

Medieval Islamic Tiles

These tiles are now on Glencairn's fifth floor, but they're from the Islamic world in Persia (modern day Iran) or Syria, in the 1200s. They are part of a much larger pattern of interlocking tiles that could cover a whole wall or ceiling. This pattern of Xs and stars was very popular in the Islamic world in the medieval era and could be found on rugs, textiles, doors, book covers, and many other things. We know that artists and mathematicians collaborated to teach each other about these repeating patterns and how they can be used to make beautiful things.

For Islamic religious spaces like in a mosque, the designs on the tiles were geometric patterns and patterns using plants and flowers. Sometimes, on tiles for someone's home, the patterns might include animals and people.



Scan the QR code to watch a video about constructing geometric patterns.



Using the pattern on the next page, you can create your own medieval tile wall! We made one in the museum recently and we'd love to see what you create. Post your creation on social media with #GlencairnMuseumKids.



