THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 6 · 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
- Symmetry as a plan
- 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.

Symmetry as a plan

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



SYMMETRY AS A PLAN

The Taj Mahal, at Agra in India, is planned so that one half mirrors the other along a line straight up the middle, and its main features are placed on that line.

Symmetry of that kind is not only about how a building looks. It tells somebody walking towards it where the centre is and where they are meant to go, before anybody has explained anything. One thing was done off centre on purpose: the tomb sits at the end of its garden instead of in the middle of it, which makes it look deeper from far away.

Inside, in the middle of the chamber, is a memorial marker for Mumtaz Mahal, exactly at the centre. Shah Jahan's was put beside it, to the west, more than thirty years later, and UNESCO calls it greater than hers. The real graves are in a room below. So the one thing in the whole building that is not symmetrical is the thing it was built for.

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.