



IMANEO : CRISS-CROSSED IMAGINARIES OF NEO-MOORISH ARCHITECTURE

TOZEUR RAILWAY STATION WORKSHEETS

Tozeur Railway Station (Tunisia, 1910-1912)

The exact date when works on the station began is unknown, but can be estimated to have been circa 1910. The building was completed shortly before the 1913 opening of the rail line, as attested by a report on a visit from the members of the French Association for the Advancement of the Sciences. They remarked upon “the varicolored brick mosaic of Tozeur station, shiny and brand-new. Probably designed by company engineers, the building belongs to the common typology of rural stations of the French rail network.

Typically, the project included the ticket lobby, luggage service, waiting room, and stationmaster’s dwelling. Like the station at Sfax, built in the late 19th century, the structure is a symmetrical composition with a large central section and two narrow naves, covered with a flat roof terrace.

Like much of turn-of-the-20th-century railway station design, it drew inspiration from local architecture. In this case, the regionalist concept is expressed by the use of a terra-cotta brick construction technique called *škûka*. It consists of producing a decorative wall facing by laying the bricks in various patterns: in horizontal bands, some of which are denticulated or herring-boned, and in a diamond-shaped mesh organized as tables around the bays.





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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.

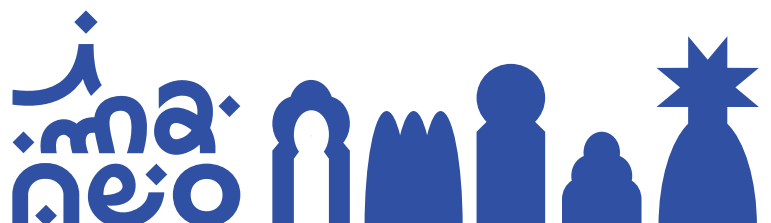
The simple forms of the circle, square, and straight line are the basis of the patterns. These elements are combined, duplicated, interlaced, and arranged in intricate combinations.

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

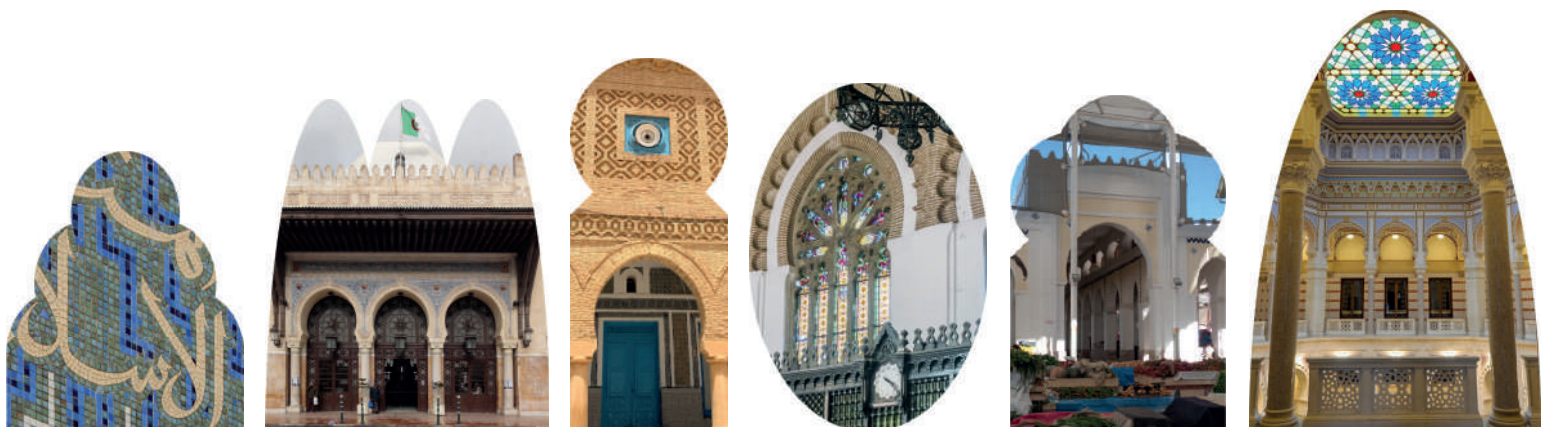
ORAN RAILWAY STATION, ALGERIA

TOZEUR RAILWAY STATION, TUNISIA

TOLEDO RAILWAY STATION, SPAIN

TUNIS CENTRAL MARKET, TUNISIA

VIJEĆNICA, SARAJEVO, BOSNIA



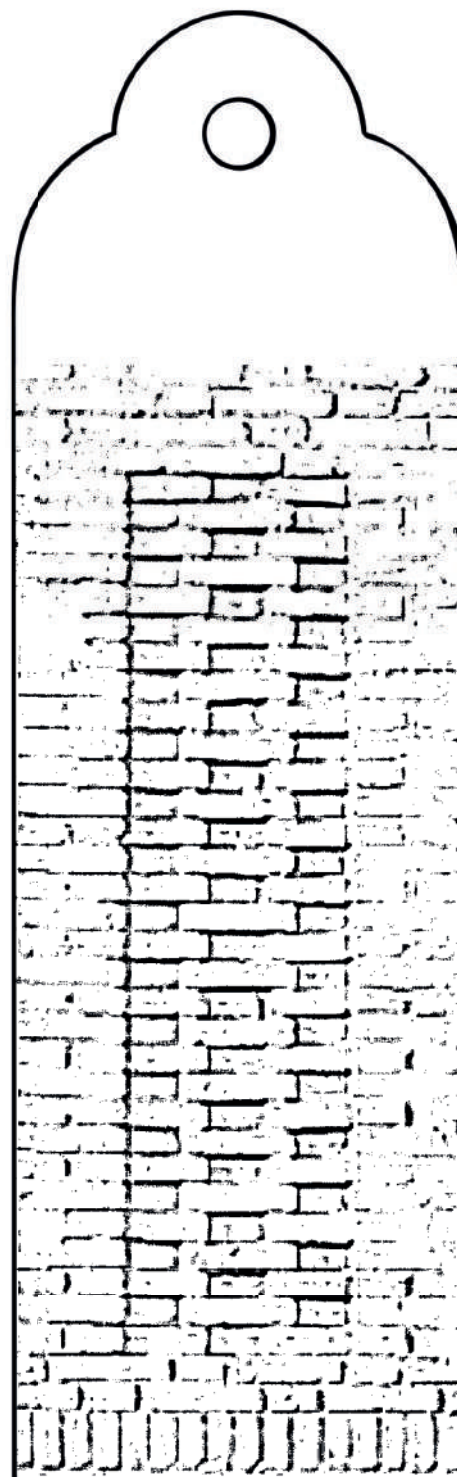
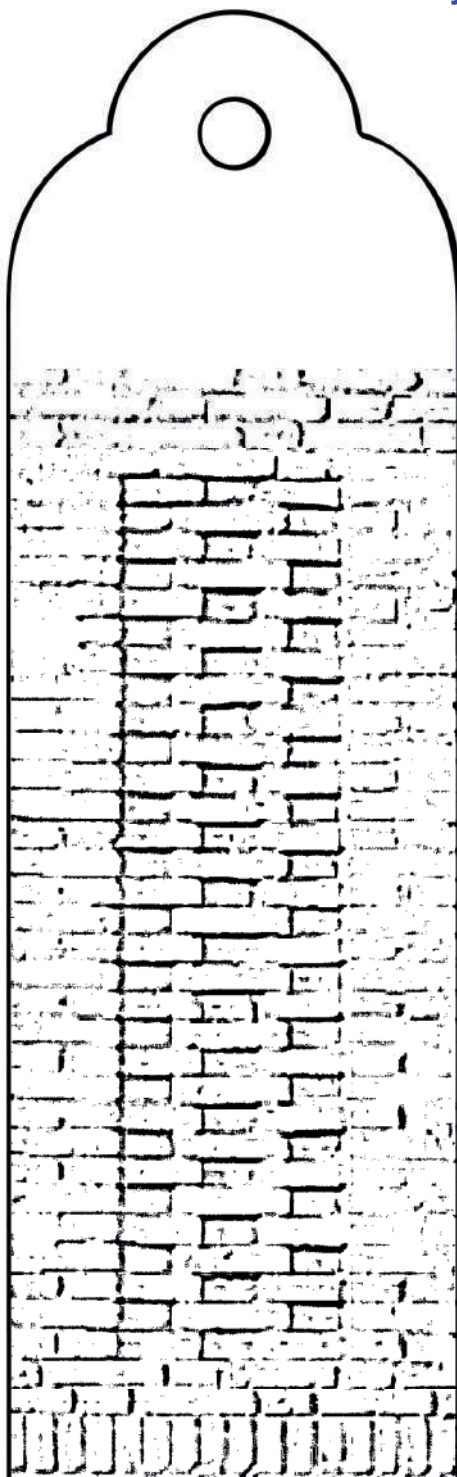
Škûka (LATTICE BRICK) BOOKMARKS

Materials and tools

- print basis for coloring
- colors (wax, wooden, markers)
- scissors and ribbons

Tip

You can simultaneously combine several different types of crayons to get a more interesting effect. Use some ribbon to decorate your bookmark.



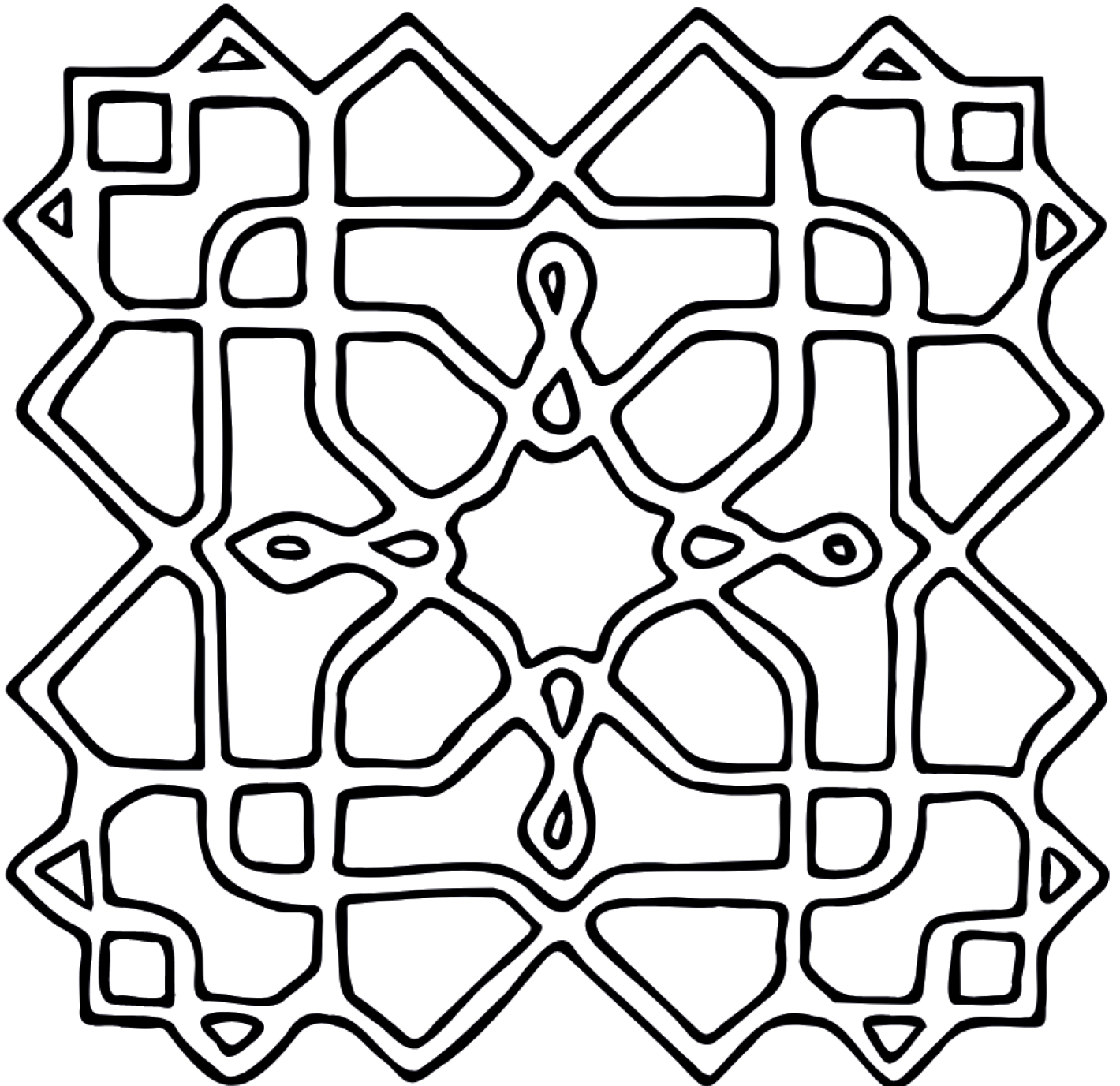
SUN CATCHER

Materials and tools

- print basis for coloring
- wax/baking paper
- colors (wax, wooden, markers)
- scissors and ribbons

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.

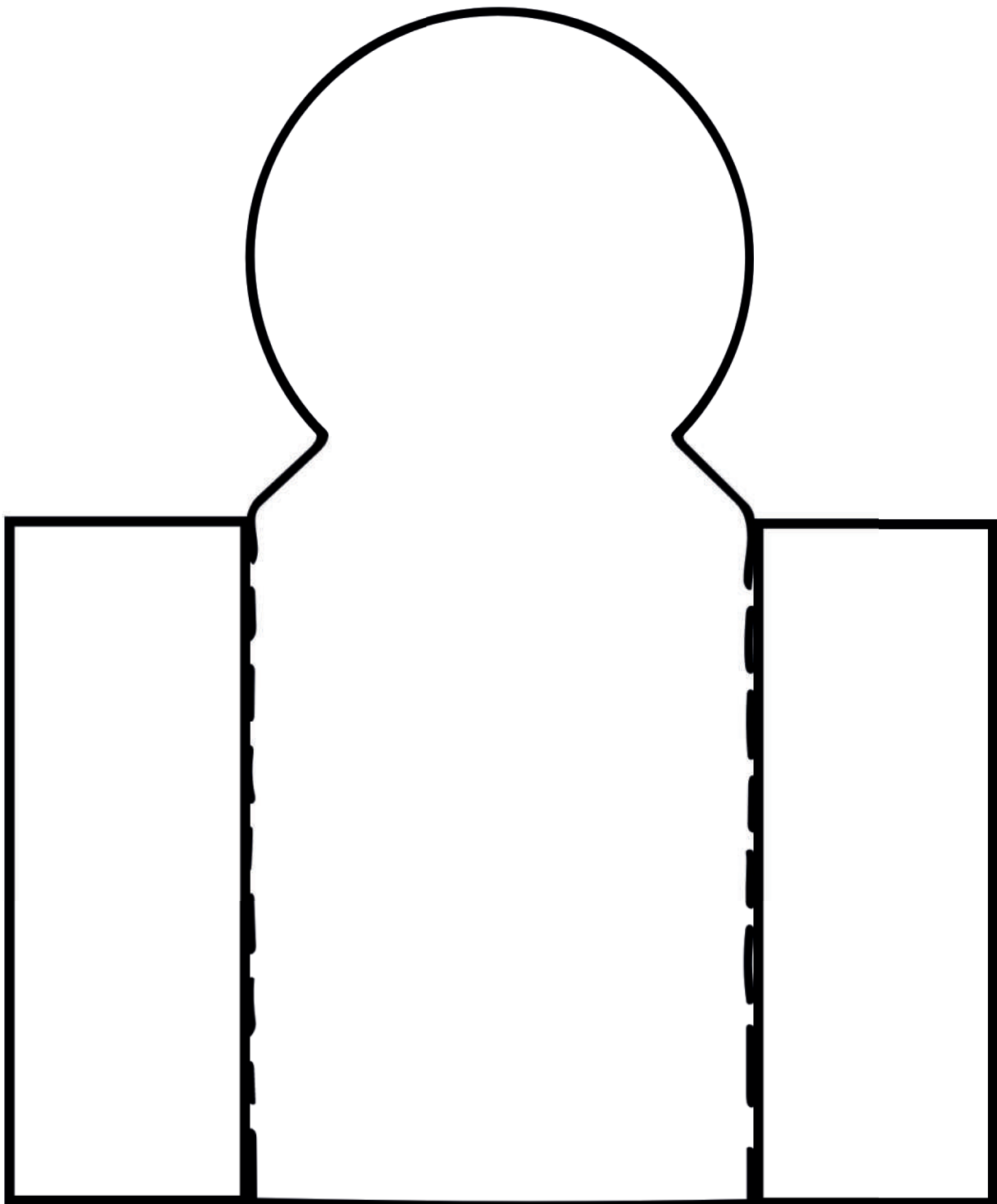


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TOZEUR RAILWAY STATION, TUNISIA

OPEN THE WINDOW POSTCARD

Use this template and color it. Or you can use template to cut out blue art paper in this shape to look like real window of Tozeur Railway Station.



OPEN THE WINDOW POSTCARD

