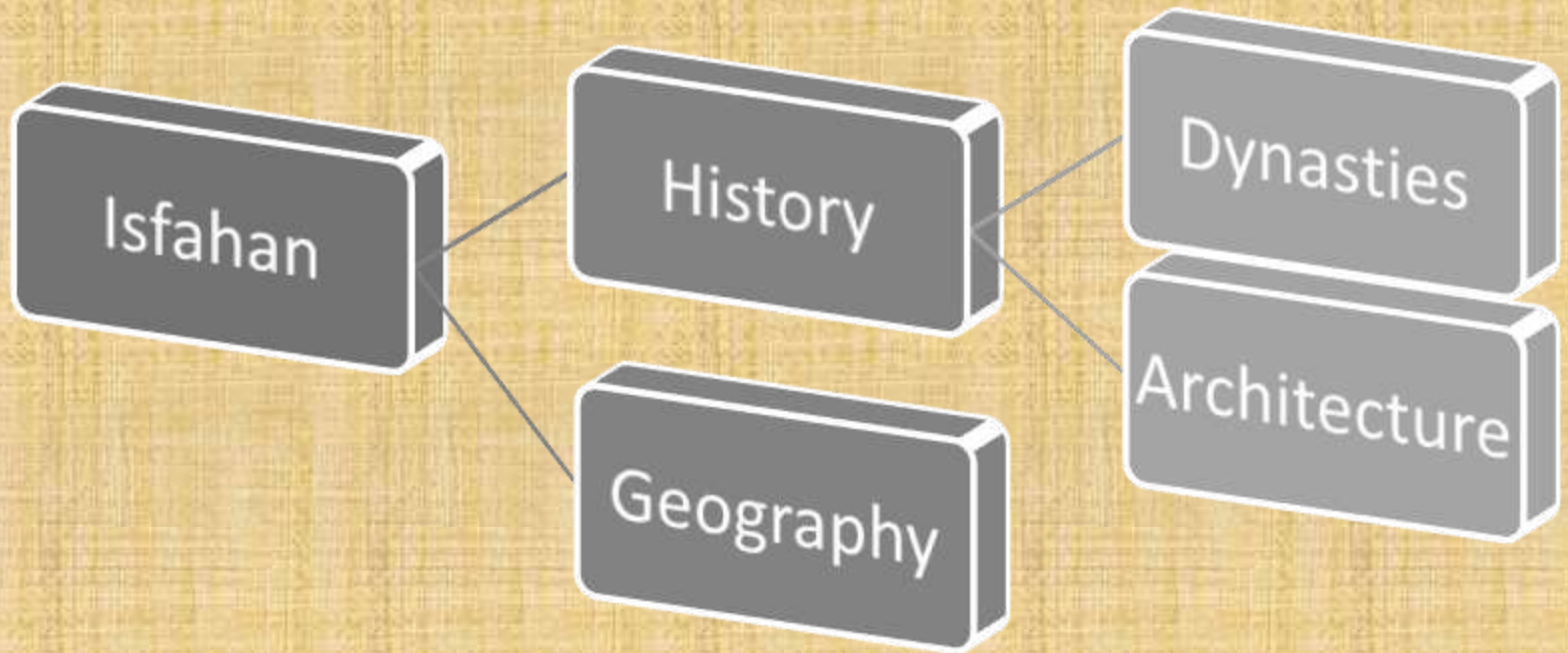


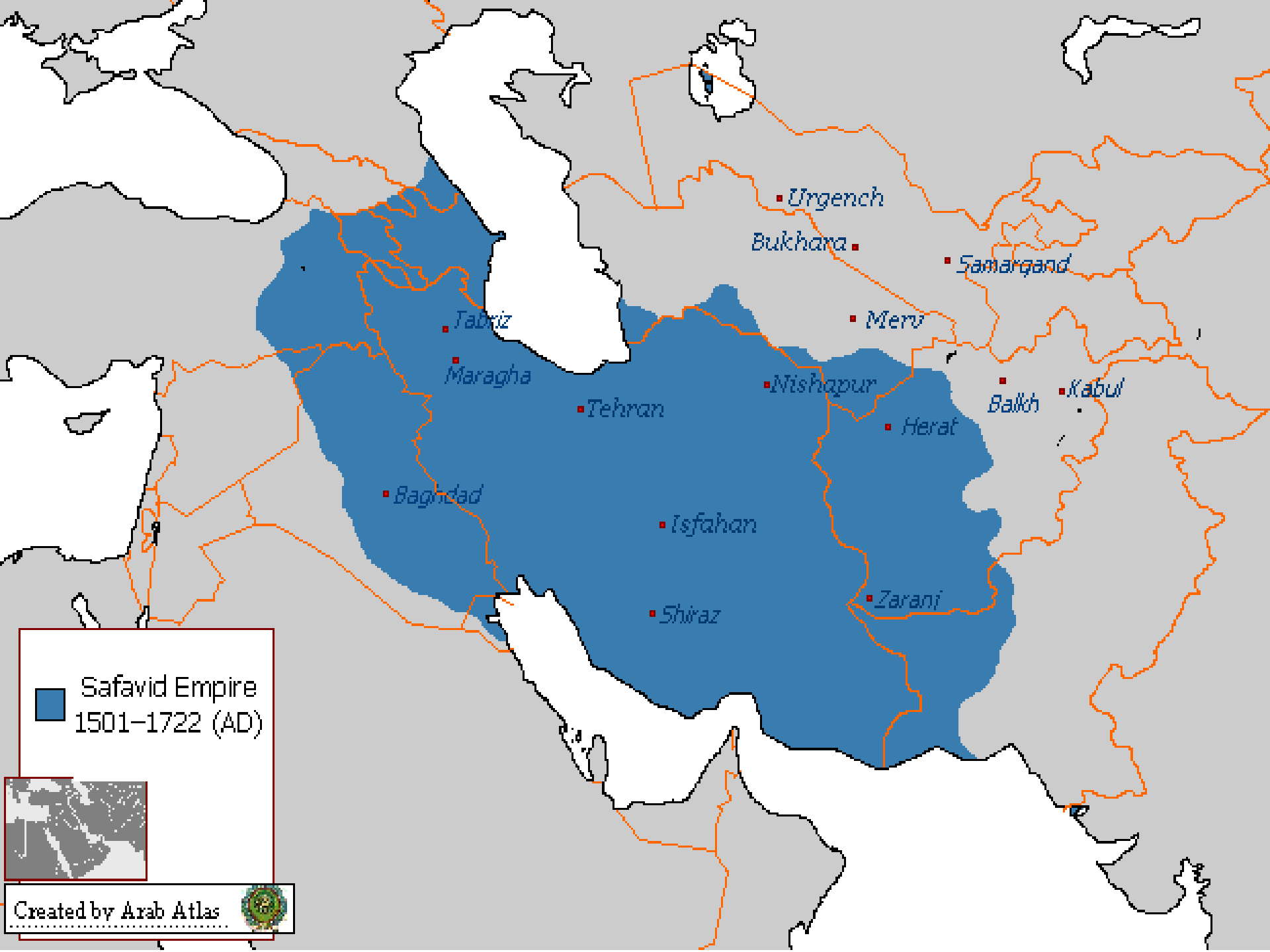


مسجد شیخ لطف الله
عالی قاپو

ماندانا و شیرانا سلیمیان

OUTLINE





■ Safavid Empire
1501–1722 (AD)

- Urganj
- Bukhara
- Samargand
- Merv
- Nishapur
- Balkh
- Kabul
- Herat
- Zarani
- Shiraz
- Isfahan
- Baghdad
- Tehran
- Maragha
- Tabriz



History of Isfahan

- Isfahan is identified as the Capital of Iran in 1597 by Shah Abbas
- Isfahan is captured by Afghans in 1722



What Does Isfahan Mean?

- Probably acquired in the Sasanian period (226-652 A.D)
- Armies (“aspahan”) gathered in the fertile plain around the city.





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ISFAHAN TIMELINE

Buyid 954 CE - 1055	Ghaznavid 994 CE - 1030	Seljuqid 1045 - 1092	Mongols 1221	Tamerlane 1384 - 1405
Qom as important center of Shi'ism	Persian culture flourishes	Residence of Seljuq kings	Spared during the conquest	Sacked Isfahan
Isfahan becomes more important	Ferdowsi writes Shahnameh	Enjoys a lavish patronage	Remained a prosperous city	70,000 killed!
	Tower of Arsalan outside of Mashad	Rich architectural wealth		
		<i>Friday Mosque by Nizam Ul-Mulk</i>		

SHAH ABBAS THE GREAT

- Timurid architecture, painting and calligraphy
- By 1571 Iran was stronger than it had been for decades.
- Moved the country's capital to Isfahan
- No alteration in the structure of the old town
- Northern Isfahan, or *chahar baghe paeen*, was mostly Abbas' creation (including Naghshe-Jahan Square)
- Shah Abbas' main political strategy: tolerance of other religions



Isfahan New Population

The city's change of status from a provincial to an imperial capital resulted in a significant population growth:

- Skilled artisans
- Members of the army, literati and bureaucrats
- Merchants: Armenian Christians
- Sunnis, Shi'ias, Jews, Zoroastrians, and so on.

The Arts of Isfahan

- **The precious**
 - luxury items for the privileged people, for example, paintings
- **The monumental**
 - most of the famous architectures of Isfahan
 - Convey the glory of the state and power of Shah Abbas
- **The useful**
 - textiles, ceramics and pottery

SHEIKH LOTFOLLAH

- Born in Mess which is now a city in Lebanon
- Went to promote Shi'ism in Iran
- lived in Mashhad first
 - took refuge at Qazvin due to political instability
- Went to Isfahan under the pressure of Shah Abbas
- Became Shah's father in-law

Masjid Sheikh Lotfollah

- Shah's private chapel
- East side of Naghshe Jahan Square
- Constructed in 1615 over a twenty-year period
- Architect: *Muhammad Reza ibn Ustad Hosein Banna Isfahani*



Question?

- **Two mosques right beside each other!**

Why?



Masjid Shah vs. Masjid Sheikh Lotfollah



-Overall First Impression

-Created as a proclamation of conviction, not as a jewel-box

-Tile works are less exquisite

-Inscription and tile works by Alireza Abbasi



-By all means a small, private mosque

- Perhaps intended for the ladies in Shah's Harem

-used as the royal mosque up until the Shah mosque was built

-Inscription and tile works by Alireza Abbasi

STRUCTURE

- Without the typical minarets and central sahn (courtyard);
- No internal iwans.
- An L-shaped entrance hall, and a single domed prayer hall.
- Steps leading to its entry (Yazd marble)
- The dome itself is one of the spectacular mosaic works on the dome
 - The mosaic is very similar to a carpet design in Tehran's carpet museum.



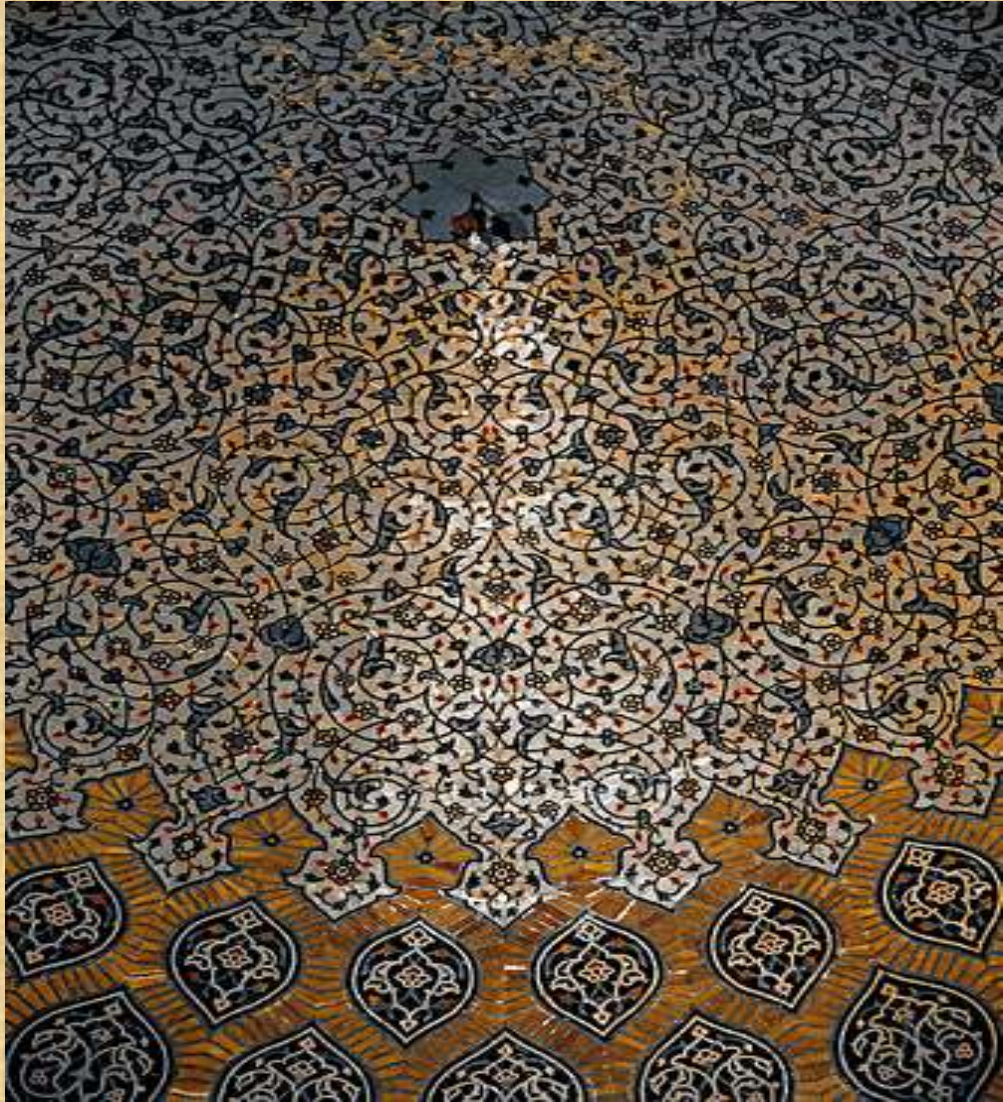
Structure Continued...

- Entry to the main hall through an L-shaped hallway
 - many shades of blue in the mosaics.
- Dominant pink and beige inside the main hall
- The diameter of the inner dome is 12m laid on walls with a thickness of 170cm
- Dome does not rise directly over the portal, but at a point to the south of it
 - reconciling the *mihrab* with the north-south direction of the Meydan



Peacock Tail Effect

- Enter the mosque and look up
- You'll see a peacock under the dome
- During certain times of the day the sunlight enhances the peacock's tail. So by the tail, you can tell when the noon is.
- If you move towards the centre of the mosque, the peacock disappears.
- The colour changes from cream to pink during the course of the day, while the tile reflections inside create a peacock tail reflection









ALI QAPU PALACE

- West side of the Naghsh-i Jahan Square ; opposite to Sheikh lotf allah mosque.
- Designed as a vast portal,
- 48 meters high
- 6 floors, each accessible by a difficult spiral staircase
- Ceiling is inlaid and supported by wooden columns

ALI QAPU Continued...

- Entertaining noble visitors, and foreign ambassadors
 - From the upper galleries, the Safavid rulers watched polo and horseracing below in the Naqsh-i-Jahan Square
- Shah Abbas, here for the first time, celebrated the Nowruz of 1006 AH / 1597 A.D.
- Rich in wall paintings by *Reza Abbassi*, the court painter of Shah Abbas
- Floral, animal, and bird motifs.

The Ceiling Decoration

- The decoration of the large room on the third floor which opens out on the large pillared hall, and which was used by Shah Abbas for entertaining his official guests is the most interesting.
- The ceilings, on which birds are depicted in their natural colors, have remained without interference in their original state, and are the best roofs in the building.





Window detailing of Ali Qapu
Palace.
The design of the windows at Ali
Qapu matches with the ones at
Chehel Sotoun.





View from the terrace of Ali Qapu



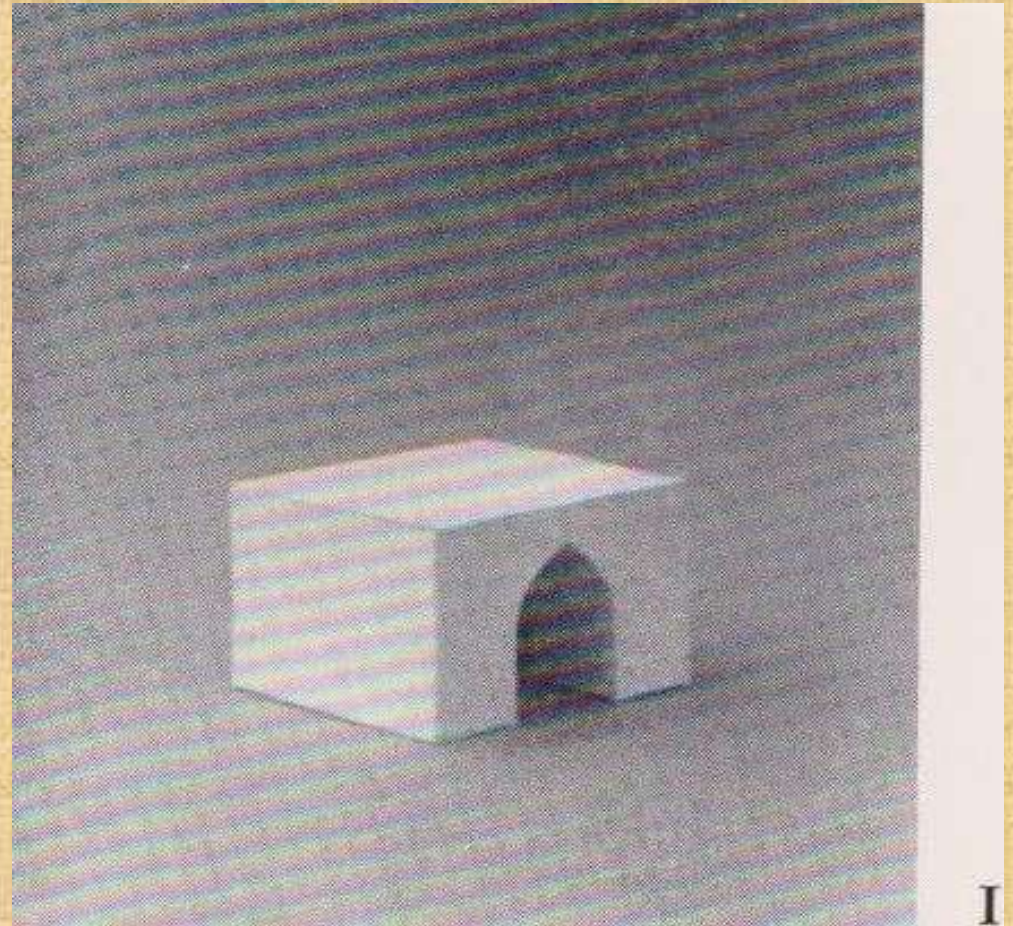
Internal, terrace floor of
Ali Qapu palace.

Despite its size, Ali Qapu Palace inside is a maze of tight staircases wending their way through the building. No matter where you are, everywhere there are shafts of light breaking through the walls and ceilings.



First stage

- The initial building acting as entrance to the complex was in cubical shape and in two stories, with dimensions measuring 20 x 19 meter and 13 meter high.



The first floor of Ali Qapu Palace, but apart from one blocked door, there is no place to go but up another set of winding stairs.



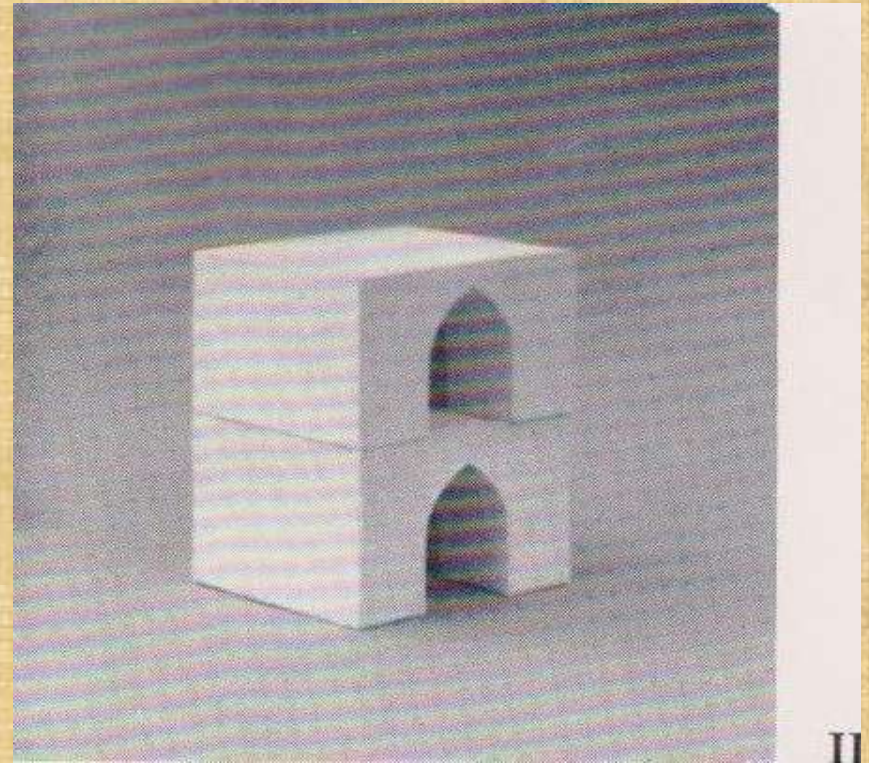


Looking back down the stairs between the first and second floor of Ali Qapu Palace.

The pale walls reflect the light all along the tunnel like staircases.

Second Stage

- Foundation of the upper hall, built on the entrance vestibule, with cubical shape, over the initial cubic shape structure with the same height in two visible stories.

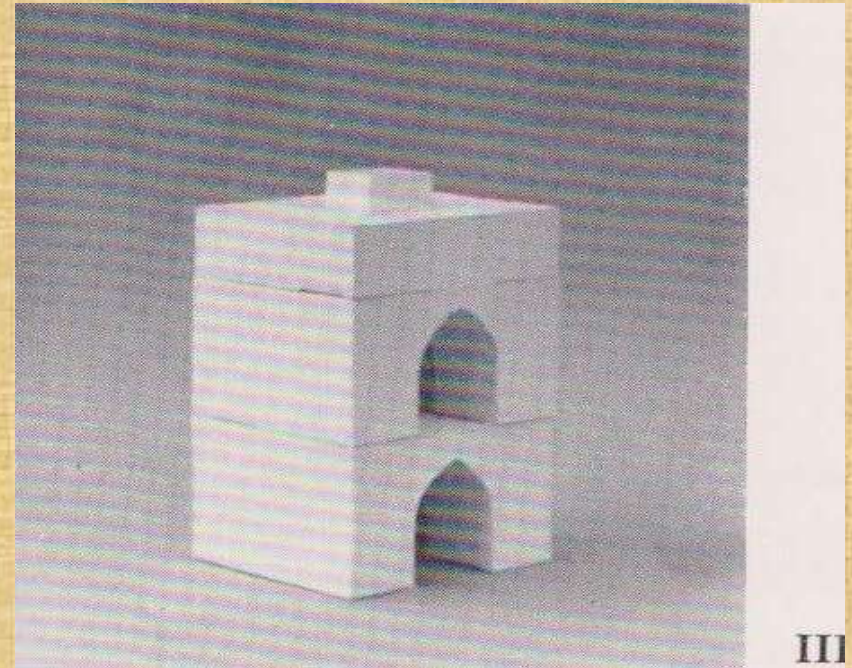




Detail of the second floor ceiling inside Ali Qapu Palace

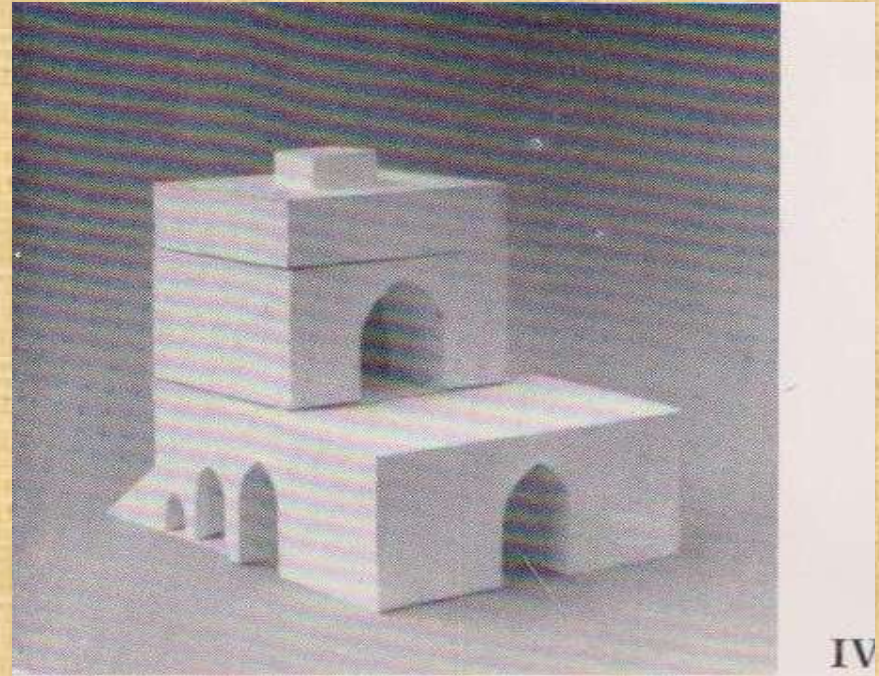
Third Stage

- 18 wooden columns
- Carved panel ceiling with mirrors
- A large marble and copper basin



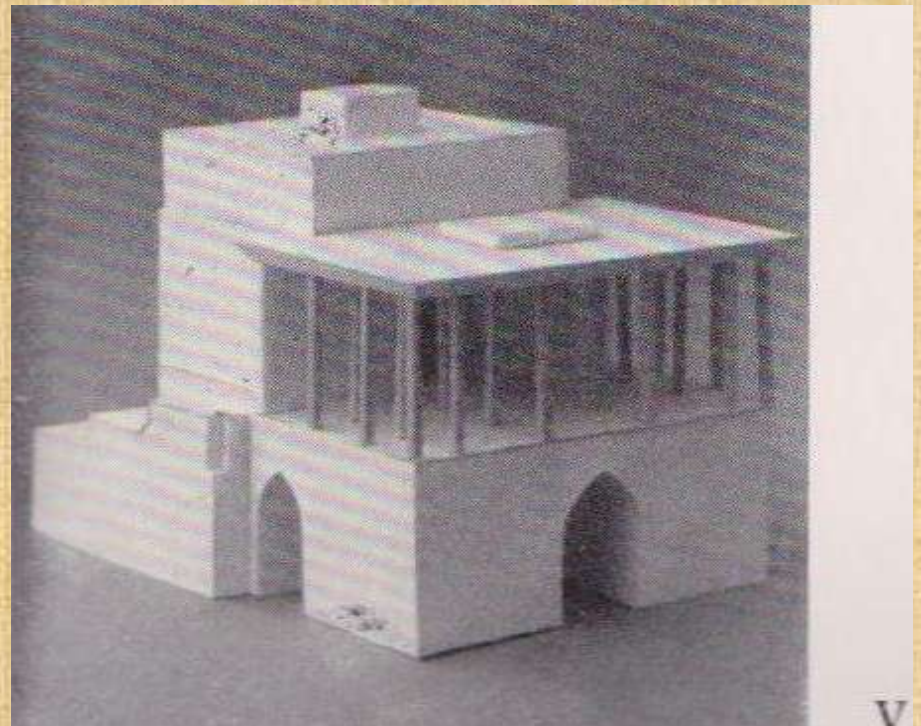
Fourth Stage

- Foundation of the eastern veranda or pavilion advancing towards the square, supported by the tower shaped building. By foundation of this veranda, the entrance vestibule was extended along the main gate and passage to the market, perpendicular to the eastern flank of the building.



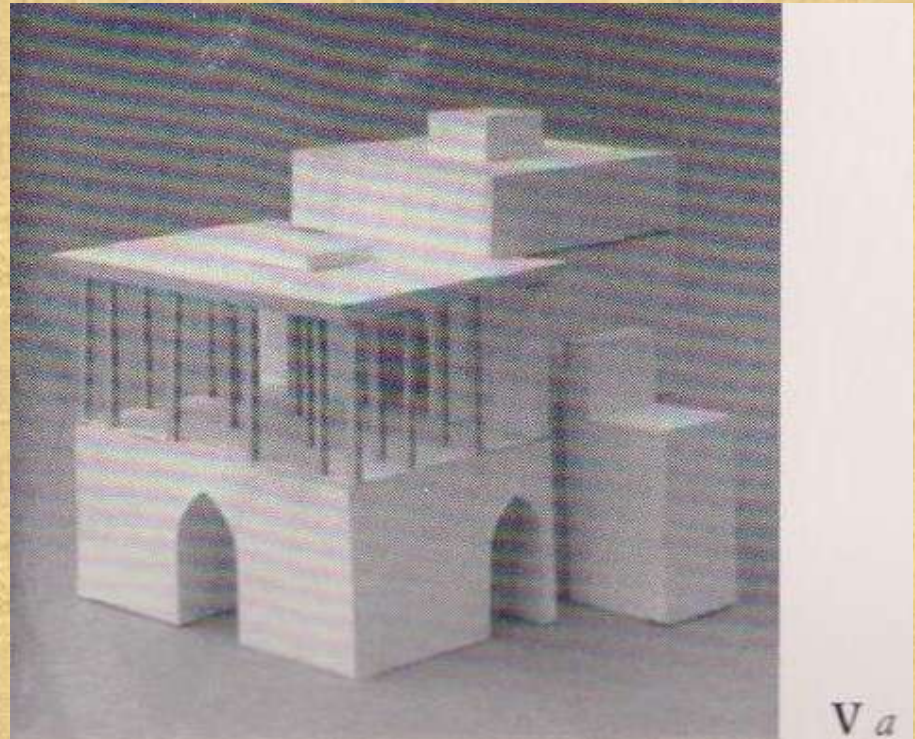
Fifth Stage

- Foundation of the wooden ceiling of the verandah, supported by 18 wooden columns, and contemporaneous with erection of the ceiling, an additional stairway of the southern flank was founded and was called the Kingly Stairway.



Sixth Stage

- During this stage a water tower was built in the northern flank for provision of water for the copper pool of the columned verandah. Plaster decorations in reception story and music hall.



- Acoustical wall and ceiling treatment in the music
- The cut-outs are shapes of instruments and vessels
- The holes in the ceiling are designed to enrich the sound of music being played



-Corner of the music room on the top floor

-The unusual cut outs that seem to be in the shape of household items.

-Protected by a glass panelling, the walls and ceiling are made of plaster and are extremely fragile, breaking at a mere touch.





The centre of the top floor in Ali Qapu Palace. The light streaming in through the windows creates an incredible contrast against the dark matte wall and ceiling decorations.



While climbing the stairs of Ali Qapu, there's a good view of a *Tohid Khaneh* in the backyard of the palace. Built by Shah Abbas I, it served as an abbey of Darwishes. Today the building functions as an University of the Arts.

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THANK Y'LL