



## The Status of Algerian Architectural Studies in the Academic Research of Algerian Scholars: A Bibliographic Analysis

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### **Abstract**

*The study of Islamic architecture represents a significant field within historical, archaeological, and cultural research due to its role in documenting the civilizational achievements of Muslim societies. This paper aims to examine the status of architectural studies in Algerian academic research through a bibliographic analysis of publications devoted to Islamic architecture in Algeria. The study relies primarily on data collected from the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP), in addition to postgraduate dissertations and theses addressing architectural heritage.*

*The paper begins with an overview of the historical development of Islamic architecture and its major characteristics across different periods. It then explores the evolution of architectural traditions in the Central Maghreb, with particular emphasis on the Hammadid, Zayyanid, and Ottoman periods. Furthermore, the study provides a bibliographic inventory and statistical analysis of scholarly articles published on the subject, highlighting dominant research themes, publication trends, and the most frequently investigated historical periods.*

*The findings reveal that research on Islamic architecture in Algeria remains relatively limited in comparison with the richness and diversity of the country's architectural heritage. The majority of studies focus on Ottoman architecture, whereas the Hammadid and Zayyanid periods receive comparatively less scholarly attention. The study therefore emphasizes the necessity of encouraging further research on underexplored architectural periods and monuments in order to enrich the historiography of Algerian Islamic architecture.*

**Keywords:** Islamic Architecture, Algeria, Architectural Heritage, Ottoman Architecture, ASJP.

## **Résumé**

*L'étude de l'architecture islamique constitue un domaine important de la recherche historique, archéologique et culturelle en raison de son rôle dans la mise en lumière des acquis civilisationnels des sociétés musulmanes. Cet article vise à examiner la place des études architecturales dans la recherche universitaire algérienne à travers une analyse bibliographique des publications consacrées à l'architecture islamique en Algérie. L'étude s'appuie principalement sur des données recueillies auprès de la Plateforme des revues scientifiques algériennes (ASJP), ainsi que sur des mémoires et thèses de troisième cycle traitant du patrimoine architectural.*

*L'article commence par un aperçu de l'évolution historique de l'architecture islamique et de ses principales caractéristiques à travers différentes périodes. Il explore ensuite l'évolution des traditions architecturales au Maghreb central, en mettant particulièrement l'accent sur les périodes hammadide, zayyanide et ottomane. En outre, l'étude fournit un inventaire bibliographique et une analyse statistique des articles scientifiques publiés sur le sujet, mettant en évidence les thèmes de recherche dominants, les tendances en matière de publication et les périodes historiques les plus fréquemment étudiées.*

*Les résultats révèlent que la recherche sur l'architecture islamique en Algérie reste relativement limitée par rapport à la richesse et à la diversité du patrimoine architectural du pays.*

*La plupart des études portent sur l'architecture ottomane, tandis que les périodes hammadide et zayyanide font l'objet d'une attention relativement moindre de la part des chercheurs. La présente étude souligne donc la nécessité d'encourager la poursuite des recherches sur les périodes et les monuments architecturaux encore peu étudiés, afin d'enrichir l'historiographie de l'architecture islamique algérienne.*

**Mots-clés** : *architecture islamique, Algérie, patrimoine architectural, architecture ottomane, ASJP.*



## Introduction

Scientific research has evolved alongside technological advancements, and scientific journals have become essential platforms for the dissemination of research findings and academic studies. This trend is clearly reflected in the scholarly production of Algerian researchers. Accordingly, the present study examines the subject of Islamic architecture and its status within scientific research, particularly through the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP), which has become a primary destination for numerous researchers. The study also surveys postgraduate research, including Master's and Doctoral theses, and provides statistical data concerning the number of studies conducted in this field.

### 1. Islamic Architecture Through the Ages

The term *Islamic architecture* refers to all forms of construction developed to promote urban growth and serve both individuals and society while meeting residential, administrative, and cultural needs in a manner consistent with Islamic beliefs and values. This architectural tradition spread across a vast geographical area extending from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to China in the east.

The influence of Islam on urban life is evident in the establishment of the congregational mosque as the nucleus of all Islamic cities. The mosque served not only as a religious institution but also as the focal point of urban planning, expansion, and architectural creativity. It provided architects and planners with opportunities to develop innovative urban designs, as the performance of communal prayers was centered exclusively within the mosque.

Islamic architecture and Islamic arts reached their golden age with the emergence of the Hispano-Maghrebi architectural style. The origins of this style can be traced back to the Great Mosque of Córdoba, constructed in 785 CE (169 AH) by Abd al-Rahman I. Scholars have emphasized that all developed forms of Andalusian architectural elements ultimately originated from the architectural structure of this mosque. It constituted the primary source of Hispano-Maghrebi artistic expression, whose earliest manifestations appeared during the Umayyad Caliphate in al-Andalus, flourished during the Taifa period, matured under the Almoravid and Almohad dynasties, and reached their peak during the Nasrid era.

The Great Mosque of Córdoba therefore represents the principal source from which Islamic arts in both the Maghreb and al-Andalus drew inspiration. Among the most distinctive architectural features of this style are crenellated parapets, elongated horseshoe arches, slender columns, muqarnas capitals, ceramic mosaics, and generally square-shaped minarets.<sup>1</sup>

## **1. Islamic Architecture in the Central Maghreb up to the Modern Era**

In the Central Maghreb, two principal categories of cities emerged during the Islamic period. The first consisted of pre-Islamic cities that were conquered and integrated into the Islamic realm, such as Pomaria (modern-day Tlemcen) and Agadir. The second category included newly founded Islamic cities, most notably the Qal'at Bani Hammad (Citadel of Bani Hammad), which represented an important political and economic center for the Hammadid dynasty and served as the birthplace of a distinctive architectural style in the region. The



Received: 02/09/2026 Accepted: 04/05/2026 Published: 21/05/2026

city was characterized by a remarkable diversity of architectural structures, including palaces, mosques, towers, and defensive walls.<sup>ii</sup>

Given the importance of architecture as a reflection of the civilization and prosperity of states, the rulers of the Central Maghreb devoted considerable attention to architectural development. Each ruler sought to leave a lasting legacy by mobilizing financial resources, skilled builders, and technical expertise to construct monumental edifices that symbolized the strength and prestige of their reign. The Zayyanid dynasty provides a notable example of this phenomenon, as each of its rulers contributed significantly to the architectural heritage of the state.

Among the most prominent Zayyanid architectural achievements are<sup>iii</sup>:

### **211. The Mosque of Awlad al-Imam**

The mosque was architecturally connected to the Old Madrasa (Madrasa of Awlad al-Imam), which was constructed on the outskirts of the city near the district of Kashut during the reign of Sultan Abu Hammu around 1310 CE (710 AH).<sup>iv</sup>

### **1.2. The Madrasa of Awlad al-Imam**

This educational institution was built on the western side of the city of Tlemcen, adjacent to one of its five principal gates known as Bab Kashut. The madrasa derived its name from the two jurist sons of the Imam, Abu Zayd Abd al-Rahman and Abu Musa Isa, whose father had served as the imam of the city of Barshak. The institution was also commonly referred to as the "Old Madrasa."<sup>v</sup>

**Table 1: Numerical Distribution of Articles Published on the Topic of Islamic Architecture in Algeria.**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Article Title</b>	<b>Journal / Volume / Issue / Pages / Date</b>
<b>Samia Ben Kouider</b>	Jurisprudence and Architecture in the City of Algiers during the Ottoman Period	Journal of Scientific Research and Islamic Studies, Vol. 14, No. 4, pp. 673–696, 30 Nov. 2022
<b>Samia Ben Kouider</b>	The Function of the Basement in the Architecture of the City of Algiers during the Ottoman Period	Qabas Journal for Human and Social Studies, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 1525–1542, 13 Oct. 2022
<b>Samia Ben Kouider</b>	Manifestations of Ottoman Cultural Influence on the Architecture of the City of Algiers	Journal of Scientific Research and Islamic Studies, Vol. 14, No. 5, pp. 67–90, 31 Dec. 2022
<b>Slim Triki &amp; Wafiya Nafti</b>	Hotels in the City of Algiers during the Ottoman Period through Historical Sources: A Historical and Statistical Study	Algerian Historical Journal, Vol. 8, No. 3, pp. 211–224, 20 Dec. 2024
<b>Maamar Chaâchou</b>	Architecture and Heritage in Algeria during the Ottoman Period: The Palaces and Baths of Algiers as a Model	Maghrebi Journal of Manuscripts, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp. 99–122, 30 Dec. 2016



Received: 02/09/2026 Accepted: 04/05/2026 Published: 21/05/2026

<b>Ali Ben Bella</b>	The Gates of the Palaces of the Casbah of Algiers during the Late Ottoman Period	Afkar wa Afaq, Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 21-32, 28 Nov. 2021
<b>Mahdia Allam</b>	An Overview of Metalwork in the Architectural Structures of the Casbah of Algiers during the Ottoman Period	Revue d'Études Archéologiques, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 138-151, 15 Dec. 2018
<b>Raziqa Ghouari &amp; Malika Mekkas</b>	Decoration on Wooden Artifacts and Ceramic Tiles in the Mosques of Constantine during the Ottoman Period	Dirasat, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 295-313, 22 Jan. 2024
<b>Hanane Kemmad &amp; Rafika Toumi</b>	Ceramic Decoration on Hammadid Buildings: An Artistic and Archaeological Study	Historical Studies, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp. 17-26, 11 Dec. 2024
<b>Abdelkader Dahdouh</b>	Ottoman Architectural Influences on Algerian Mosques during the Ottoman Period	Juthour Al-Ma'rifa, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 27-36, 11 Jun. 2022
<b>Nabila Rezgui</b>	Architectural and Artistic Influences on the Monuments of Tlemcen: Selected Models	Scientific Horizons, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 32-43, 16 May 2024

<b>Mbarek Boutaren</b>	Andalusian Artistic Influences on Religious Buildings in Tlemcen	Annals of History and Geography, Vol. 3, No. 6, pp. 87-97, 31 Dec. 2012
<b>Mohamed Ayache</b>	Andalusian Artistic Influences on Zayyanid Mosque Architecture in the Central Maghreb	Journal of Social and Human Sciences, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 230-263, 28 Jun. 2021
<b>Djamel Eddine Alouane &amp; Hakim Ben Cheikh</b>	Andalusian Migrations and Their Artistic Influences on Algeria: Architecture and Music as a Case Study (15th-19th Centuries)	Al-Mi'yar, Vol. 27, No. 4, pp. 842-859, 5 Jun. 2023
<b>Ali Boutchicha</b>	Housing in Algeria during the Ottoman Period: A Study of Its Architectural Elements	Revue d'Études Archéologiques, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 87-112, 23 Dec. 2021
<b>Samia Ben Kouider</b>	An Overview of the Fahs Residences of Algiers during the Ottoman Period	Al-Mufakkir, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 41-67, 20 May 2017
<b>Ali Wissam Taher &amp; Nasr Eddine Bouhassaine</b>	Establishing the Terminology of Islamic Architecture: Religious and Civil Architecture as a Model	Al-Sawtiyat, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 245-264, 21 Dec. 2023
<b>Fatima Zahra Bouziani</b>	The Influence of Islamic Culture on	Journal of Archaeological



Received: 02/09/2026 Accepted: 04/05/2026 Published: 21/05/2026

	Civil Architecture and Urban Planning within Historic Cities: Tlemcen as a Case Study	Heritage Forum, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 235-247, 1 Dec. 2012
<b>Othman Miftah &amp; Sofiane Bouzidi</b>	Military Architecture in the Citadel of Bani Hammad and Its Influence on Almoravid Military Architecture	Revue d'Études Archéologiques, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 70-84, 31 Dec. 2024
<b>Author</b>	Article Title	Journal / Volume / Issue / Pages / Date
<b>Abdelkader Qarman</b>	Supports and Carriers in Islamic Architecture: A Case Study of Civil Structures in the City of Miliana during the Ottoman Period	Revue d'Études Archéologiques, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 211-235, 15 Dec. 2009
<b>Faiza Tahraoui</b>	Map of Islamic Archaeological Monuments in the City of Miliana during the Ottoman Period	Journal of Archaeological Heritage Forum, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 205-222, 1 Apr. 2019
<b>Abdelkader Dahdouh</b>	Islamic Archaeological Monuments in the City of Constantine during the Ottoman Period	Journal of Islamic Culture, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 69-114, 15 Jan. 2015

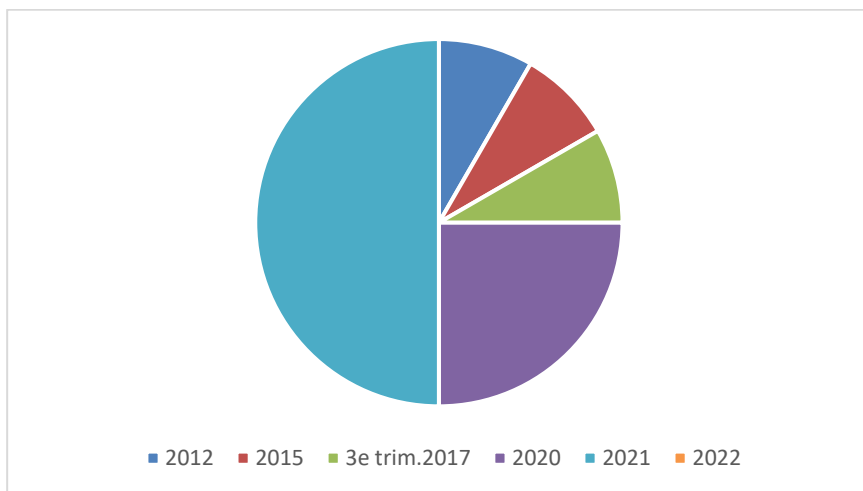
<b>El Bachir Bougaada</b>	The Andalusian Civilizational Influence on Islamic Architecture in Algeria: Gardens and Parks as a Case Study	Heritage Studies Journal, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 173-198, 30 Jan. 2017
<b>Ahmed Chakib Dali</b>	The Historicity of the Symbolic Significations of Islamic Architectural Forms: The City of Tlemcen as a Case Study	Qirtas Journal of Civilizational and Intellectual Studies, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp. 22-38, 5 Jan. 2017
<b>Mohamed Mansouri</b>	Almoravid Religious Architecture: The Mosques of Algiers and Nedroma	Annals of History and Geography, Vol. 5, No. 9, pp. 179-198, 31 Dec. 2015
<b>Abdelkader Nefidssa</b>	Religious Symbolism in Islamic Architecture	Algerian Journal of Research and Studies, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 570-580, 15 Apr. 2022
<b>Imane Amraoui</b>	Decoration in Religious Architecture: An Artistic and Descriptive Study of Ketchaoua Mosque after Restoration as a Case Study	Jamaliyyat, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 542-564, 28 Jun. 2020



Received: 02/09/2026 Accepted: 04/05/2026 Published: 21/05/2026

<b>Nâanaâ Touama</b>	The Development of Architectural Ornamentation in Algeria during the Ottoman Period: The Mosques of Constantine as a Case Study	Jamaliyyat, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 521-541, 28 Jun. 2020
<b>Mohamed Mouchmouch &amp; Saïd Bouzerina</b>	Mihrabs in Religious Architecture in Algeria during the Ottoman Period	Qabas Journal for Human and Social Studies, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 687-710, 5 Jul. 2021
<b>Amal Ramadlia</b>	Religious Architecture in the City of Cherchell during the Ottoman Period: The Great Mosque as a Case Study (An Archaeological Study)	Mitidja Journal of Human Studies, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 68-85, 14 Apr. 2015
<b>Hayat Makki</b>	Sabats (Covered Passageways) in Islamic Architecture	Revue d'Études Archéologiques, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 257-274, 17 Oct. 2013
<b>Dhib Boudirina</b>	The Minbar in Islamic Architecture	Afaq for Sciences, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 173-183, 1 Jan. 2016
<b>Sidi Mohamed El-Ghouti Bensnoussi</b>	Aesthetic Appreciation in Islamic Architecture:	Heritage Studies Journal, Vol. 5, No.

	Tlemcen as a Case Study	1, pp. 251-268, 31 Dec. 2011
<b>Hasiba Mellas &amp; Fatima Menkoul</b>	Manifestations of the Social and Religious Dimensions in the Architecture of the Arab-Islamic City: The Ancient Casbah District of Algiers as a Case Study	Aleph, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 347-364, 31 Mar. 2023
<b>Zohra Hamdouche</b>	Sunshades in Algerian Architecture during the Ottoman Period	Al-Mi'yar, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 1127-1139, 11 Jan. 2022



**Figure 1: Pie Chart Showing the Proportion of Published Articles**

A total of thirty-six (36) articles dealing with Islamic architecture were identified. These studies addressed various



Received: 02/09/2026 Accepted: 04/05/2026 Published: 21/05/2026

architectural periods, including the Almoravid, Hammadid, and Ottoman eras. The Ottoman period received the greatest scholarly attention, accounting for twenty-one (21) articles. The survey also revealed the recurring contribution of certain researchers in the field of architectural studies, particularly Samia Ben Kouider, who authored four articles on the subject. Regarding the chronological distribution of publications, six (6) articles were published in 2022, five (5) in 2021, and several others in 2020, while the earliest article identified in the survey dates back to 2012.

## **Conclusion :**

Based on the inventory and statistical analysis of published articles, it can be concluded that academic research devoted to Islamic architecture in Algeria remains relatively limited. The majority of available studies focus on the Ottoman period, whereas research concerning the Hammadid and Zayyanid periods remains uneven and comparatively scarce.

The bibliographic survey identified a total of thirty-six (36) articles addressing various aspects of Islamic architecture. These studies cover different historical periods, including the Almoravid, Hammadid, and Ottoman eras. However, the Ottoman period received the greatest scholarly attention, accounting for twenty-one (21) articles. The survey also revealed the repeated contribution of certain researchers to the field, particularly Samia Ben Kouider, who authored four articles on architectural topics.

In terms of publication chronology, six articles were published in 2022, five in 2021, and several others in 2020,

while the earliest article identified in the survey dates back to 2012.

The findings highlight the need for greater scholarly attention to the diverse historical phases of Algerian Islamic architecture. Expanding research beyond the Ottoman period would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of Algeria's architectural heritage and its evolution across different dynasties and cultural contexts.

Furthermore, the present study constitutes a valuable scientific contribution by providing researchers with a bibliographic and statistical reference tool for the study of Islamic architectural history in Algeria. It also serves as a digital guide that facilitates access to existing research and identifies areas requiring further academic investigation.

## References

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<sup>i</sup> Ibid., p. 23.

<sup>ii</sup> Miftah, Othman, and Bouzidi, Sofiane Thani. "Military Architecture in the Citadel of Bani Hammad and Its Influence on Almoravid Military Architecture," *Revue d'Études Archéologiques*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2024, p. 71.

<sup>iii</sup> Chaoua, Ali. "Urban Constructions of the Zayyanid State," *Qabas Journal for Human and Social Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2017, pp. 40–41.

<sup>iv</sup> Boutaba, Mahfoud, and Arif, Karim. "Architectural Constructions of the Zayyanid Sultans in the Central Maghreb: Sultan Abu Hammu and His Son Abu Tashfin as a Case Study," *Revue d'Études Archéologiques*, Vol. 19, No. 1, 2021, p. 132.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid., p. 132.

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