



Sunlight regilds a 17th-century Ottoman copy of the Qur'an, one of the treasures of the Khalidi Library in Jerusalem. In copying the Qur'an, calligraphers reached the zenith of their sacred art by setting visually rhythmic *nashkh* Arabic script within the most elegant geometric and floral designs the artists could achieve, often employing the celestial colors, gold, white and blue. The result is a visual metaphor for the infinite creation within which God revealed the Qur'an. Photo by Dick Doughty.

JANUARY

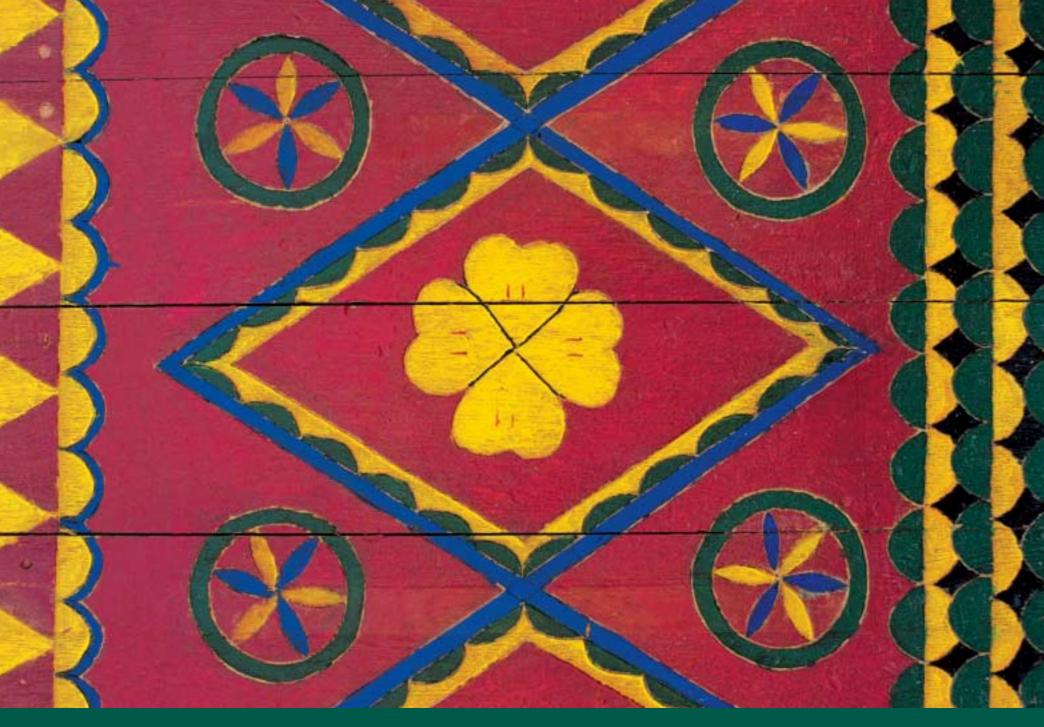
DHU AL-QA'DAH 1424

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	1 9	2 10
3 11	4 12	5 13	6 14	7 15	8 16	9 17
10 18	11 19	12 20	13 21	14 22	15 23	16 24
17 25	18 26	19 27	20 28	21 29	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

DHU AL-HIJJAH 1424

DHU AL-HI	UHU AL-HIJJAH 1424								
Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
					1	2			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
10 'Id al-Adha	1 11	2 12	3 13	4 14	5 15	6 16			
7 17	8 18	9 19	10 20	11 21	12 22	13 23			
14 24	15 25	16 26	17 27	18 28	19 29	20 30			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
28	29								



WOID 2004

This detail of a door painted in the style of the central Saudi Arabian region of Najd is in the partially restored old city of Diri'yah, on the outskirts of modern Riyadh. Diri'yah was the capital of the first Saudi state from 1745 to 1818. Up until the mid-20th century, doors throughout Saudi Arabia were often decorated in regionally distinctive styles using carving, burning, painting and, in some areas, metalworking and calligraphy. Photo by Dick Doughty.

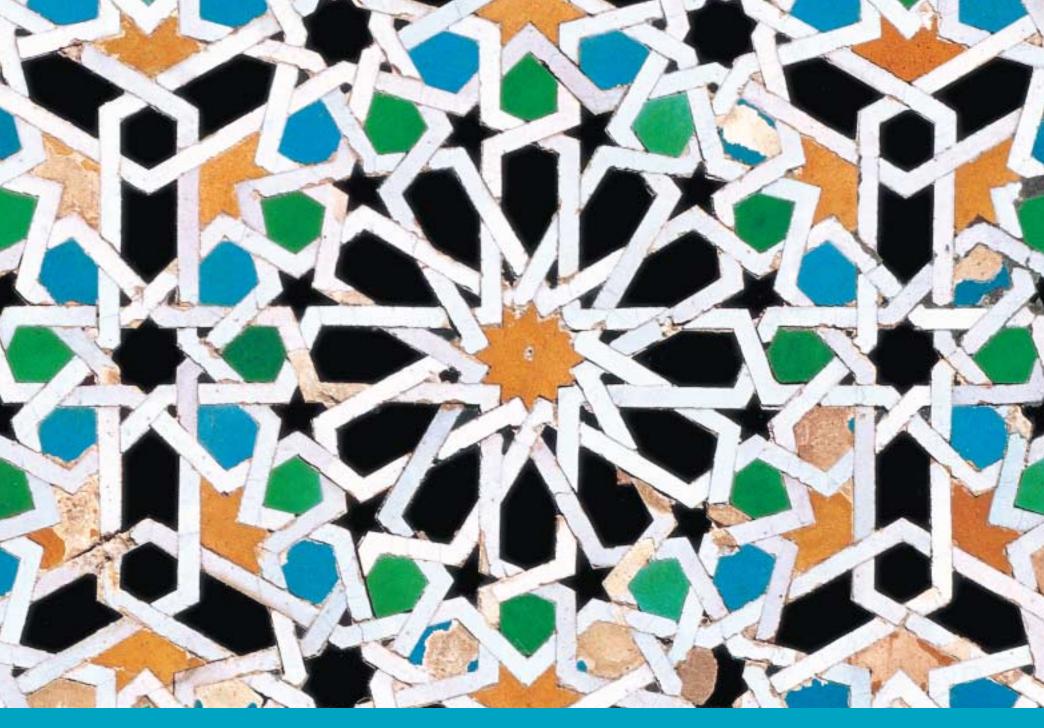
MARCH

MUHARRAM 1425 Wednesday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Thursday 22 29

APRIL

SAFAR 1425

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	1 12	2 13
3 14	4 15	5 16	6 17	7 18	8 19	9 20
10 21	11 22	12 23	13 24	14 25	15 26	16 27
17 28	18 29	19 30	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



world 2004

This masterpiece *zillij* pattern on a wall at the 14th-century Attarine Madrasa in Fez radiates from 12-pointed stars to fill black-rimmed hexagons, interwoven with strapwork that creates an illusion of three dimensions and references, in ceramic tile, the intertwining of calligraphic and carved arabesques. Photo by Peter Sanders.

MAY RABI['] AL-AWWAL 1425

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1 12	2 13	3 14	4 15	5 16	6 17	7 18
8 19	9 20	10 21	11 22	12 23	13 24	14 25
15 26	16 27	17 28	18 29	19 30	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNERABI' AL-THANI 1425

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	1 13	2 14	3 15	4 16
5 17	6 18	7 19	8 20	9 21	10 22	11 23
12 24	13 25	14 26	15 27	16 28	17 29	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		





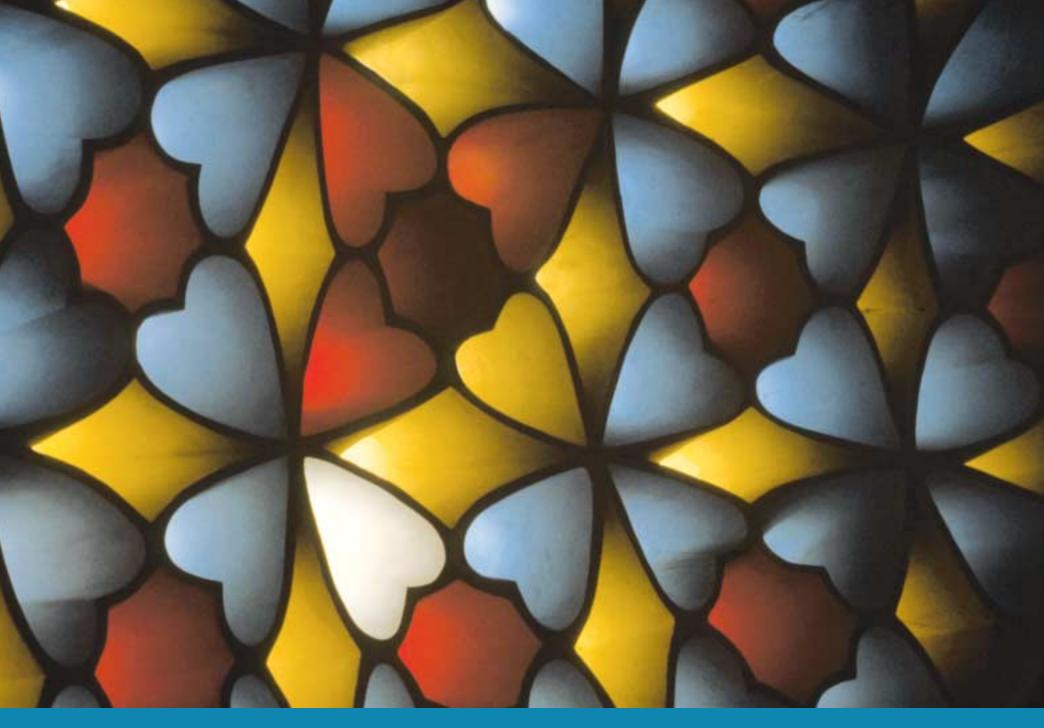
Islam came to lands east of the Oxus River in the early eighth century, and with the flourishing of Silk Roads trade it spread throughout what is today Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. This 18th-century leather binding of a Qur'an was designed by Gabdur-Rasul in 1836, and is in the National Library of Kazakhstan. It shows a floral arabesque whose bold curves, intricacy and fine detail speak of influences from Turkic, Persian, Mughal and Chinese artistic traditions. Photo by Wayne Eastep.

JULYJUMADA AL-ULA 1425

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	1 14	2 15
3 16	4 17	5 18	6 19	7 20	8 21	9 22
10 23	11 24	12 25	13 26	14 27	15 28	16 29
17 30	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUSTJUMADA AL-AKHIRAH 1425

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	1 15	2 16	3 17	4 18	5 19	6 20
7 21	8 22	9 23	10 24	11 25	12 26	13 27
14 28	15 29	16 30	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



WOIL 2004

Colored glass filters through a skylight above one of the extensive *hammams* (baths) built in Cairo's citadel during the 19th-century rule of Muhammad Ali. Founded by Saladin in the late 12th century and altered and expanded by nearly every Egyptian ruler since, the city's great fortress-on-a-hill is now a maze of mosques, palaces and defenseworks. Photo by John Feeney.

SEPTEMBER

RAJAB 1425

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	1 16	2 17	3 18
4 19	5 20	6 21	7 22	8 23	9 24	10 25
11 26	12 27	13 28	14 29	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER

SHA'BAN 1425

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	1 17
2 18	3 19	4 20	5 21	6 22	7 23	8 24
9 25	10 26	11 27	12 28	13 29	14 30	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					





Embroidery fills a diamond-pattern frame with floral designs on a one-by-two-meter *jamawar* shawl of pashmina wool from Srinigar, Kashmir. Such a shawl might take a single embroiderer seven years to complete, taking into account the seasonal rhythms of work among fields, flocks and the textile workshop. Photo by Eric Hansen.

NOVEMBER

RAMADAN 1425

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	1 18	2 19	3 20	4 21	5 22
6 23	7 24	8 25	9 26	10 27	11 28	12 29
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER

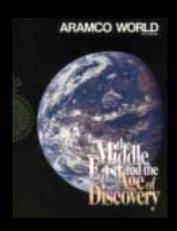
SHAWWAL 1425

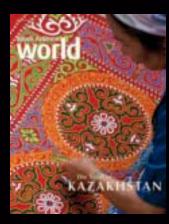
Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
'Id al-Fitr						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	1 19	2 20	3 21
4 22	5 23	6 24	7 25	8 26	9 27	10 28
11 29	12 30	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas						











In November 1949, the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) launched an interoffice newsletter named Aramco World. Over the next two decades, as the number of Americans working with Saudi colleagues in Dhahran grew into the tens of thousands, Aramco World grew into a bimonthly educational magazine whose historical, geographical and cultural articles helped the American employees and their families appreciate an unfamiliar land. Today's orientation is still toward education, the fostering of cooperation and the building of mutual appreciation between East and West, but for the last four decades, the magazine has been aimed at readers outside as well as inside the company, worldwide. Its articles have spanned the Arab and Muslim worlds, past and present, with special attention to their interconnections with the cultures of the West. The magazine is published in Houston, Texas by Aramco Services Company on behalf of Saudi Aramco, which in 1988 became the national oil company of Saudi Aramco World changed its name to Saudi Aramco World to reflect this relationship.

Subscriptions to Saudi Aramco World are available without charge to a limited number of readers interested in the cultures of the Arab and Muslim worlds and their connections with the West. We can also provide multiple-copy subscriptions for seminars or classrooms. From Saudi Arabia, please send subscription requests to Public Relations, Saudi Aramco, Box 5000, Dhahran 31311. From all other countries, send subscription requests by postal mail to Saudi Aramco World, Box 2106, Houston, Texas 77252, USA.



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