THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 4 · ART AND DESIGN · ARTISTS AND ARCHITECTS IN HISTORY

Artists and architects in history

Techniques to learn, things to make, and the questions to ask of your own work when it is finished.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- Pattern built from geometry
- Mimar Sinan, architect
- Building with earth
- Task 1: Build the construction
- Task 2: Use it
- Find one building worth looking at
- Look at your own work

The Striving Muslim Academy

No answers at the back. There is nothing here to mark.

Written for a parent teaching at home. No training assumed, and nothing else to buy.

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Mimar Sinan, architect

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



MIMAR SINAN, ARCHITECT

Sinan was the most famous Ottoman architect of the sixteenth century, and of everything he built he thought the Selimiye Mosque at Edirne was his best work.

It is a square mosque with one great dome and four slender minarets, and it stands in a group of buildings that includes schools, a covered market, a clock house, a courtyard and a library, all run as one.

That group is the thing to look at. UNESCO calls it the most harmonious group of this kind ever built, and praises its tiles and its building work too. The buildings were not arranged by accident, which is the same decision a child makes arranging a drawing on a page.

Building with earth

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



BUILDING WITH EARTH

The Great Mosque of Djenne in Mali is the largest building in the world made of earth. Its bricks are sun baked, and the whole of the outside is coated in mud plaster from the river.

The bricks are made down on the riverbank, in a wooden mould, from earth mixed with chopped straw. Plaster that is made of mud does not last, so the mosque is replastered every year, and the replastering is a festival of the town.

The masons who do it belong to a guild called the barey ton, which goes back to the fifteenth century. The building is not finished and then maintained; it is remade, over and over, by the people who use it.

Find one building worth looking at

Go and look at a real thing. This is the lesson, not the warm up.



FIND ONE BUILDING WORTH LOOKING AT

Find a building near you worth looking at: a mosque, a church, a market, an old house. Draw its front.

Then work out its proportions. Is it taller than it is wide? Is the door in the middle? Is anything repeated, and how many times? Those are the decisions the architect made first.

SAMPLE PAGES

You have read a few pages. The pack is longer.

What you are holding is a short sample, taken from different parts of the pack so that you can see how a week is planned and what a child is actually asked to do, before you decide.

The complete pack, and the rest of the academic materials, are on our website: schemes of work for a parent teaching at home, and practice packs for the skills children get stuck on.

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Members of the homeschool community do not buy these. If you have joined the community, the pack for the term you are working on is given to you at no cost.

Our Islamic Education classes are free. These packs are part of what pays the teachers who teach them.