

Arabic Typography in Stained Glass: A Historical Reading and Contemporary Applications

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Abstract:

The art of stained glass is considered one of the ancient decorative arts throughout different eras, where light, shape, and color come together to create aesthetic scenes with a spiritual and functional character. Additionally, lettering has played a central role in the arts; it was not merely a decorative element but carried profound cultural and religious significance, especially in mosques, religious schools, churches, cathedrals, places of worship, and palaces, among other buildings associated with those scripts. With the development of typography as a modern visual field, there has been an increasing trend towards repurposing letters in contemporary artistic media, including stained glass, whether in interior design or contemporary installations. This opens up new horizons for linking the historical roots of this art with modern design visions. This research presents a historical reading of the art of stained glass across different eras and highlights its artistic and historical value, then reviews how this relationship has evolved in light of modern typography, focusing on contemporary visual applications of typography with Arabic letters that invest in Arabic script for aesthetic and functional purposes in current contexts.

Study Problem :

Despite the rich history of stained glass art and the wealth of craftsmanship employed throughout the ages, this application has often remained confined to traditional decorative frameworks, lacking sufficient analytical study that highlights the design and typographic dimensions of Arabic calligraphy within this art.

- There is a need to re-read heritage art with a contemporary perspective, which allows for the integration of Arabic calligraphy with modern design methods in stained glass works across various fields.

Objective of study:

- The pursuit of establishing a scientific reference that contributes to the development of the use of Arabic calligraphy in this evolving art.

- Providing a design vision that contributes to the revival of stained glass as a visual medium for Arabic letters in contemporary contexts.

- Connecting traditional and contemporary approaches in the use of Arabic letters within this art.

The importance of studying:

- Highlighting one of the rich heritage arts (stained glass) and showcasing its role in shaping the Arab visual identity.

- Contributing to the documentation and analysis of the use of Arabic calligraphy in glass from a historical and analytical perspective.

- Providing a theoretical and practical foundation for contemporary designers on how to invest in Arabic typography in glass arts.

- Supporting contemporary trends that seek to reinterpret heritage arts with modern techniques and methods.

Study Approach: Descriptive - Analytical Method.

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Keywords:

The art of typography; stained glass; glass design

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