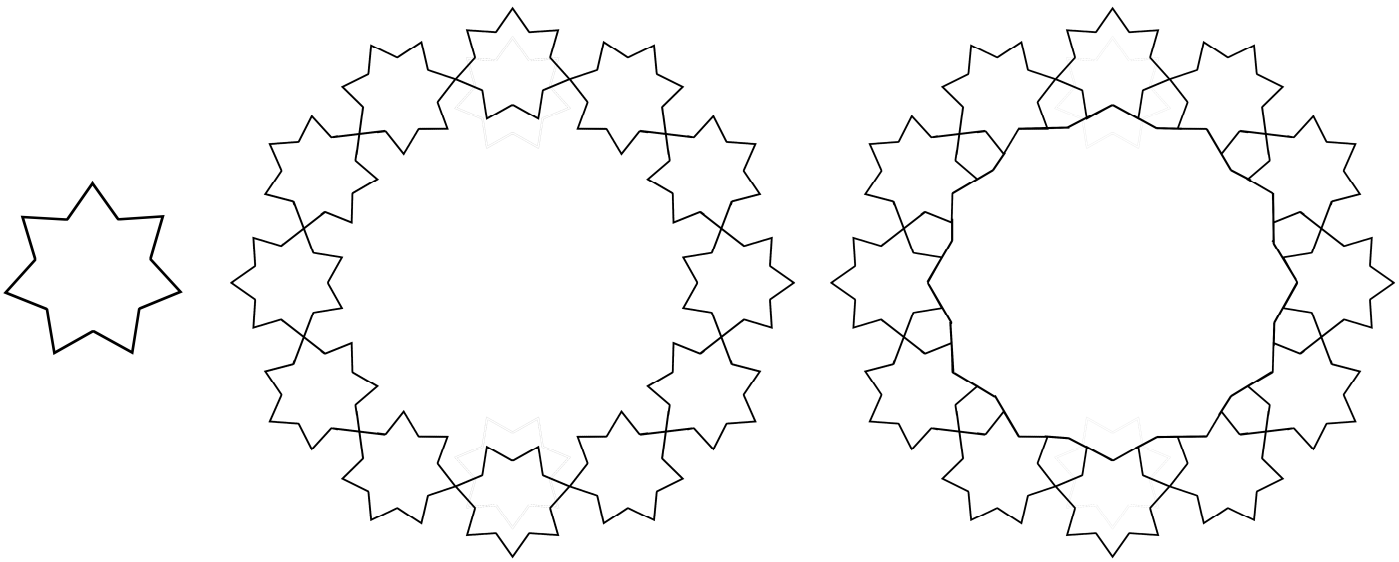
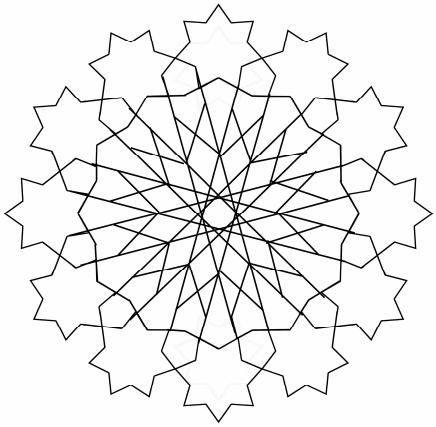
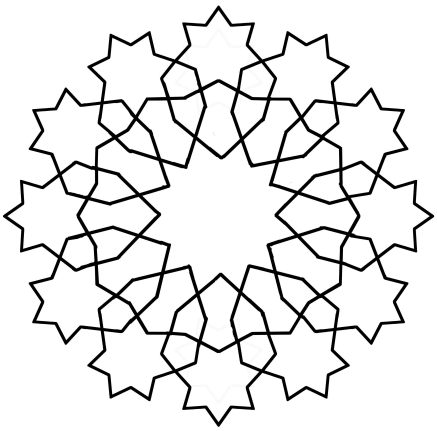
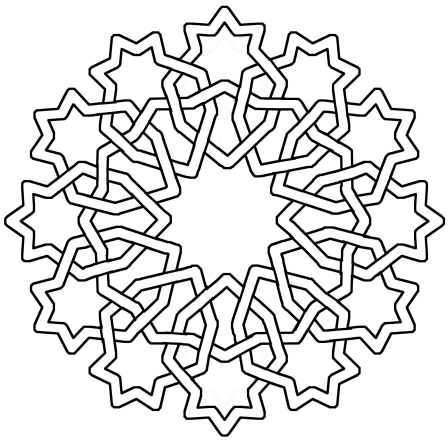
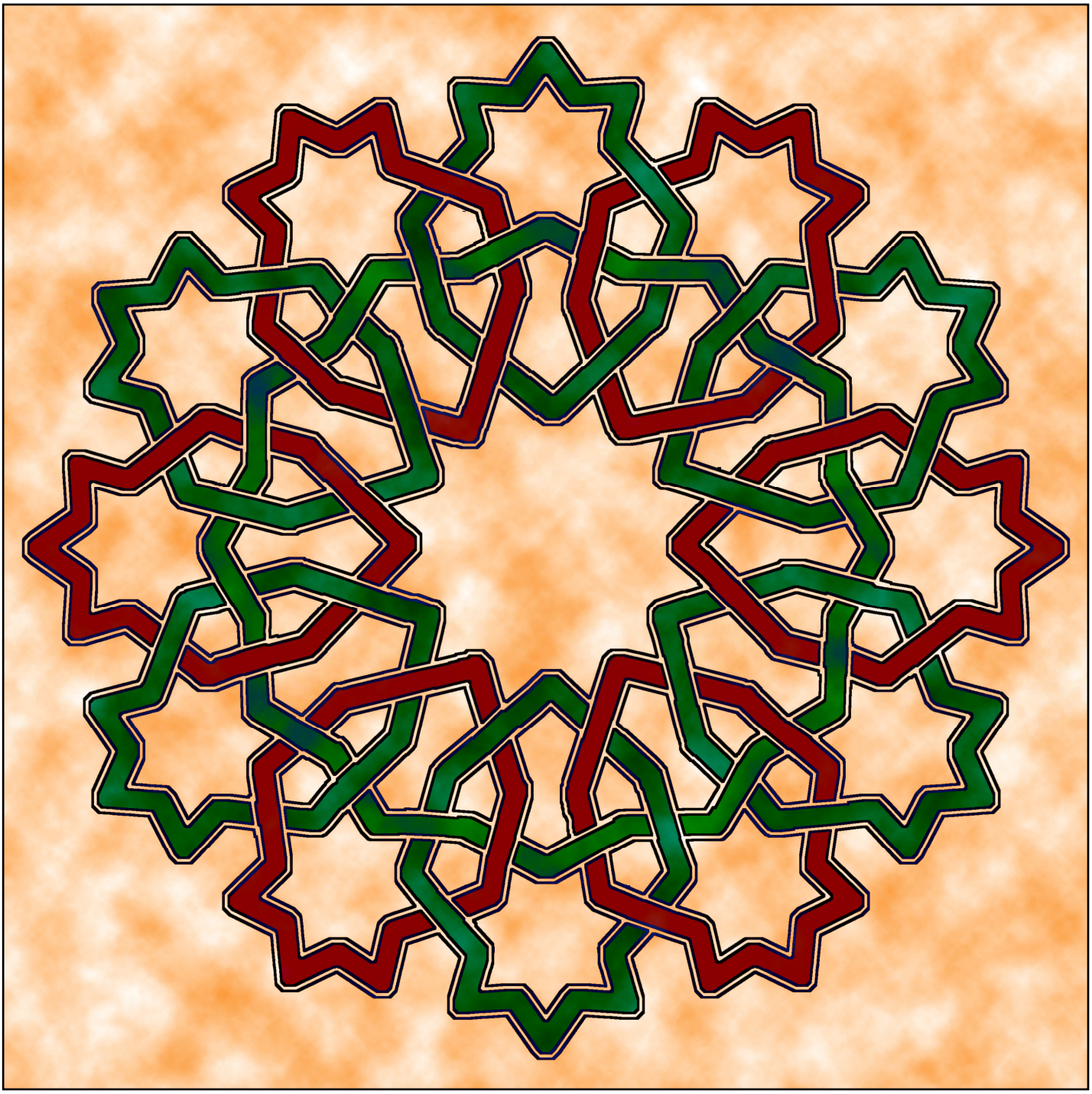
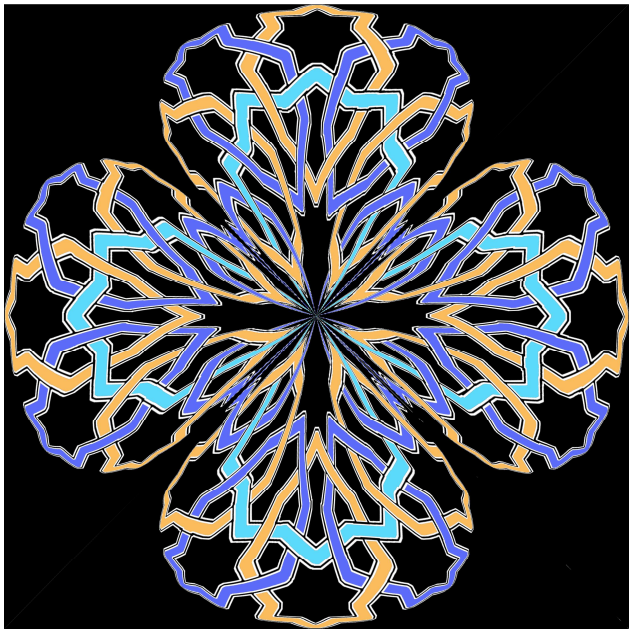
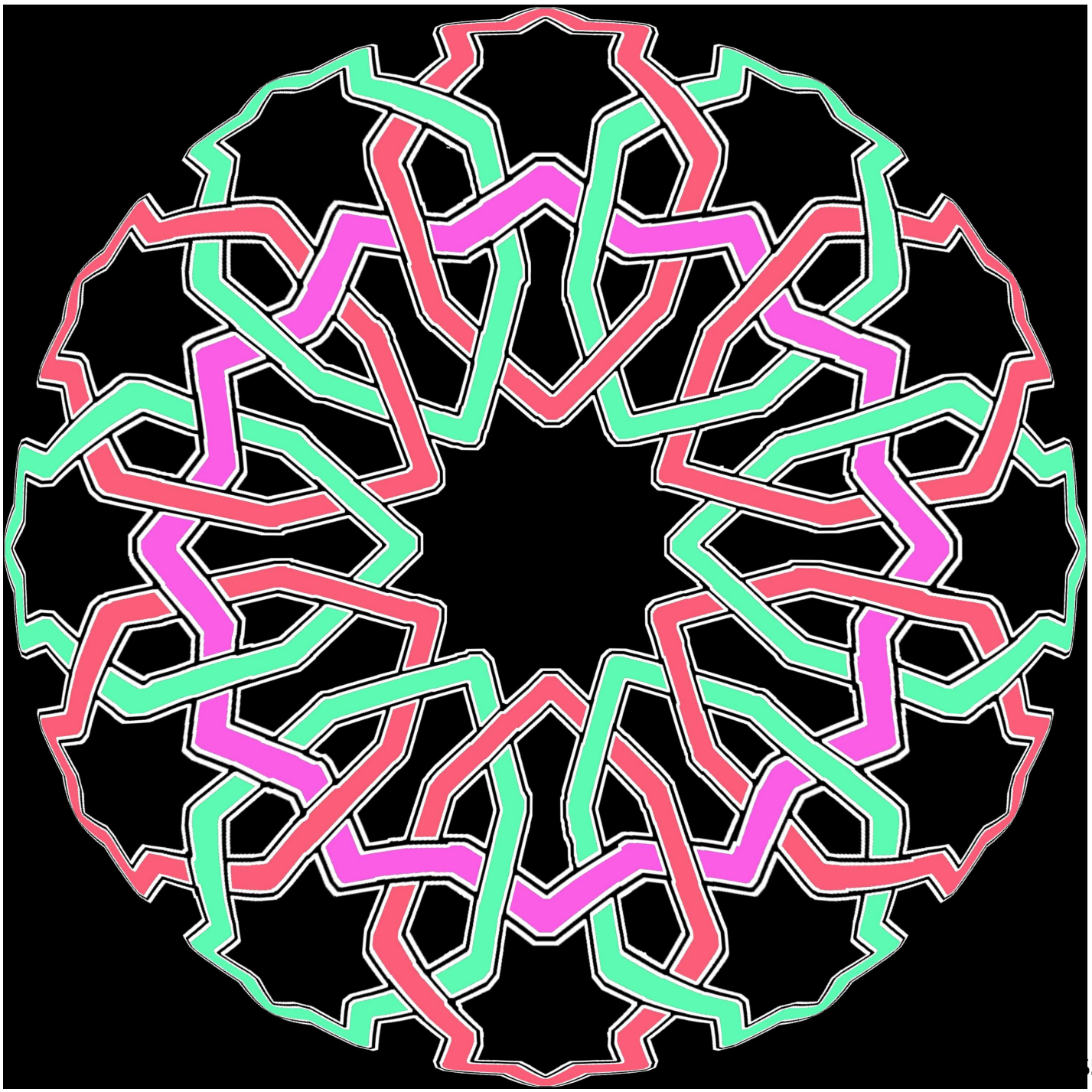
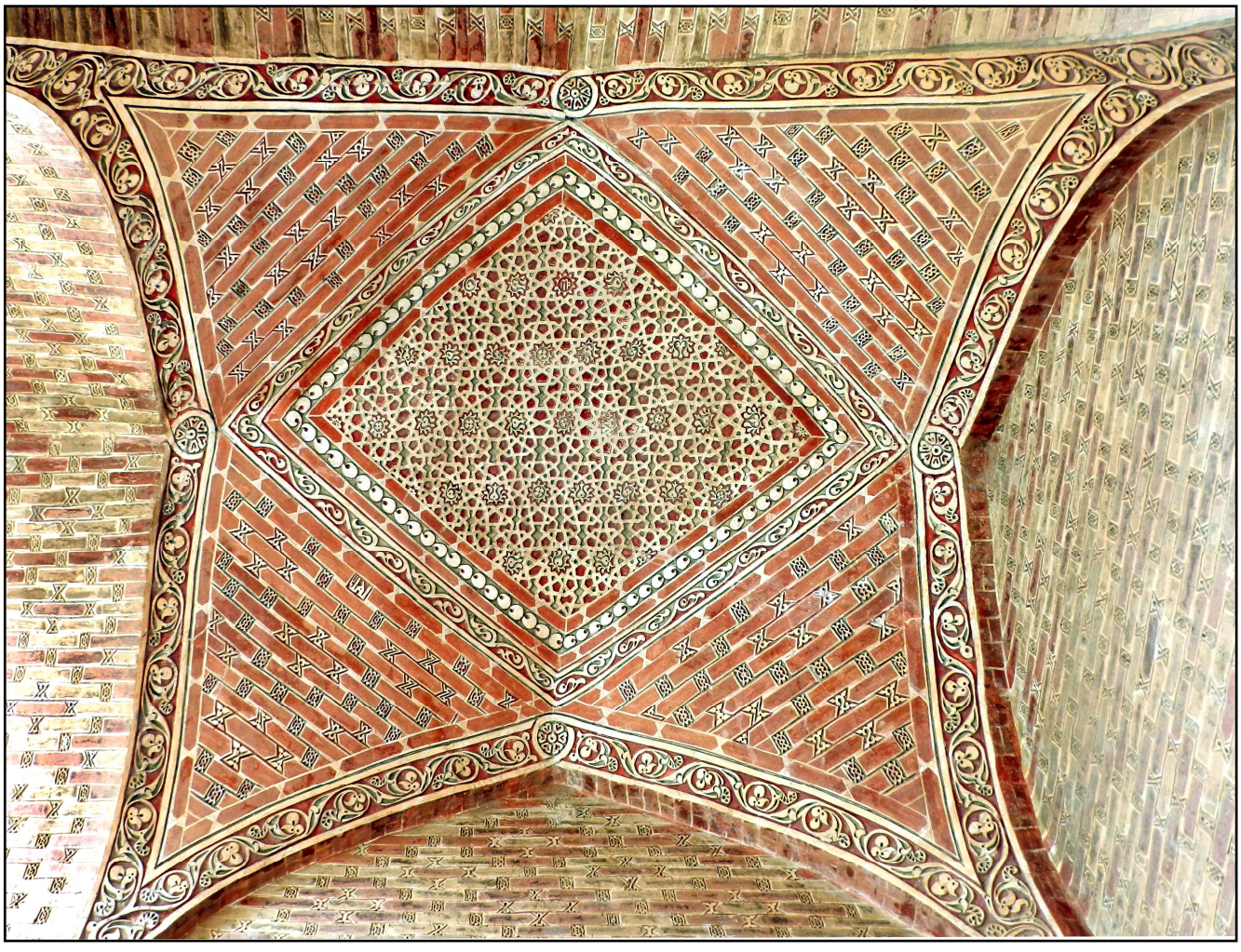
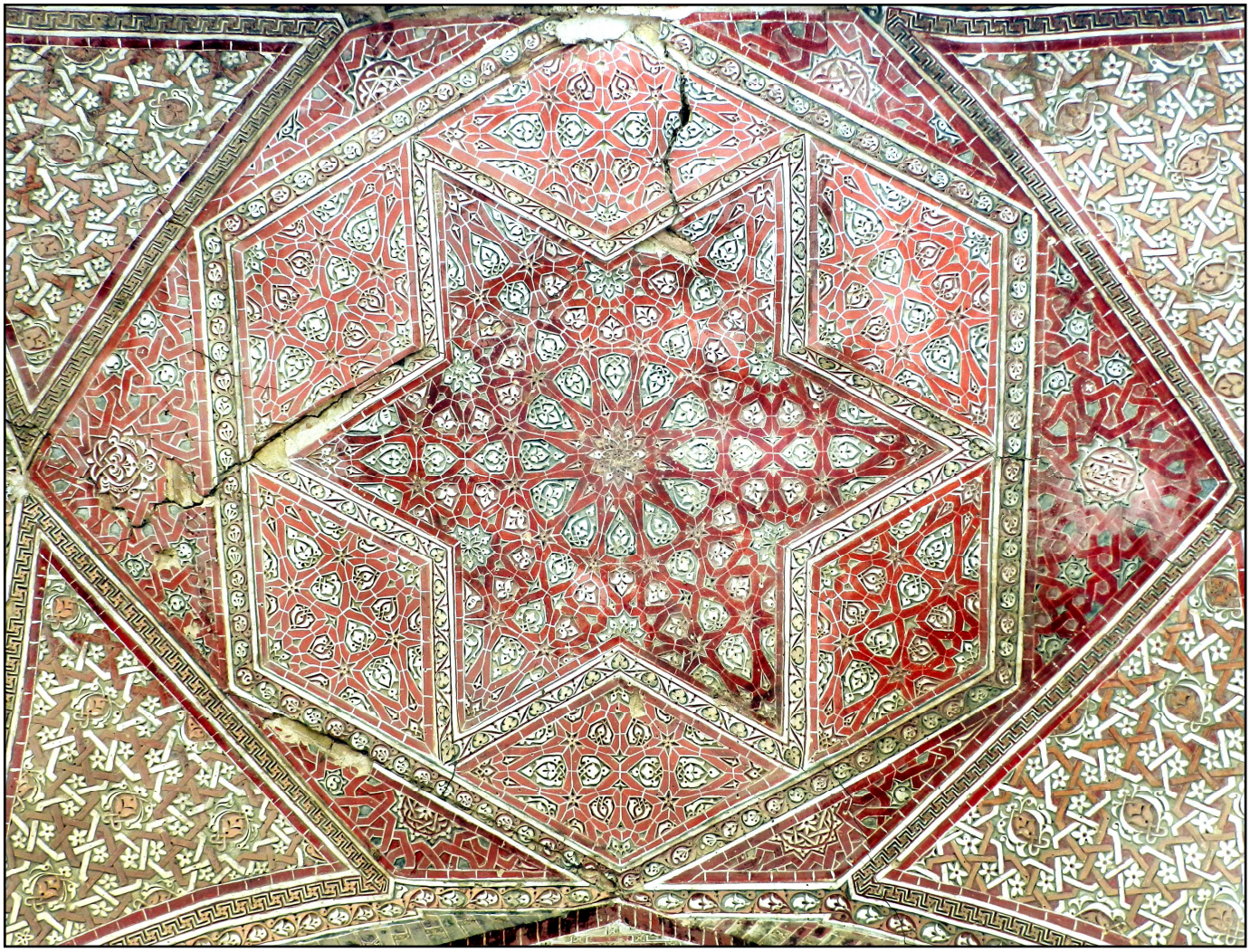
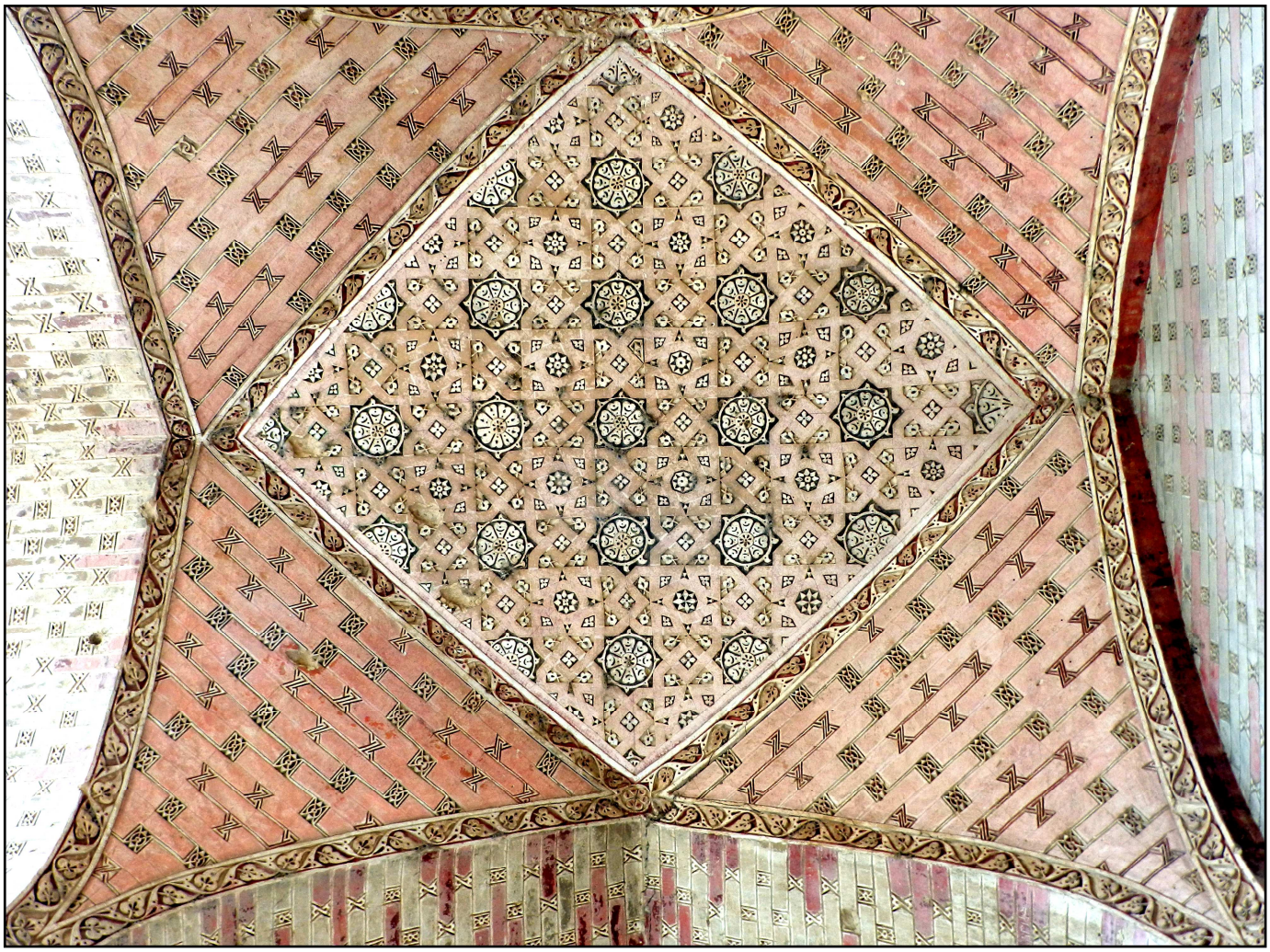










Décors géométriques d'argile cuite de la voûte de la galerie supérieure.

- décors de la voûte.
- combinaison de douze étoiles à sept formant une étoile à douze centrale.