

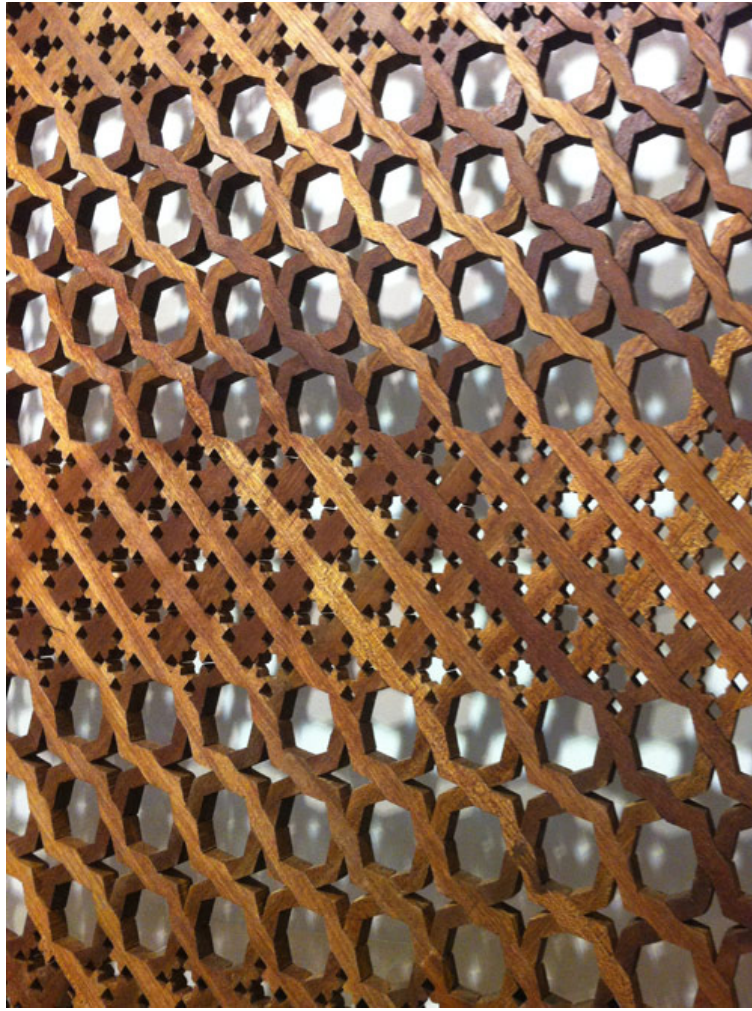
Princes School of Traditional Arts Degree Show 2014

I managed to catch the Degree Show at The Prince's School of Traditional Arts (PSTA), an exhibition of work produced by graduates of the postgraduate programme.

As you may have guessed, there are strong ties between traditional arts and crafts Islamic art. In fact 'traditional arts and crafts' is often the description provided for the term 'Islamic art', and it is usually these types of items that are displayed as examples of it. Rightly, or wrongly? It is debatable. However, we must acknowledge that the link persists, and thankfully, the skills have been passed on to generations of artists and craftsmen today.

At the PSTA, students hone their skills of creativity and activity to produce contemporary artworks using traditional methods and materials, and always to a high standard.

Below is work produced by Ahmed Angawi, who comes from a product design background. His hand-made woodwork combined various woods to enable a mixture of shades and patterns within his pieces.



Close-up of woodwork by Ahmed Angawi



Woodwork by Ahmed Angawi

Also, on show were a pair of beautiful replica Hijazi doors produced by Sarah Al Abdali, using plaster.



Plaster replica Hijazi doors by Sara Al Abdali



Detail of plaster replica Hijazi doors by Sara Al Abdali



Close-up of plaster replica Hijazi doors by Sara Al Abdali

The inspiration behind this piece was Sarah's discovery of the original wooden doors within the Jameel Centre collection in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England.



17th century, carved wooden Hijazi Doors at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Image and item details can be viewed here:

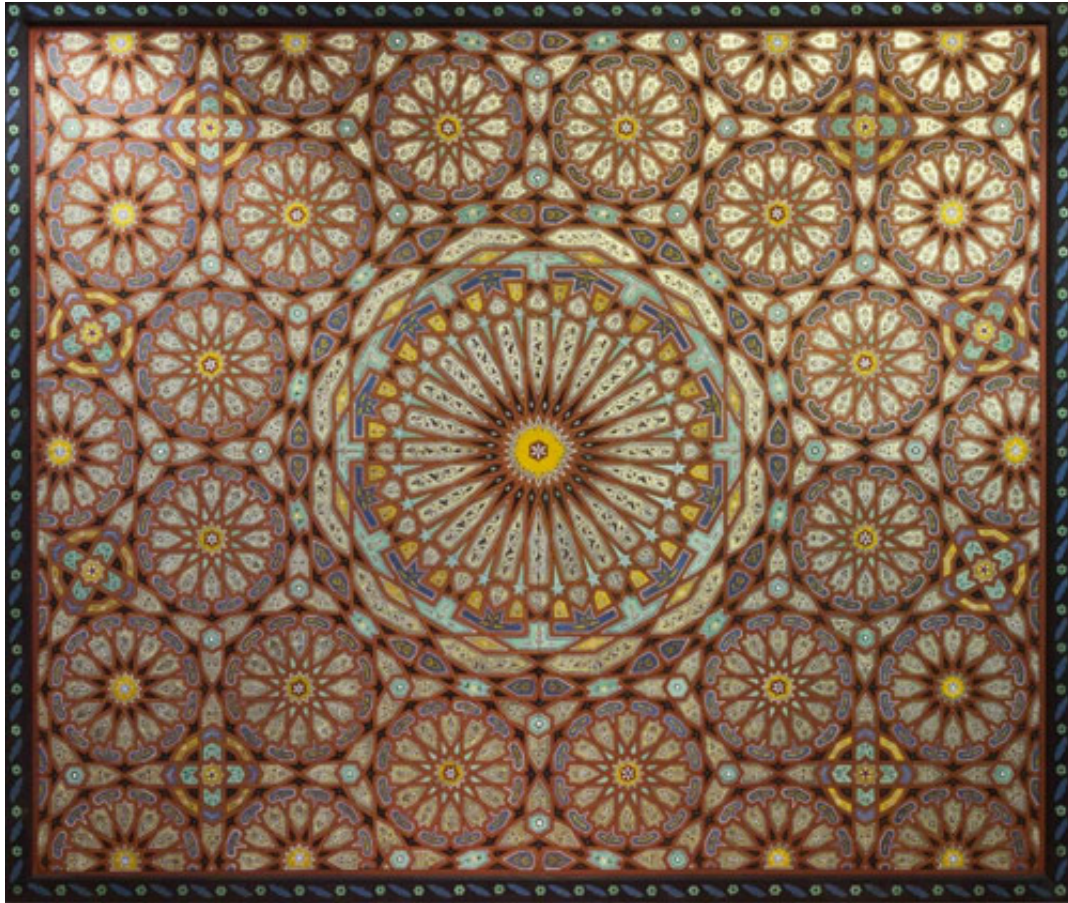
<http://jameelcentre.ashmolean.org/object/EAX.422>



Laser-cut pieces by Sarah Al Abdali

Having viewed previous work produced from PSTA graduates, it was great to see students are now also experimenting more with new technologies such as laser-cutting. It'll be interesting to see how much technology will influence the work produced by artists in future.

Another favourite was the Zouaq ceiling by Natasha Mann who learnt this unique method for decorating wood in Morocco:



Zouaq ceiling by Natasha Mann (for further details visit <http://www.natashazouaq.co.uk>)



Painting by Natasha Mann using hand ground natural pigments with egg tempera and 24 carat gold leaf.



Painting by Natasha Mann using hand ground natural pigments with egg tempera and 24 carat gold leaf.

Further images below demonstrate some of the incredibly intricate work on show:

Read more about The Prince's School of Traditional Arts and both their taught and public programmes on their website: <http://psta.org.uk/>