



# Muslim Planet

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June 2020

The Muslim Planet Project offers a platform of technology services for the Muslim Community of North America. It provides the needed infrastructure to transform the community towards unified positions and integrated action plans. It seeks representation at local, state, and federal levels.

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kind in North America**

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## Welcome Message

We wish that you and the community are well. We hope you will enjoy this issue of the News Journal, and you will share it with your family and friends. If you have your own list please forward this News Journal to your list.

The June 2020 issue contains the following articles.

1. [An equalizer and an uprising](#)
2. [Ramadan activities](#)
3. [Islamic star patterns](#)

And our feature article series on:

1. [Truth about Afghan War](#)
2. [Bin Laden Bookshelf](#)

You can read this issue and the previous issues of the News Journal by visiting the [News Journal](#).

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## An Equalizer and an Uprising

We are witnessing two great episodes of history. They have both touched people globally. They have wakened up the conscience of the people of the world. The people are silent no more.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an equalizer. It has touched the East and the West equally. It has touched the prosperous North and the struggling South equally. It has shown us how to equalize the North South divide. It has taught us how the East and the West handled the epidemic. There are lessons in it for those who contemplate. What are these lessons? We will present the lessons that are already written on the wall, though most pay little heed.

The cruelty and hatred that George Floyd suffered when he was unable to breathe because the unjust and racist machinery of law enforcement in USA had its unchallengeable weight on his neck. Did I say unchallengeable? Indeed, it was so but is no more so. The people across the United States and indeed the entire World have decided to remain silent no more. They have come out and they have spoken: Let Our People Breathe.

The injustice is systemic. The North South divide is by design of the West. The East West divide is manifest; the Sun will keep rising from the East, and the Sun will keep setting in the West. And the light is forever superior to the darkness, even if at times it might appear to you as surprising because the dark world hoists a mirror to reflect and deflect the light. Hold steadfast to the truth, and exercise patience and perseverance. Above all, hold steadfast to the rope of Allah. The victory of light over darkness is approaching nearer and nearer. The demigods are wrapping up, their thrones are being tossed, and the mask on the faces of the unjust, racists, and bigots are cracking open one by one. Indeed, we will witness all that, and the natural justice requires that we will witness all that.

### Covid-19

China was hit with COVID-19 suddenly and brutally. It was taken by surprise. It was totally unprepared. But it was not sleeping on the wheel. China was alert, and it took common sense measures to overpower the growing crisis that the World latter acknowledged as an epidemic. China was busy saving its people in a Herculean way. But the demigods of the oppressive world are complaining that China did not tell us everything. That is as if these demigods tell others everything that they do! It is as if China's obligation was towards these demigods versus acting totally to save its own people. The demigods serve the corporations, they have no concept of the service to the people and they cry out foul when others try to serve their people.

The Chinese nation took the measures that they had at their disposal. They used the existing medicines; some worked and some did not. They took the common sense measures to limit the spread of the disease by limiting people's movements. And they looked into their excellent traditions to use the herbal teas (Joshianda) to relieve the disease. These efforts payed off; There were less than 100000 infections, and there were less than 5000 deaths.

That is an achievement, especially when compared with the inapt chaotic steps that USA took, causing over a million infections and over 110000 deaths. Comparing the populations of USA and China, we soon realize the truth of what President Obama called a chaotic disaster.

The conditions in USA are so divisive and racism and bigotry is so rampant that Trump still has high hopes to win a second term. The sun is fast setting on USA. US politicians are busy with their dirty games, no one cares about what happens to the country and the people.

Next in line was Iran. It got hit suddenly. But the brave Iranians did what they had to do and are now seeing light at the end of the tunnel. The tunnel was narrow, squeezed by the cruel oppression of US sanctions. The tunnel was very dark due to the hypocrisy and colonial mindset of the Europeans. The Iranians are intelligent and ingénues. They did not copycat the Chinese; rather they invented their own path through the narrow and dark tunnel. In particular, they did not shut their economy down like a country wide lock down. They used the technique of lockdown in a surgical manner. Their economy sustained, versus the free fall and recession that we have witnessed in USA and Europe. And then USA has the nerve to call out Iranian government as oppressive and inapt. The rule by the so-called Mullahs has succeeded against all odds, where USA has failed miserably. When it comes to performance and achievements, Iran has demonstrated its superiority over a dysfunctional system like we have in USA. In the middle of the pandemic Iran launched its Defense satellite for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

Turkey has done even better. They too continued their economy, applying lockdowns surgically. Unlike USA and most of Europe, they devised their own path versus copycatting the Chinese approach. Their economy is not in recession, unlike the US economy and the economy of most of Europe and UK. In addition, Turkey has continued its independent foreign policy, challenging Haftar in Libya, setting up safe zones in Syria, and getting started on oil explorations in the Mediterranean, etc.

Turkey and Iran have clearly demonstrated their superior capabilities for self-reliance, independence, and forward looking outlook for themselves and for the World.

Next in line was Italy. And we know what destruction and misery COVID-19 inflicted on Italy. The score sheet is horrifying: 235000 infections and 33964 deaths. The reason primarily is the lack of originality shown by Italy and other Western countries including the USA. They had months to analyze, research, and study the possible options. Instead, they were sitting and watching; gleefully publishing the news about China and Iran. They did no research worth its salt on the data they received from China, South Korea, and Iran. They wasted the long months while they were spared the epidemic. They proved themselves lazy and incompetent. They falsely take pride in their abilities for scientific research and medical technology; but all that amounted to just an empty boast. They demonstrated none of that in the face of COVID-19. They decided to become the sitting ducks for the epidemic. It is not that they did not see the epidemic coming. Apparently they had more important things to do; like winning the next election and misleading their people. The Western politicians, with few exceptions, are totally myopic and self-centered.

The only shiny thing in the West is the people. But the people in the West are not free. As someone remarked: people are like mushrooms, their government keeps them in the dark and feeds them trash. This is so true. Right from the kindergarten the poor Americans are taught that they are Free. They grow up firmly believing that they are free. But they have no taste of freedom in their oppressed lives.

You might be wondering: how come the West has been so prosperous? It is not because of their human values, it is not because of their democracy, it is not because of their Christianity, and it is not because of their scientific expertise. It is simply their war mongering and bigoted policies. They used science primarily to Holocaust the aborigines, enslave the trusting people of Africa, and colonize empires like India and the vast continents like the North and South Americas and Australia. The colonization latter followed by the neo-colonization of people like South Africa, Philippines, Palestine, the entire South America, and people like the Porte Rico.

They looted. The booty filled the coffers of the rich, but also trickled down minimally to the man in the street to keep him from protesting and demanding his god given rights. When the blood of the poor did not quench their thirst, they started on each other and caused the two world wars. They really were not world wars; they were merely globalized European wars. Europeans being the colonial masters, they dragged poor colonies into those wars because part of the quarrel was the fact that countries like Germany were left out of the fruits of colonialism, and those who were the colonial powers were bitter among themselves for having been booted out by their own pack.

But the game is now over. Enough of this oppression and the mockery of justice. People have woken up. They are out in the streets telling their masters that enough is enough. It is like the “Flour War” of the French Revolution. Now 20 million people are hungry in USA. And 50 million have no health care. As if the misery of poverty and deprivation did not satisfy them, they have the necks of Les Misérables under their knees. The Misérables cried out “We Can’t Breathe” and their masters laughed. Can there be a bigger oppression, more injustice, and more wide spread corruption?

## George Floyd Uprising

Let the knee go. Let my people breathe.

That is the cry in the US streets all over the country. The anguish and anger and a cry for systemic reform of the law enforcement agencies is echoed across the World. While USA is the capital of the World when it comes to abuse of force, the problem is not unique to USA. As we discussed, the culture of the West is somewhat similar. Their mindset is bent upon destructive war mongering, including the exploitation of their own people. This is common between countries across Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand. The poor have suffered at all these places at the hands of their greedy politicians and the clergy. George Floyd is from USA, but the blood of countless innocents cries across all these lands. It is then natural that the diaspora of misdeeds would feel the reverberations of injustice and oppression that is so dramatically visible in USA.

Let us not give the impression that the Western culture has the monopoly on injustice, racism, bigotry, and greed. These things happen across the world, and there is no country where it does not happen. The difference is in degree, in its being systemic, and it being an engineered objective in the modern Western culture. It is these facts that make the Western culture the flag bearer of oppression, racism, bigotry, and inhumanity of man to man.

\*

As if the crime of the police with George Floyd was not enough, the Police Officers (sic) have killed at least six additional people from among the largely peaceful protesters and ten thousands people have been arrested! The New York Times has briefly [covered](#) the chronology of events. Following is a summary.

1. June 25: George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, died in Minneapolis on Monday [after being handcuffed and pinned to the ground](#) by Derek Chauvin, a white police officer. Bystanders captured video of the officer behind a police car using his knee to pin Mr. Floyd by his neck. Mr. Floyd is heard repeatedly saying, “I can’t breathe,” in the video. After the [death of George Floyd](#) on May 25, [protests and unrest](#) have rocked Minneapolis and other cities.
2. MAY 26: Protests in Minneapolis begin, and the police use tear gas to break them up. By Tuesday, the Minneapolis police chief, Medaria Arradondo, had [fired all four men](#) involved in the arrest of Mr. Floyd. He

also called for an F.B.I. investigation after the video showed that the official police account of the arrest had [borne little resemblance to what actually occurred](#).

3. MAY 27: Protests erupt in cities across the U.S., including Memphis and Los Angeles. Demonstrators began organizing in other cities. In [Memphis](#), a protest over the deaths of Mr. Floyd, [Breonna Taylor](#) in Louisville, Ky., and [Ahmaud Arbery](#) in Brunswick, Ga., led the police to temporarily shut down a portion of a street.
4. MAY 28: The National Guard is mobilized in Minnesota. Gov. Tim Walz of Minnesota [activated the National Guard](#). The order came as the city asked for help after vandalism and fires broke out during demonstrations and as the Justice Department said a federal investigation into Mr. Floyd's death was a top priority.
5. MAY 29: Former officer is arrested and charged in Mr. Floyd's death. The former Minneapolis police officer who pinned Mr. Floyd's neck to the ground with his knee was arrested and [was charged with third-degree murder](#) and second-degree manslaughter.
6. MAY 29: President Trump's 'looting' and 'shooting' message raises tensions. President Trump [delivered an ultimatum to Minneapolis protesters](#) on May 29 and suggested that the military could use armed force to suppress riots. On Twitter, Mr. Trump called the protesters "thugs" and said, "When the looting starts, the shooting starts."
7. MAY 29: Protests in Atlanta and New York bring destruction. Hundreds of demonstrators [poured into the streets near Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park](#), leaving behind smashed windows. Some climbed atop a large red CNN sign outside the media company's headquarters and spray-painted messages on it.
8. MAY 30: Minneapolis Mayor says peaceful protests have turned to 'domestic terrorism.' After four nights of chaos in Minneapolis, Mr. Frey called on people to stay home. "What started as largely peaceful protests for George Floyd have turned to outright looting and domestic terrorism in our region," he [said on Twitter](#).
9. MAY 31: Protests fill city streets again, and mayors order curfews. In Philadelphia, a huge peaceful demonstration outside the city's art museum contrasted with the scene [in West Philadelphia, where the police used pepper spray](#) to repel looters. In Atlanta, [two officers were fired for "excessive use of force"](#) against two college students. In Minneapolis, about 200 protesters were arrested, and a man who drove a tanker truck toward a crowd was [taken into police custody](#).
10. JUNE 1: George Floyd's brother visits the site where he died. Terrence Floyd was the first member of Mr. Floyd's family to visit the place where his brother died in Minneapolis.
11. JUNE 1: Two autopsies rule Mr. Floyd's death a homicide. The results from two autopsies completed on Mr. Floyd [ruled that his death was a homicide](#). But the autopsies, one done by a government agency and the other by doctors working for Mr. Floyd's family, differed over the specific causes of death and whether there were contributing factors beyond [Mr. Chauvin's](#) kneeling on his neck.
12. JUNE 1: Trump threatens to deploy the military. In remarks about the unrest in several cities across the United States, Mr. Trump [threatened to deploy the military](#) to states where governors and mayors could not bring violence and the looting under control.
13. JUNE 2: Protesters gather where Mr. Floyd died. Wearing "We Can't Breathe" T-shirts and pumping their hands in the air, protesters [gathered](#) in Minneapolis on June 2 at the site of Mr. Floyd's death. [A group of black faith leaders](#) and clergy members also marched to the site.

14. JUNE 3: New charges are filed in Mr. Floyd's death. Keith Ellison, Minnesota's attorney general, [announced new charges against the three Minneapolis police officers](#) who failed to intervene when Mr. Floyd died.
15. JUNE 4: Buffalo officers are suspended after shoving a protester. Two Buffalo police officers [were suspended without pay](#) after a video showed them shoving a 75-year-old protester, who was hospitalized with a head injury.
16. JUNE 6: Two Buffalo police officers are charged with assault. Two Buffalo police officers [were charged with felony assault on Saturday after a video showed officers shoving](#) a 75-year-old protester outside City Hall on Thursday night.
17. June 7: Protesters call to [defund the police](#).
18. June 8: George Floyd protest news.
- LAPD to stop using carotid holds effective immediately
  - Officer charged in killing repeatedly suggested rolling George Floyd over, lawyer says.
  - Reebok cuts ties with CrossFit after CEO's controversial tweets about George Floyd
  - Minneapolis Mayor says he supports "major structural reform" of policing after being booed by protesters
  - Minneapolis City Council President on dismantling the police department: "The system of policing isn't working"
  - Police unions dig in as calls for reform grow
  - Washington state governor calls for review into police using chokeholds
  - Attorney general says the actions of a few bad officers doesn't mean there's a systemic problem
  - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to stop using carotid holds
  - New Orleans police superintendent says they're investigating why rubber balls were used on protesters
  - Atlanta mayor says defunding police is not "the solution" in her city
  - Thousands pay tribute to George Floyd at public viewing in Houston
  - US mayors team up on police reform and racial justice
  - US Army open to renaming military bases that bear Confederate names
  - Los Angeles mayor says he "fully supports" decision not to prosecute peaceful protesters
  - Arkansas governor to announce policing task force tomorrow
  - Trump: "There won't be defunding, there won't be dismantling of our police"
  - Customs and Border Protection officers will return to normal duties after assisting with protests
  - Trump doesn't support mayors reallocating police funding, White House says
  - France to ban police from using chokeholds following Black Lives Matter protests
  - Texas governor: "George Floyd is going to change the arc of the future of the United States"

- Washington, DC, council member to introduce plan to demilitarize and reduce Metropolitan Police
- NYC protesters take a knee outside NYPD headquarters
- Democrats announce police and justice reform legislation

A summary of the events is also [presented](#) by the Wikipedia.

The strategy of those who benefit from the systemic injustice and oppression is normally to lie low and wait the events out. Then they stretch the law processes, elongate them, and corrupt them in order to save their criminal agents. Let us see what will actually happen. In the meanwhile, we must not let down our vigilance.



## Ramadan Activities

A Quora user shared a graph of the viewers of his content during and around the Ramadan month. The Figure below shows this graph, showing the number of daily viewers along the vertical axis. The horizontal axis represents the days, each bar representing a day. The middle part of the graph corresponds to the month of Ramadan.

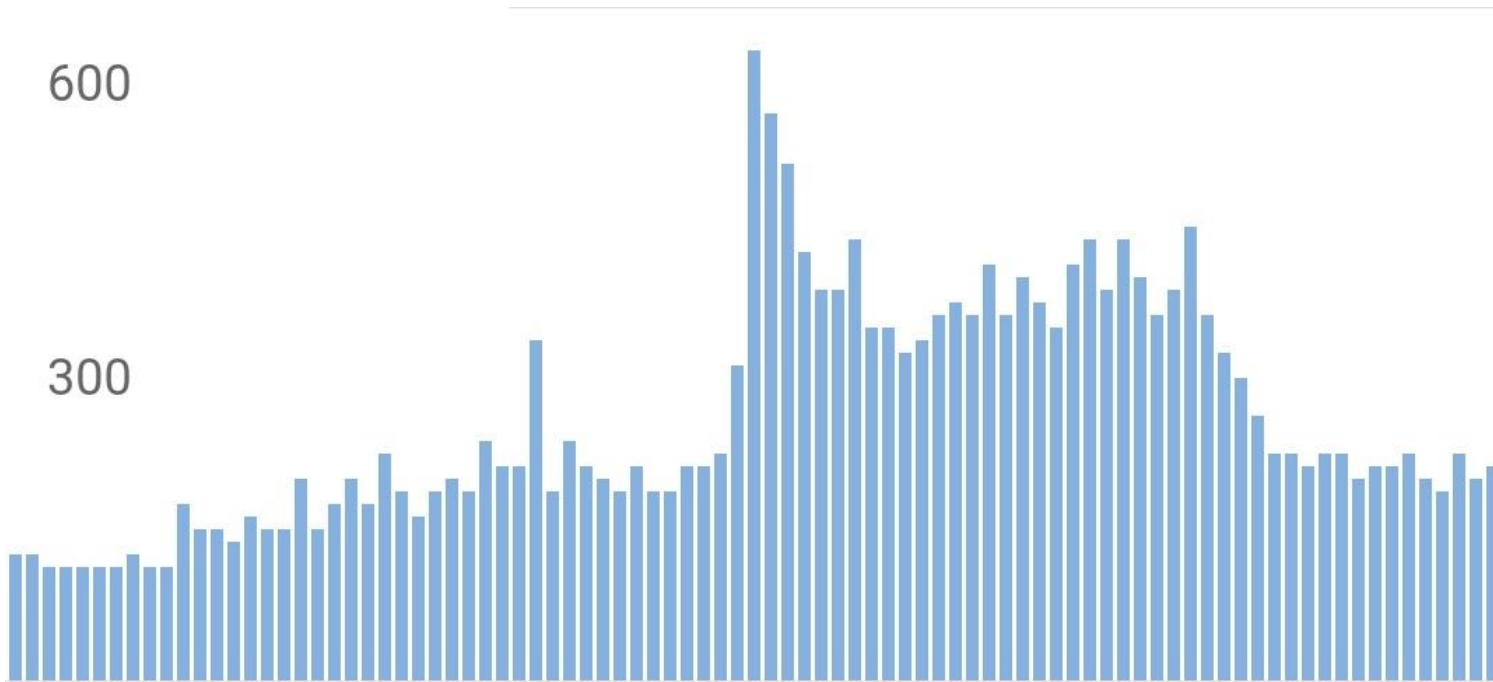


Chart of the daily viewers count for Quora content of a user.

From left to right, the graph starts with a daily count of about 130. Just before Ramadan, it increases to around 200 viewers per day. During the month of Ramadan the count of the viewers rises significantly to a value around 400 viewers per day. The daily count of the viewers stays high throughout the month of Ramadan. After Ramadan, the count tapers off to the value around 200 daily viewers. If the graph is symmetrical, it should drop back to a viewer count of around 130.

We should clarify that the content that the visitors viewed was of Islamic nature, though not of a traditional type. Further, the content did not change during the period in the graph; in fact, the content had stayed stationary. Most of the viewers of this content are Muslims, as is inferred from the names of those who upvoted the content.

This chart quantitatively demonstrates the change in the activities of a Muslim due to Ramadan fasting.

The graph clearly shows that the behavior of the viewers changes during Ramadan, as is demonstrated by the daily count of the viewers. The count jumped to more than twice the value that is observed before and after Ramadan.

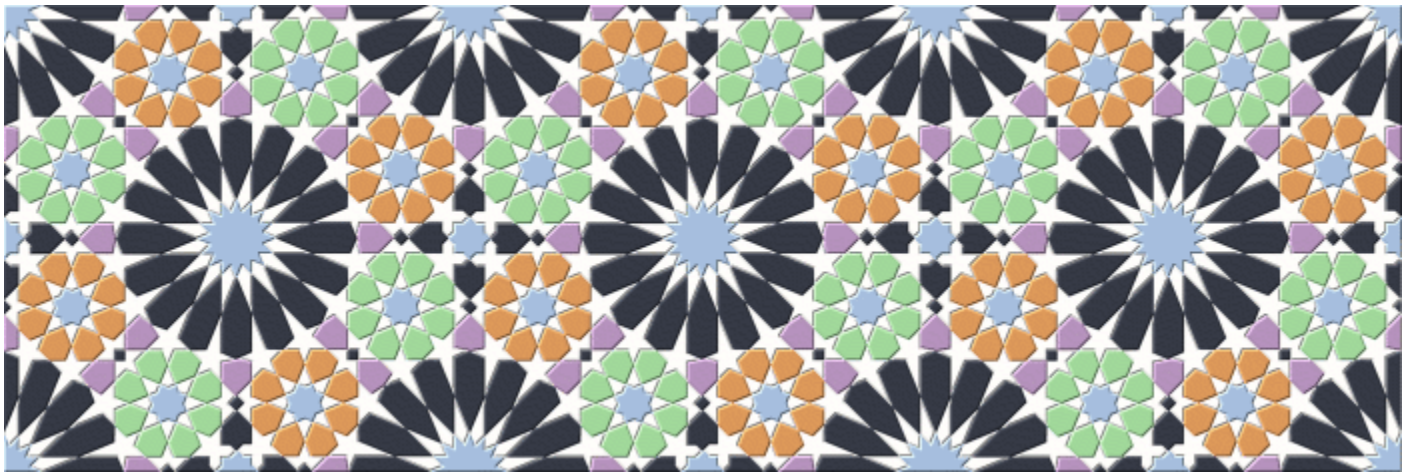
The statistical evidence is convincing. One might enquire why should it be so? One obvious reason is the change in schedule, the person gets up very early and has some extra time at hand. Another reason might be enhanced interest in Islamic topics, and enhanced interaction among the Muslim individuals.





# Islamic Star Patterns

Reference: [Craig S. Kaplan](#), Computer Graphics, University of Waterloo, Canada.



Islamic star patterns arose in the centuries after the birth of Islam, and spread quickly as Islamic rule grew outward from the Middle East to encompass western Europe, northern Africa, and southern Asia. This form of ornamentation peaked in the first half of the second millennium. The practice then tapered off as the borders of the Muslim world began to shrink. Today, historical artifacts can be found in countries from Spain to Uzbekistan, with important concentrations in Spain, Turkey, Iran, and Morocco.

There is no precise definition of an Islamic star pattern, but there are some general trends. They tend to be rigidly geometric in design, and feature star-shaped polygonal regions. They can be found carved in wood or stone, built from latticework, or assembled from baked terracotta tiles (a style known as *Zellij*).

Although we have a large body of historical examples to study, we don't know exactly how artisans working at the time designed their star patterns. Their methods were typically guarded as trade secrets. Thus we are left with the exciting historical puzzle of reverse engineering lost techniques, or inventing new ones altogether. We know that Islamic scholars had mastered Euclid's *Elements*, and so we can ascribe to them an advanced knowledge of plane geometry. Of course, we have many more mathematical tools available today than existed a thousand years ago, and we should utilize those tools in the service of ornamental design. I am interested in understanding how star patterns may have been designed in the first place, and how we can enlarge the space of designs using what we know today. I am also interested in how to render star patterns and how to manufacture them automatically from computer descriptions.

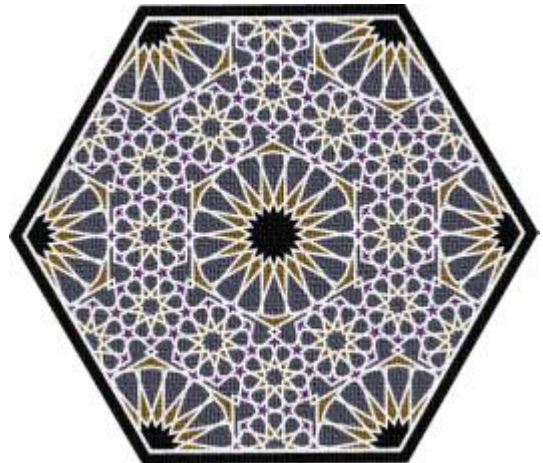
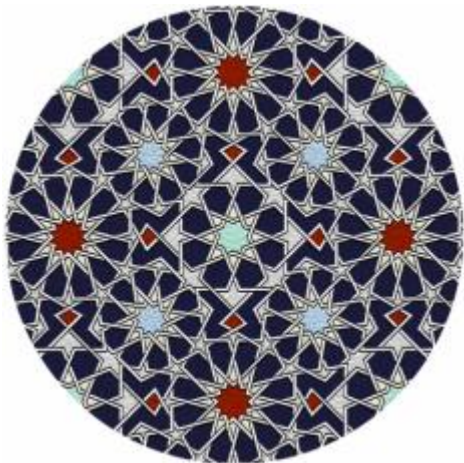
## Designing star patterns

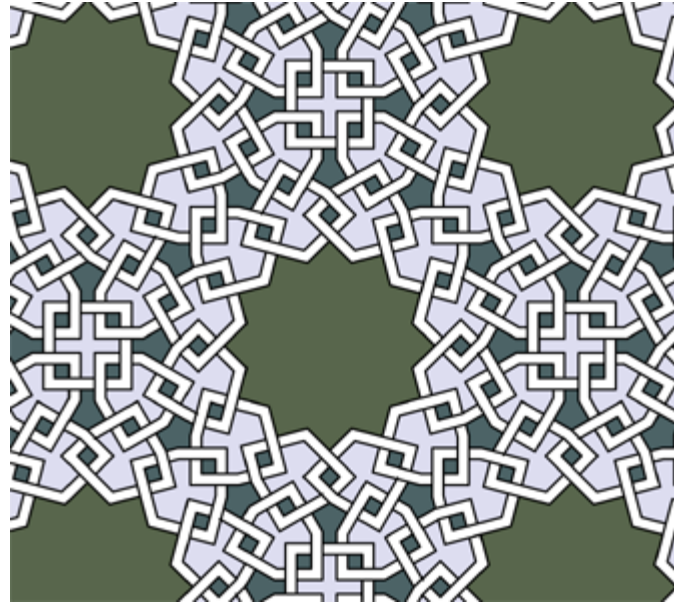
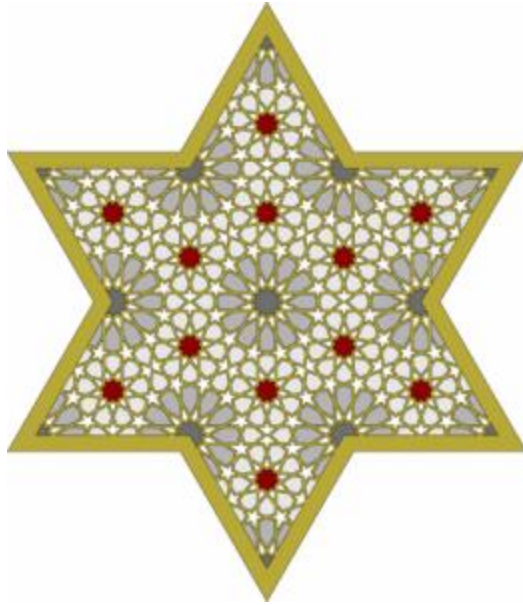
I have developed two software approaches for constructing star patterns. Both are based on first choosing a tiling of the plane called the *template tiling*. Each tile in the template is then associated with a motif, a small fragment of an overall design. Tiles are filled with motifs, and connected together. When the template is erased, the result is a star pattern.

The first approach, which I now call the "Najm method", makes use of an explicit understanding of the radially-symmetric motifs that appear in many star patterns. The user chooses specific radially-symmetric motifs for each regular polygon in the template tiling. The computer can then fill the remaining tiles using an "inference algorithm" to create a design consistent with the user's choices.

The second approach, which I call the "Hankin method", does away with explicit motifs and uses only the inference algorithm. In order to obtain some of the characteristic motifs (like rosettes) that are common in star patterns, the Hankin method embeds more intelligence in the template tilings. The interesting question then becomes to compute these new tilings.

More information can be found in the papers mentioned below. Here are a few star patterns produced using these methods. Click on each for a larger version.



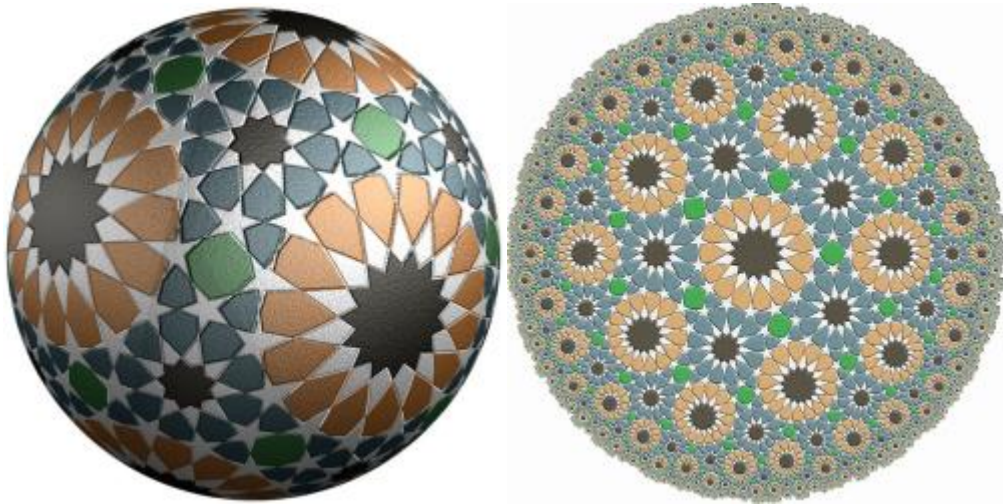
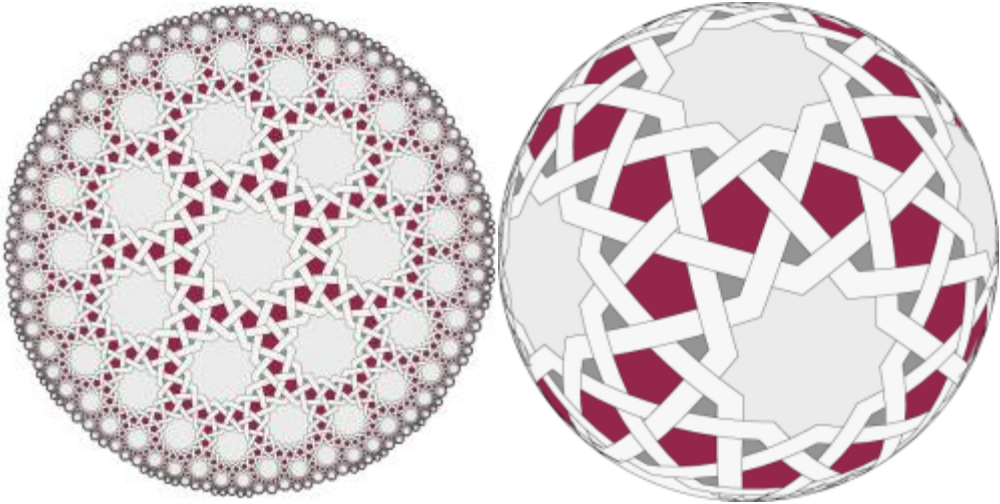


## Non-Euclidean star patterns

Once we have articulated these design techniques mathematically, we have an opportunity to do things that were either impractical or impossible with the mathematical and artistic tools of previous centuries. One long-standing possibility is to construct non-Euclidean Islamic star patterns. I have shown that we can express the construction techniques above independently of Euclid's parallel postulate, and that therefore they apply equally well to the Euclidean plane, the hyperbolic plane, and the surface of the sphere. In fact, I construct star patterns in *absolute geometry*, an abstract core from which the three planar geometries can be derived. By suitably encoding this geometric foundation in a C++ library, I need only write the design algorithm once.

Some examples tell the story best...

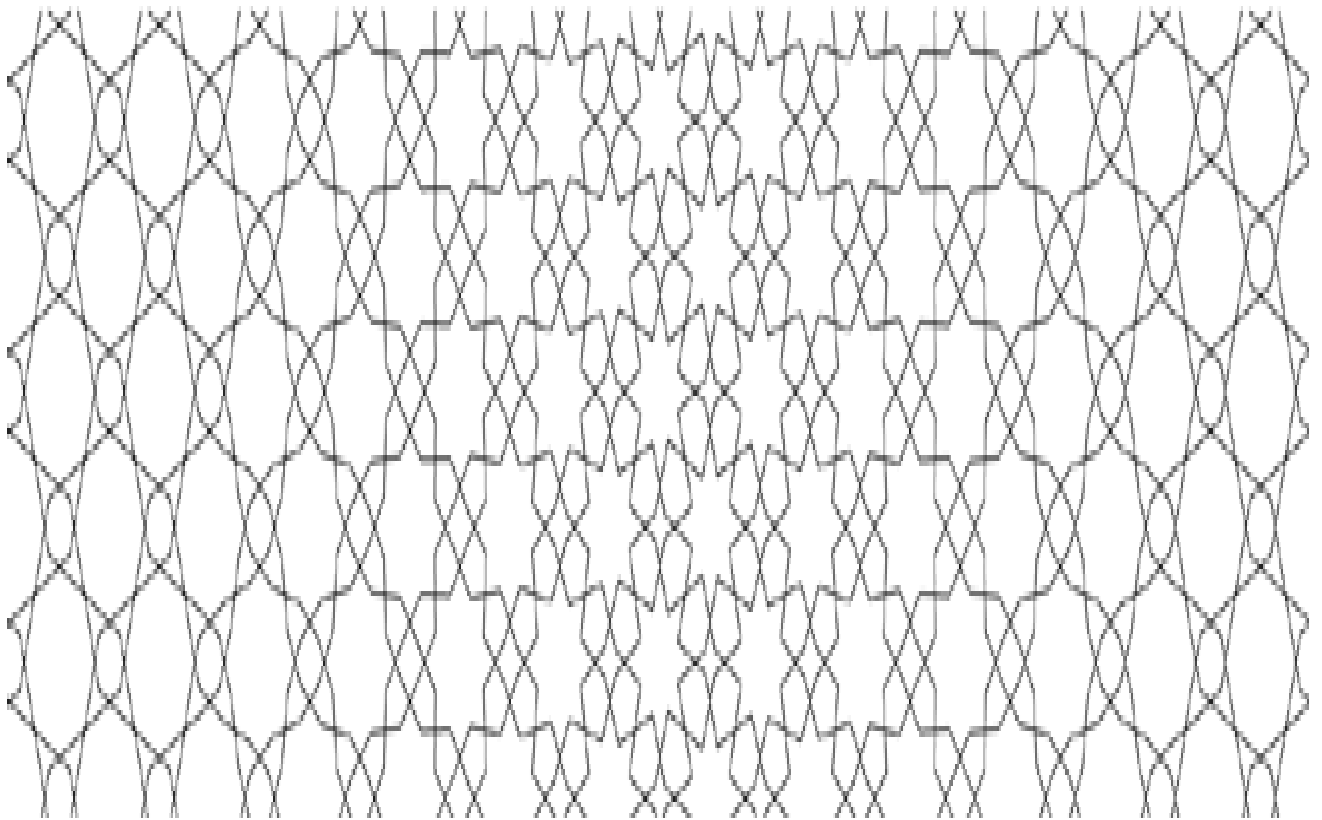
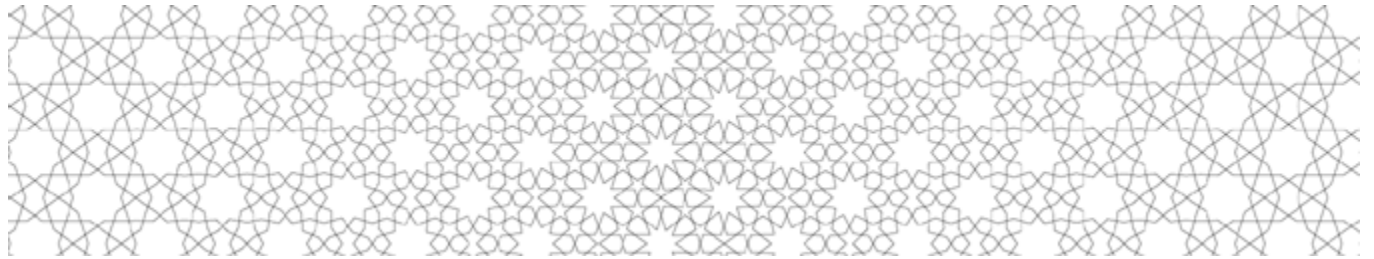
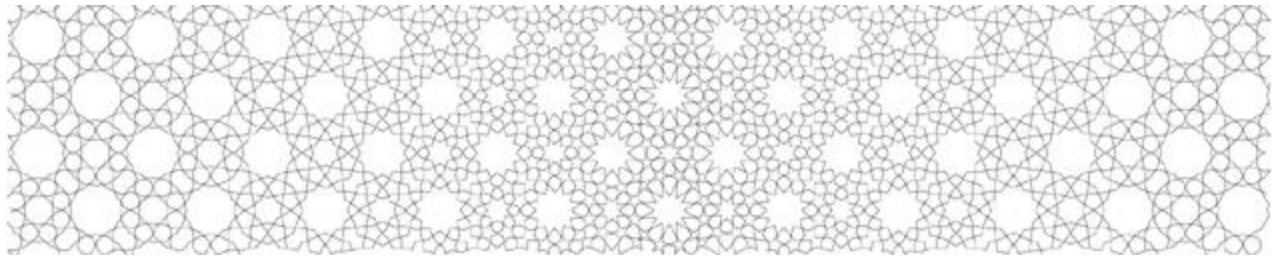




## Islamic parquet deformations

Parquet deformations are an abstract form of ornament first introduced by William Huff as an exercise for his Architecture students, and later popularized by Douglas Hofstadter in his *Scientific American* column. They are a kind of "spatial animation": a tiling of the plane from shapes that gradually evolve in space. They are the aesthetic cousins of Escher's *Metamorphosis* prints.

We can create Islamic parquet deformations as a simple modification of Hankin's method. Given a tiling, Hankin's method is parameterized by a single real value called the "contact angle". All we have to do is gradually change that contact angle in space. The results are striking and certainly novel: in centuries past, it would never have been practical to construct a pattern where almost every shape is unique!



## CAD and star patterns

Once we have software that can construct mathematical descriptions of star patterns, we can do more than simply render images of those star patterns on the computer screen. We can also feed the designs to a number of different computer-controlled manufacturing technologies. I am generally interested in how computer graphics might play a role in revitalizing the use of ornament in architecture, and star patterns are an excellent form of ornament to use as a test case. I have experimented with 3D rapid prototyping (ZCorp, FDM), laser cutting, waterjet cutting,

and CNC milling and lathing. So far, there hasn't been a great deal of research necessary -- the manufacturing devices do a great job on their own. But there are opportunities for work that enhances the cooperation between designer, software, and machine.

Here are a few photographs of these experiments.



Business cards with a laser-cut pattern



Laser-cut mylar



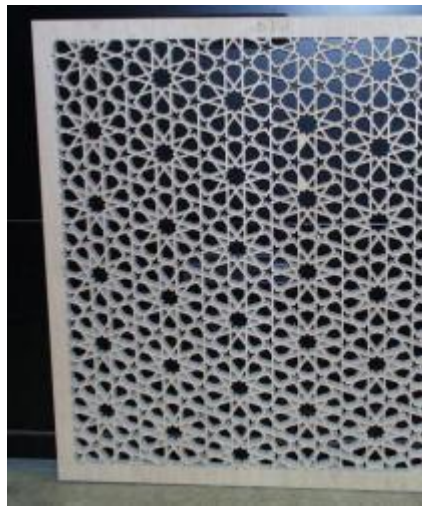
A large display of waterjet-cut patterns in metal, wood, MDF, stone, and plexiglass.



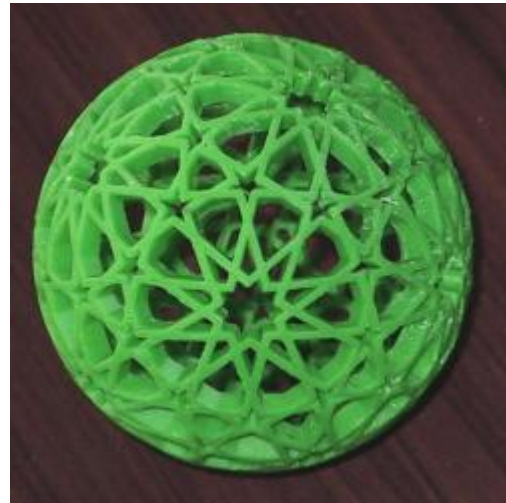
A linoleum block with a pattern cut by a 3-axis machine (the outside was carved away)



Linoleum block prints from NC-cut patterns



Plywood panel cut by waterjet



A spherical pattern constructed using fused deposition modelling (FDM)

## Papers

[Computer generated Islamic star patterns](#). Bridges 2000.

[Computer Graphics and Geometric Ornamental Design](#). PhD thesis, 2002. See especially Chapter 3.

[Islamic star patterns in absolute geometry](#). TOG 23(2).

[Islamic star patterns from polygons in contact](#). GI 2005.

## Software

My Java applet [Taprats](#) has been available on the web since around 2000. A few years later I added a downloadable version of Taprats that allows you to save designs as encapsulated postscript. It has been downloaded thousands of times and used by artists, hobbyists, and teachers.

I am not actively developing Taprats right now, though I do have medium-term plans to release a greatly improved new version. In the meantime, if you want a more recent alternative to Taprats, François Dispot's excellent [Arabesque Studio](#) is under more active development.

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## Afghan War and Bin Laden Bookshelf

“In late 2017, U.S. military commanders in Afghanistan launched Operation Iron Tempest, a storm of airstrikes by B-52 bombers, F-22 Raptors and other warplanes. The main target: a network of clandestine opium production labs that U.S. officials said was helping to generate \$200 million a year in drug money for the Taliban.”

But within a year, Operation Iron Tempest had fizzled out. Many of the suspected labs turned out to be empty, mud-walled compounds. After more than 200 airstrikes, the U.S. military concluded it was a waste of resources to keep blowing up primitive targets with advanced aircraft and laser-guided munitions.

--- Washington Post

“In a nut shell Pakistan's ISI sold or surrendered to America its 60 year old (already prepared) infrastructure of senior agents, Informers, recruiters, bases, Political parties, airports, logistics, and all that the Americans demanded from them.

----- Abu-Salih Al Somali.

### Truth about Afghan War

Source: Special US Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)

SIGAR conducted numerous interviews with important players in Afghanistan. Many of these interviews were candid and offered a picture of the Afghanistan War that is very different from the publicly released information. Using the SIGAR material, the Washington Post journalist Craig Whitlock wrote a series of articles.

For this issue of the News Journal we present the article titled: [OVERWHELMED BY OPIUM](#) which shows that the U.S. war on drugs in Afghanistan has imploded at nearly every turn.

### Bin Laden Bookshelf

Source: US Directorate of National Intelligence

The Intelligence Agency released the Bin Laden documents for the American People.

103 documents were released on May 20, 2015. The translation from the original hand written notes in Arabic is provided by the US Government.

In this issue of the News Journal we have included the article titled: [Terror Franchise](#) (the term is coined by the translator). It is written by Abu-Salih Al Somali for the Khorasan Operation. It is a very detailed operational document.

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