



IMANEO : CRISS-CROSSED IMAGINARIES OF NEO-MOORISH ARCHITECTURE

AVICENNE HOSPITAL WORKSHEETS

Avicenne Hospital (Bobigny, France, 1931-1935)

The complex is organized conventionally enough for a mid-sized hospital. It has been attributed to the architects Léon Azéma and Maurice Mantout. It consists of a three-part structure centering on an entrance monumentalized by an arched porch.

Three elements depart from this coherence and give the structure a neo-Moorish character. These are the portal, the main façade of the central building, and the morgue. The portal was inspired by the monumental gate at Meknès, the Bâb Mansûral-'Ilj, founded in the 18th century. The entrance to the building is located under a large pointed arch flanked by two square bulwarks opening on three sides by a horseshoe arch supported by beveled pillars. The three-part façade is ornamented with a geometric mosaic design bearing a gold inscription on a blue background, giving the name of the hospital in French and Arabic.





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IMANEO WORKSHEETS

Work of art is stimulating starting point for interdisciplinary investigations leading children to explorations of history, geography, and culture. Less commonly, art may be a stimulus for exploring concepts in math and geometry. This resource provides the means for teaching about the history and providing an introduction to neo-Moorish art while learning about the variety of geometric patterns employed by artists to embellish a wide range of works of art in architectural elements.

HOW TO USE THESE MATERIALS?

These materials may be used by a single teacher, or a team of teachers may collaborate, each working in his or her own discipline. The activities may be adapted to all levels of instruction.

GEOMETRIC DESIGN IN NEO-MOORISH ARCHITECTURE

At first glance neo-Moorish architecture is dissonant, but the fact is that it has become a shared heritage in Europe and beyond. It dates from late 19th century up to the 1930s.

This architecture, once an instrument of European colonial and imperial policies, has been repurposed by the countries of the southern Mediterranean shores. Today, it serves to forge a national cultural identity. Drawing up on classic Moorish and from the wider Islamic architecture it has a new form of decoration that stressed the importance of unity, logic, and order.

The circle is often an organizing element underlying vegetal designs; it plays an important role in calligraphy, which the Arabs defined as “the geometry of the line”; and it structures all the complex patterns using geometric shapes. These patterns have three basic characteristics:

1. They are made up of a small number of repeated geometric elements.

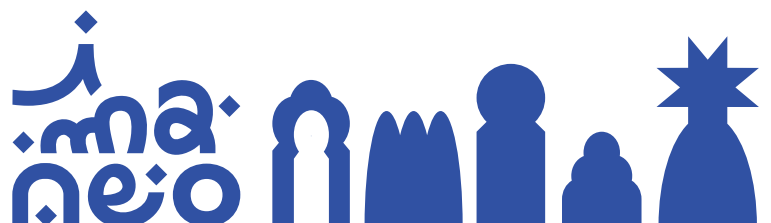
The simple forms of the circle, square, and straight line are the basis of the patterns. These elements are combined, duplicated, interlaced, and arranged in intricate combinations.

2. They are two-dimensional.

Designs often have a background and foreground pattern. The placement of pattern upon pattern serves to flatten the space, and there is no attempt to create depth. Vegetal patterns may be set against a contrasting background in which the plantlike forms interlace, weaving over and under in a way that emphasizes the foreground decoration.

3. They are not designed to fit within a frame.

The complex arrangements and combinations of elements are infinitely expandable; the frame surrounding a pattern appears to be arbitrary and the basic arrangement sometimes provides a unit from which the rest of the design can be both predicted and projected.



PATTERN-MAKING ACTIVITIES

Through these activities, children will discover the satisfaction that comes with the creation of designs through the use of simple tools and materials – cardboard, paper, scissors, glue, crayons. By creating patterns themselves, children will gain an understanding of geometric principles of the underlying grids and methods used by neo-Moorish architects. Each activity lists the materials needed and illustrates how to do the activity. Pages of this booklet may be photocopied for use with your class.

ABOUT THE IMANEO PROJECT

IMANEO (Criss-crossed imaginaries of neo-Moorish architecture) is a Creative Europe funded project which involves partners from five different European and North African countries: France, Spain, Bosnia, Tunisia and Algeria.

IMANEO aims to improve access to Euro-Mediterranean architectural heritage by creating synergies between the fields of cultural heritage, contemporary art, and research, relying on digital tools. The project implements an inclusive approach, giving equal consideration to architectural history, the way people today perceive this heritage, and its artistic potential.

LIST OF MONUMENTS INCLUDED IN THIS SET

AVICENNE HOSPITAL, BOBIGNY, FRANCE

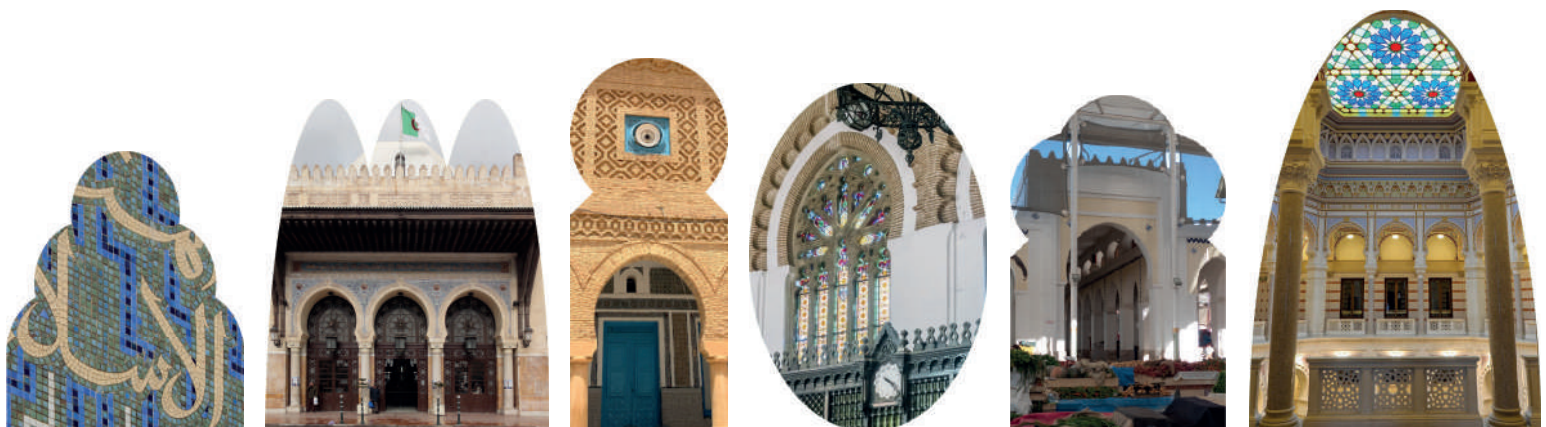
ORAN RAILWAY STATION, ALGERIA

TOZEUR RAILWAY STATION, TUNISIA

TOLEDO RAILWAY STATION, SPAIN

TUNIS CENTRAL MARKET, TUNISIA

VIJEĆNICA, SARAJEVO, BOSNIA



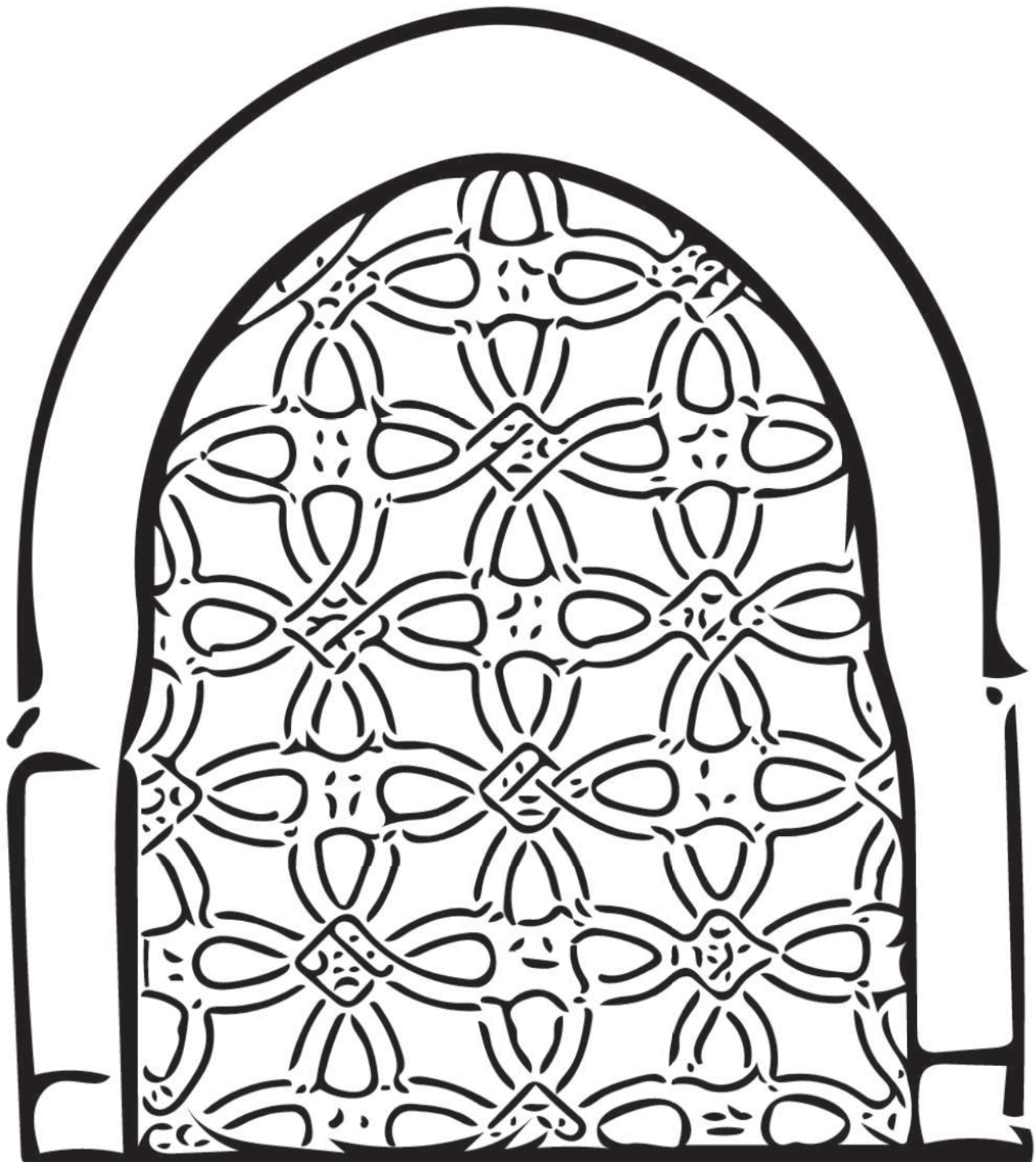
SUN CATCHER

Materials and tools

- printed basis
- wax/baking paper
- scissors and ribbon
- felt colour pen/markers

Tip

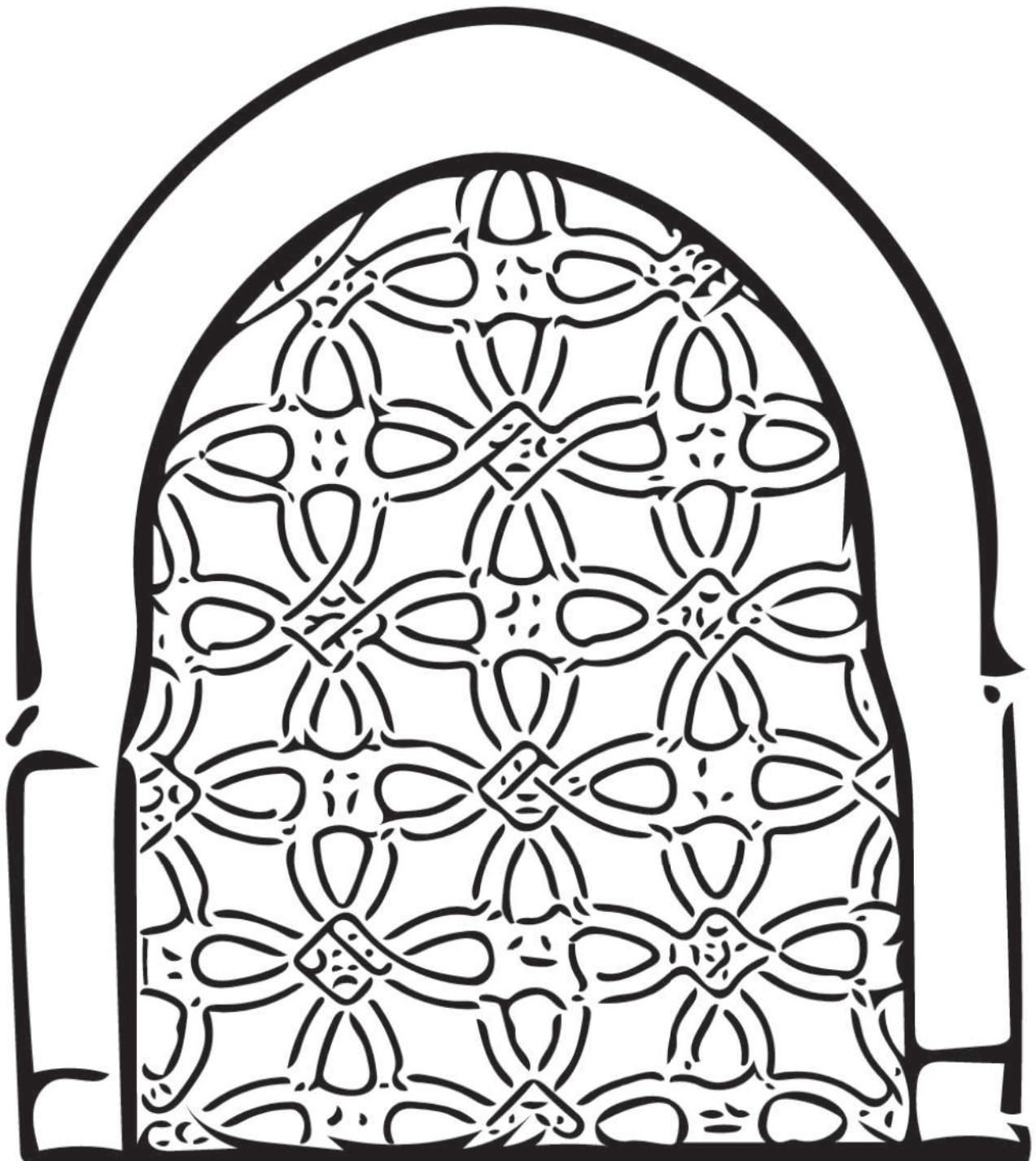
Put baking paper over the printed pattern for sun catcher. Trace the lines and color, or just color in different colors. You can also use neon felt pen to get more glowing effect.

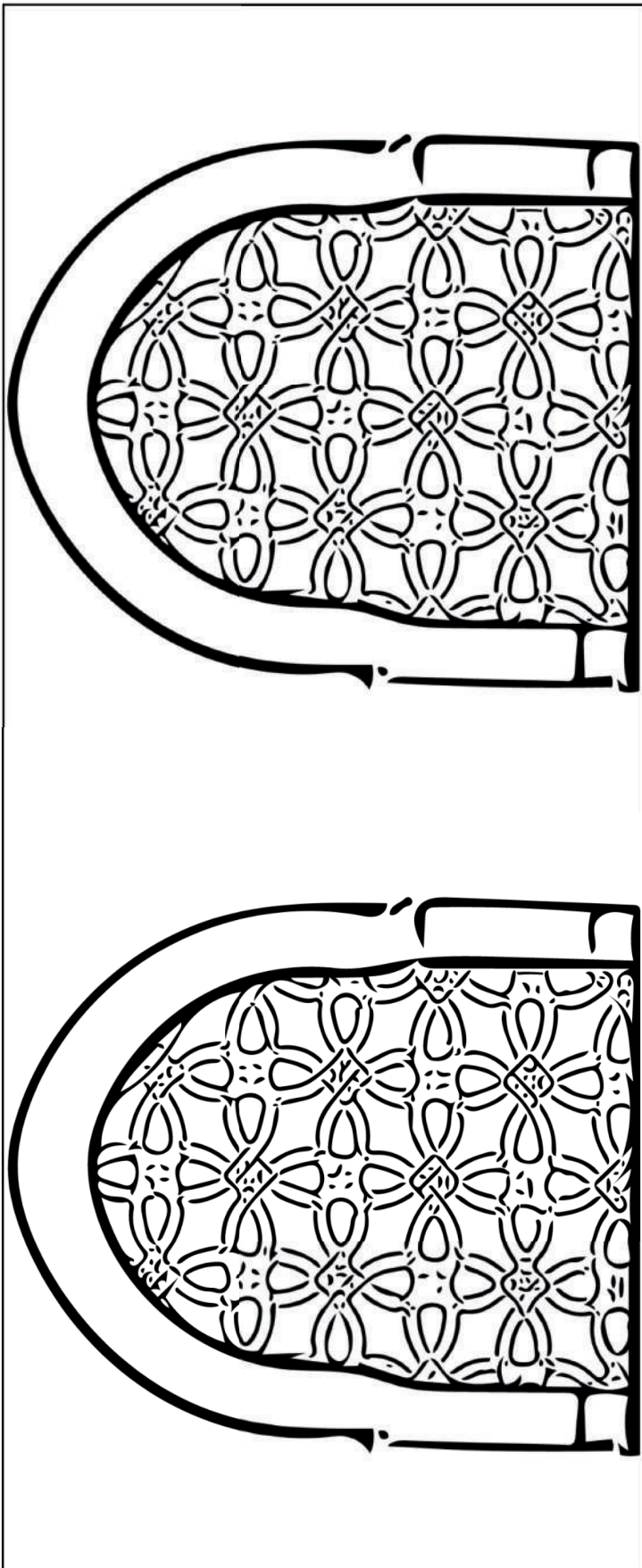


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AVICENNE HOSPITAL, BOBIGNY, FRANCE

SUN CATCHER PATTERN





PAPER LANTERN

Material and tools

- print basis for lantern
- scissors
- glue
- colors (wax, wooden, markers)
- table candle or led table light
- glass cup or mason jar

Tip

Put baking paper over the printed pattern for lantern. Trace the lines and color, or just color in different colors.

Glue the ends together in the form of a cylinder and put it over the LED table light.

If you want to use regular table candles, glue paper over the glass cups or mason jar.

1.	1.	1.
1.	2.	1.
1.	1.	1.
1.	3.	1.
1.	2.	1.
1.	3.	1.
1.	2.	1.
1.	1.	1.
1.	3.	1.
1.	2.	1.
1.	3.	1.
1.	2.	1.
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1.	1.	1.
1.	2.	1.
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1.	2.	1.
1.	3.	1.
1.	2.	1.
1.	3.	1.
1.	2.	1.
1.	1.	1.

PAINT BY NUMBERS MOSAIC BOOKMARKS

Material and tools

- print basis for colouring
- colors (wax, wooden, markers)

Tip

You can simultaneously combine several different types of crayons to get a more interesting effect. Or use art paper, glitter... Use some ribbon to embellish the bookmarks, too.

1. Light Blue 2. Blue 3. Grey