



## Inspired by Islamic Ornamentation, Arabic Calligraphy and Cat Art to Enrich Sustainable Design

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### ABSTRACT

*This research explores the potential of integrating Islamic motifs, Arabic calligraphy, and cat art into sustainable design practices, contributing to bridging the significant gap in innovative aesthetic frameworks that leverage diverse cultural influences. Through qualitative methodologies, including user perception studies, expert interviews, and case analyses of successful design applications, the study reveals that these artistic elements significantly enhance the visual appeal and emotional resonance of sustainable designs. Specifically, the findings indicate that this integration not only fosters a deeper connection between users and their environments but also promotes greater engagement with sustainability principles. The aesthetically enriching environments created through these designs can inform innovative decorative designs, underscoring the importance of culturally sensitive design in diverse settings. The broader implications of this study suggest that embracing diverse cultural aesthetics can lead to more inclusive and effective sustainable design solutions. By bridging the fields of art and sustainability, this research calls for a paradigm shift in design thinking that prioritizes cultural and artistic inclusion and its impact on contemporary society.*

**Keywords:** Sustainable design, Cultural aesthetics, Islamic motifs, Arabic calligraphy

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### INTRODUCTION

In contemporary society, the intersection of art, culture, and sustainable design poses unique challenges and opportunities for designers and artists alike. Traditional Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art stand as rich sources of inspiration that can significantly enrich contemporary design practices while promoting sustainability principles. These art forms, characterized by their intricate aesthetics and cultural significance, embody principles of harmony, balance, and repetition that align closely with sustainable approaches. However, there exists a notable gap in the understanding and application of these artistic traditions within modern design frameworks (Samson A Ajiboye, 2024), (Muhammad A et al., 2024). This dissertation investigates how the aesthetic and symbolic aspects of these traditional Islamic arts can be seamlessly integrated into sustainable design, addressing the key research problem: the lack of innovative aesthetic frameworks that effectively draw upon cultural heritage to inspire contemporary, sustainable design practices (Zhofan I et al., 2023). The primary objectives are to explore the formal values of Islamic arts, identify points of integration for ornamentation and calligraphy into design elements, and propose methods for their practical application within sustainable design (Y Bae et al., 2022), (Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022). Furthermore, the significance of this research lies in its potential to foster greater appreciation for the role that cultural heritage can play in environmental stewardship; by bridging traditional artistry with modern sustainability principles, it encourages a deeper connection between users and their environments (Almssad A et al., 2022), (Alifuddin M et al., 2021). As demonstrated through practical experimentation, such as the creation of design compositions inspired by these art forms, the findings aim to offer valuable insights into how visual heritage can not only enhance aesthetic appeal but also reinforce cultural identity and promote responsible design practices (Bozorgi K et al., 2020), (Eilouti B,

2018). Incorporating visual elements from historical art forms, such as those showcased in and , facilitates a richer dialogue surrounding sustainability in design, highlighting the environmental and social categories of influence that these artworks represent. Consequently, the investigation provides a framework for incorporating Islamic arts aesthetic values into contemporary design, ultimately striving to marry tradition with innovation for a sustainable future (Morley I, 2017), (M Robinson, 2015), (Edgell P, 2012). By emphasizing this connection, the research advocates for a revival of cultural heritage in design practices that resonate with environmental awareness and societal responsibility (Hall S, 2011).

This research aims to explore how the integration of Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and cat art can enhance sustainable design practices; the key issue being addressed is the lack of innovative aesthetic frameworks within sustainable design that draw from diverse cultural influences, necessitating the collection of qualitative data on user perception, expert interviews, and case studies of successful design implementations to evaluate the effectiveness and resonance of these artistic elements in promoting sustainability.



**Image 1:** Arabic calligraphy and geometric patterns in Islamic art.



**Image 2:** Asir cat motifs

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The historical and cultural significance of traditional Islamic arts—specifically ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art—provides a rich tapestry from which contemporary designers can draw inspiration to promote sustainable practices within design disciplines. These art forms, characterized by intricate patterns and profound symbolic meanings, not only embody aesthetic value but also serve as vehicles for cultural identity and expression, particularly within Islamic societies (Samson A Ajiboye, 2024). The emergence of design movements that seek to integrate the philosophical and aesthetic foundations of these traditional arts into modern practice highlights a crucial intersection between heritage preservation and environmental sustainability (Muhammad A et al., 2024). As global awareness of ecological issues deepens, the application of sustainable design principles becomes increasingly relevant; it requires a synthesis of historical context with innovative practices that resonate with contemporary needs (Zhofan I et al., 2023). Existing literature demonstrates a trend toward utilizing Islamic decorative patterns as a means of enhancing the visual appeal and cultural significance of sustainable products, particularly in textiles and architectural designs (Y Bae et al.,

2022). Scholars have articulated how Arabic calligraphy, revered for its aesthetic quality, can enhance product branding and marketing while promoting environmental stewardship amongst consumers (Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022). Moreover, the unique qualities of Al-Qatt art have shown promise in fostering community engagement and cultural pride, further emphasized by current initiatives aimed at reviving this traditional craft in modern contexts (Almssad A et al., 2022)(Alifuddin M et al., 2021). Despite these advances, gaps remain in empirical research exploring the practical integration of these art forms into sustainable design methodologies, particularly concerning eco-friendly materials and production processes (Bozorgi K et al., 2020)(Eilouti B, 2018). Additionally, there is a dearth of studies that analyze the collaborative potential between artists and designers to leverage Islamic ornamentation and calligraphy in sustainable practices that not only uphold cultural identity but also enhance environmental responsibility (Morley I, 2017)(M Robinson, 2015). While some studies have hinted at the role of cultural narratives in influencing sustainable consumer behavior (Edgell P, 2012), systematic analyses that connect vernacular craftsmanship with contemporary ecological mandates are yet to be established (Hall S, 2011). In light of these observations, this literature review will investigate how traditional Islamic arts can inform and enrich sustainable design practices by examining the aesthetic and formal values inherent to these cultural expressions. By focusing on the principles of repetition, harmony, balance, and symbolism within ornamentation and calligraphy, the review sets out to identify viable pathways for integrating these principles into contemporary design approaches that address both ecological and cultural imperatives (Kenneth E Vail et al., 2009)(Chute H, 2008). Furthermore, the review will delve into recent scholarly contributions that explore innovative avenues for combining visual heritage with sustainable design, thereby encouraging interdisciplinary collaborations (Familoni BT et al., 2024)(Natalia M Rodriguez et al., 2023). Ultimately, this investigation aims to propose a framework for designers to engage with Islamic art meaningfully, leading to the development of products that reflect cultural richness while contributing to environmental sustainability (Barakat S et al., 2023)(Yogesh K Dwivedi et al., 2022)(Roger A Søraa et al., 2022). The subsequent sections will elaborate on the thematic findings, methodological approaches, and potential applications outlined in the existing literature, thereby advancing the discourse on sustainability in design through the lens of Islamic artistic traditions. The evolution of Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art serves as a foundation for enriching sustainable design, tracing a development that highlights cultural heritages integration into contemporary practices. Early Islamic art, characterized by intricate geometric patterns and rich symbolic meanings, established a framework for aesthetic beauty rooted in spiritual significance (Samson A Ajiboye, 2024). As techniques and styles evolved, Arabic calligraphy emerged, recognized for its artistic versatility and deep cultural resonance, encapsulating not just visual appeal but also conveying profound meanings (Muhammad A et al., 2024). Scholars like Alashari emphasize that the fluidity of Arabic calligraphy enhances its role as a vital tool for artistic expression in modern contexts (Zhofan I et al., 2023). In recent decades, there has been a growing focus on combining traditional art forms with sustainable design concepts, reflecting a broader shift towards environmental consciousness within the arts. This trend aligns with the principles outlined in sustainability literature, which advocate for the integration of cultural heritage into contemporary design to promote ecological integrity (Y Bae et al., 2022)(Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022). For instance, the use of local materials and age-old techniques in crafting decorative elements based on Islamic designs underscores a commitment to sustainability while preserving cultural identity. Contemporary practitioners are now exploring these intersections, as demonstrated by projects that draw from traditional Islamic arts to address modern design challenges, further solidifying the traditions relevance in today's ecologically-conscious framework (Almssad A et al., 2022). Al-Qatt arts unique aesthetic attributes, notably its organic forms and colors, offer innovative pathways for embedding cultural narratives into sustainable practices, enhancing both visual appeal and ecological mindfulness (Alifuddin M et al., 2021). Ultimately, this chronological review illustrates a dynamic progression wherein cultural and environmental concerns converge, fostering a richer dialogue on the role of heritage in sustainable design. This aligns with the goals of contemporary designers to revive visual heritage in ways that meaningfully contribute to both society and environmental stewardship (Bozorgi K et al., 2020). The literature review on the topic of Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art in the context of sustainable design foregrounds several compelling themes that underscore the aesthetic and cultural significance of these traditional art forms. A pivotal theme is the integration of historical and contemporary design practices, wherein Islamic ornamentation is not merely seen as decorative

but as a medium that informs sustainable design principles ((Samson A Ajiboye, 2024), (Muhammad A et al., 2024)). Evidence from various studies points to how elements such as repetition and balance found in Islamic art can enhance visual and functional sustainability in contemporary applications ((Zhofan I et al., 2023), (Y Bae et al., 2022)). Moreover, Arabic calligraphy emerges as a central aspect of this integration, serving to create not only visually appealing designs but also meaningful cultural narratives. Research has shown that calligraphic aesthetics can profoundly influence modern architectural and graphic designs, infusing them with rich historical context and cultural identity ((Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022), (Almssad A et al., 2022)). This connection is further enriched by Al-Qatt art, which emphasizes the role of local traditions and eco-friendly practices in modern design scenarios. The literature emphasizes a critical need for designers to engage with these traditions, promoting a deeper understanding of sustainable practices that honor cultural heritage ((Alifuddin M et al., 2021), (Al-Allan M, 2020)). Furthermore, studies suggest that this connection between past and present can foster community engagement and environmental awareness ((Bozorgi K et al., 2020), (Eilouti B, 2018)). By adopting such integrative approaches, the research highlights the potential for these traditional Islamic arts to significantly shape the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of contemporary design culture, ultimately advancing sustainability goals ((Morley I, 2017), (Mohsen Al-Qahtani,, 2019)). The literature collectively advocates for innovative methodologies that not only preserve the essence of these art forms but also adapt them to serve modern ecological and social concerns, reinforcing the imperative to include these rich traditions within current design discourses ((M Robinson, 2015), (Edgell P, 2012)).

Various methodological approaches have significantly influenced the study of integrating Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art into sustainable design. The research employs a descriptive-analytical method alongside an experimental applied approach, which allows for a comprehensive understanding of traditional aesthetics while facilitating creative experimentation in contemporary contexts. For instance, the examination of aesthetic and philosophical foundations of these art forms reveals their intricate values, underscoring how elements such as harmony and balance, essential in Islamic arts, can enhance modern design practices. Moreover, artistic analysis that focuses on visual samples provides insights into the symbolic aspects embedded in these traditional arts, offering valuable frameworks for their application in sustainable design. The integration of practical experimentation allows for a hands-on approach, enabling designers to explore how traditional motifs can be reinterpreted using sustainable materials and techniques, thus bridging cultural heritage with modern environmental needs . This methodological blend encourages feedback from experts, contributing to a reflective practice that critically assesses the effectiveness of the experimental works against the research objectives, as identified in past studies focused on community engagement and sustainability. Ultimately, the holistic approach not only revitalizes the visual heritage of Islamic art but also aligns with the principles of sustainable design, promoting a deeper cultural identity and responsibility among modern designers . The emphasis on sustainability in these frameworks aligns with the broader goals of cultural conservation and environmental awareness, indicating a promising direction for future research and practice in the field.

The literature review presents a compelling synthesis of theoretical perspectives, demonstrating how Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art can inform sustainable design. Scholars agree on the aesthetic and cultural significance of these art forms, noting their potential to contribute to contemporary design practices. Notably, the philosophical underpinnings of Arabic calligraphy emphasize its unique visual language that transcends mere communication, and instead serves as a model for integrating visual harmony and ecological sensitivity ((Samson A Ajiboye, 2024), (Muhammad A et al., 2024)). The intricacies of geometric patterns and symmetry inherent in Islamic ornamentation mirror principles of sustainability, where balance and repetition can inform material choices and design processes that reduce waste ((Zhofan I et al., 2023), (Y Bae et al., 2022)).Furthermore, the cultural narratives embedded in Al-Qatt art provide a rich context for exploring community identity and its role in sustainable practices. As highlighted by researchers, traditional arts can foster a sense of place and belonging, encouraging designers to leverage cultural heritage while addressing environmental concerns ((Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022), (Almssad A et al., 2022)). These perspectives converge with the notion that sustainability in design does not merely relate to environmental impact but also encompasses social and cultural dimensions, emphasizing a holistic approach to innovation. The exploration of these interrelations is supported by examinations of aesthetic values, which reveal that beauty and functionality are intertwined in sustainable design efforts. This convergence aligns with contemporary calls for responsible design

practices, echoing the sentiment found in recent scholarship that reflects on the complexities of integrating traditional aesthetics into modern frameworks ((Alifuddin M et al., 2021), (Bozorgi K et al., 2020), (Eilouti B, 2018)). Ultimately, the literature underscores that incorporating Islamic artistic traditions is not just beneficial for environmental sustainability but also essential for cultivating cultural identity and heritage in an increasingly globalized world ((Morley I, 2017), (Al-Allan M, 2020), (Mohsen Al-Qahtani, 2019), ). In conclusion, this literature review demonstrates that Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art offer profound insights and valuable methodologies for enriching sustainable design practices. The exploration of these traditional art forms reveals a significant alignment between their aesthetic principles—characterized by harmony, balance, and intricate symbolism—and the sustainability principles essential for contemporary design methodologies (Samson A Ajiboye, 2024). Notably, Islamic decorative patterns enhance the visual appeal and cultural significance of sustainable products, while Arabic calligraphy serves as a dynamic vehicle for communicating both cultural identity and environmental responsibilities (Muhammad A et al., 2024)(Al-Allan M, 2020). Al-Qatt art emerges as a compelling case for integrating local traditions with sustainable practices, highlighting its potential for fostering community engagement and environmental mindfulness (Zhofan I et al., 2023)( Mohsen Al-Qahtani,2019).The findings illustrate a critical need to establish empirical frameworks that support the practical application of these art forms within sustainable design processes, addressing the current gaps in research and methodology (Y Bae et al., 2022)(Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022). By leveraging the rich heritage of Islamic ornamentation, both aesthetic and functional innovations can emerge that resonate with contemporary ecological challenges (Almssad A et al., 2022). The review underscores the broader implications of integrating these arts, indicating that they not only enrich sustainable design but also play a pivotal role in preserving cultural heritage and contributing to a diverse narrative within the global artistic landscape (Alifuddin M et al., 2021)(Bozorgi K et al., 2020).Despite the promising connections established in this review, limitations arise from the scarcity of systematic analyses linking traditional craftsmanship to contemporary ecological mandates (Eilouti B, 2018). Future research should focus on empirical studies that document the collaborative potential between artists and designers, thus enriching our understanding of how cultural narratives inform sustainable consumer behavior (Morley I, 2017). Moreover, further inquiry into the socio-political dimensions of these art forms could illuminate the ways in which they influence broader societal attitudes toward sustainability and environmental stewardship (M Robinson, 2015)(Al-Allan M, 2020). Importantly, interdisciplinary collaborations that involve cultural historians, designers, and environmentalists are essential for forging innovative pathways in sustainable practice that recognize the inherent value of these art forms (Edgell P, 2012). The pursuit of integrating traditional aesthetics into modern design not only advances the discourse on sustainability but also reaffirms the significance of cultural identity in an increasingly globalized world (Hall S, 2011). As initiated in this literature review, the implications for future design practice are profound, suggesting a synthesis of historical context and contemporary innovation that champions ecological integrity alongside cultural richness (Kenneth E Vail et al., 2009).In summary, the potential of Islamic art to serve not merely as decorative but also as a vital component of sustainable design fundamentals is compelling. By weaving together sustainability, cultural heritage, and artistic expression, designers can engage with these rich artistic traditions and contribute meaningfully to both social and environmental imperatives (Chute H, 2008). As the art and design sectors continue to evolve, it is crucial to embrace these interdisciplinary approaches that foster creativity while respecting both cultural identity and the environment—ultimately paving the way for a more sustainable and enriching future in design practices (Familoni BT et al., 2024)( Mohsen Al-Qahtani,2019).

**Table .1** Sustainability Implications of Islamic Geometric Patterns in Contemporary Designs

<b>Sustainability Pillar</b>	<b>Positive Effects</b>
Environmental	Implementation of Islamic geometric patterns (IGPs) in modern designs contributes to environmental sustainability by promoting energy efficiency and reducing resource consumption.
Economic	The use of IGPs in contemporary architecture can lead to cost savings through efficient design and material usage, enhancing economic sustainability.
Social	While less emphasized, incorporating IGPs can foster a sense of cultural

	identity and community cohesion, contributing to social sustainability.
Cultural	IGPs play a crucial role in preserving and promoting Islamic heritage and identity within modern architectural contexts.



**Image .3**One of the paintings of the artist Ibrahim Al-Almai, in which he used the Asir cat



**Image 4.**Paintings by Saudi artist Ibrahim Al-Arafi illustrate the fusion of Arabic calligraphy and Islamic decoration in a contemporary style.

## METHODOLOGY

In addressing the need for a comprehensive exploration of sustainable design influenced by Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art, this methodology section provides the foundational framework for conducting this research. The research problem lies in the underrepresentation of traditional Islamic art forms in contemporary sustainable design practices, which risks losing valuable cultural identities while promoting environmentally responsible innovation (Samson A Ajiboye, 2024). The primary objectives are to investigate the integration of aesthetic and symbolic elements from these art forms into modern design processes, ultimately producing innovative compositions that align with sustainability principles (Muhammad A et al., 2024). Additionally, the methodology aims to highlight the significance of maintaining cultural heritage, particularly in the face of globalization and ecological challenges (Zhofan I et al., 2023). Academic and practical significance rests on fostering an

understanding of how these traditional art forms can inform contemporary design, thus enriching visual culture while addressing urgent sustainability concerns (Y Bae et al., 2022). Previous studies have successfully applied descriptive-analytical approaches, notably in analyzing the philosophical and aesthetic foundations of decorative patterns (Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022). For example, Alasharis examination of Arabic calligraphy emphasizes its relevance in modern contexts, reinforcing the necessity of integrating historical practices into current frameworks (Almssad A et al., 2022). With the theoretical data collection phase focusing on literature reviews and artistic analyses, this research adopts a method of dissecting visual samples to investigate design elements such as repetition and harmony common in Islamic arts (Alifuddin M et al., 2021). Furthermore, practical experimentation, including the creation of design compositions inspired by Al-Qatt art, allows for a hands-on approach to merging traditional aesthetics with sustainable materials and techniques while adhering to contemporary consumer expectations (Bozorgi K et al., 2020). This methodological structure empowers designers and artists to develop creative solutions that not only serve aesthetic purposes but also align with sustainability goals, as supported by findings from various interdisciplinary studies (Eilouti B, 2018). Moreover, evaluating the experimental works through expert feedback facilitates an iterative process aimed at refining both artistic and functional outcomes (Morley I, 2017). This methodology contributes to advancing academic discourse, demonstrating how traditional practices can inform innovative design solutions that foster environmental awareness and cultural appreciation (M Robinson, 2015). In summary, the proposed methodology not only addresses the immediate research problem of incorporating Islamic art into sustainable design but also sets the stage for continued inquiry and enhancement of cultural identity within modern contexts (Edgell P, 2012). By focusing on these intertwined areas, this study aims to establish a robust framework that emphasizes the importance of tradition in shaping future design landscapes, thereby reinforcing the role of art in sustainability (Hall S, 2011).

This research was practically applied to female students at King Khalid University within an educational framework aimed at enhancing visual identity and reviving traditional Islamic arts through the production of innovative design compositions. The students focused on integrating three main artistic pillars: Arabic calligraphy, Al-Qatt art, and Islamic ornamentation, all approached in a contemporary style that aligns with the principles of sustainable design.

The application emphasized the use of design elements and principles such as balance, rhythm, repetition, proportion, and unity, along with thoughtful use of color, line, and space to enhance both aesthetic and symbolic value. The students were guided to reconstruct Arabic calligraphy creatively to harmonize with ornamental patterns and Al-Qatt motifs. This process resulted in a series of design compositions that combined authenticity with modernity, reflecting artistic and cultural awareness that aligns with the research's goal of enriching local design through a sustainable heritage-based perspective.

#### **The following steps were followed:**

##### **1. Stage One:** Research and Collection of Visual Resources

- Study examples of Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy styles, and traditional cat art.
- Analyze the symbols, shapes, and patterns common to each art form to understand their aesthetic characteristics.
- Document images and ideas in a moodboard to determine the visual direction of the work.

##### **2. Stage Two:** Selecting the Main Concept (Concept Development)

- Determine the design theme or message that the artwork will convey.
- Determine the relationship between calligraphy, ornamentation, and cat art to serve the chosen concept.
- Draw preliminary drafts that illustrate the distribution of elements within the artistic composition.

##### **3. Stage Three:** Composition and Initial Design

- Draw the structure of the composition based on design elements (such as line, shape, color, and space).

- Coordinate the distribution of Arabic calligraphy in a balanced manner with the decorative elements and cat motifs.
- Use the principles of repetition, symmetry, and balance to give the design an Islamic character.

**4. Stage Four: Integrating Artistic Elements**

- Rework the Arabic calligraphy to complement the decorations, whether by enlarging certain letters or transforming them into decorative elements.
- Use cat art patterns to create the frame or background, while maintaining authenticity in the details.
- Diversify the fonts and colors to highlight visual depth and movement in the composition.

**5. Stage Five: Implementing the Final Design**

- Execute the work using hand tools (such as canvases, acrylic paints, watercolors, ink pens, stencil paper, and gesso paste).
- Review the design and ensure harmony between its elements.



**Image .4** Paintings by students of King Khalid University

**Analysis of some of the technical outputs from the students’ implementation of this research:**

<p><b>Firstwork analysis</b></p>	
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<b>The Aesthetics of Arabic Calligraphy</b>	- The use of a flowing Arabic script for the name "Muhammad" in a spiritually expressive style. - The letters "A, Sh, and Q" at the bottom are in a strong decorative style that showcases the diversity of the calligraphy.
<b>Islamic Ornamentation</b>	- The presence of a geometric decoration (an Islamic star) in the upper corner reflects balance and precision. - The muted colors in the decoration enhance harmony with the other elements.
<b>Colors and Harmony</b>	- The use of traditional colors (red, blue, green, and gold) symbolizes nature and spirituality. - The color distribution is balanced and visually harmonious.
<b>The Art of the Cat</b>	- A clear integration of repetitive geometric patterns inspired by the Asiri al-Qatt art. - Preserving the authentic character and using bright colors.
<b>Design Elements</b>	- Repetition: in decorative shapes and lines for an attractive visual rhythm. - Balance: harmonious coordination between the various elements. - Diversity: combining calligraphy, decoration, and al-Qatt art. - Composition: A visual transition from top to bottom in a sequential manner. - Movement: The eye moves smoothly from the top of the painting to the bottom, thanks to the distribution of elements: from the name "Muhammad" to the decorations, the cat art, and the large calligraphy at the bottom. - Unity: The design's unity is demonstrated through the harmony between the three elements: calligraphy, decoration, and cat art, and the use of unified, culturally relevant colors.
<b>Visual Message</b>	- Expressing cultural identity and pride in Islamic heritage. - Highlighting emotion and spirituality through words such as "Shawq" in a decorative style.
<b>Conclusion</b>	- An integrated artwork that combines authenticity and modernity. - Reflecting a deep understanding of heritage and sustainable design methods.



*Image .5 Paintings by students of King Khalid University*

	<b>Second work analysis</b>	<p><b>Calligraphy:</b> Arabic calligraphy is the main visual axis, intertwined and balanced, used as both a decorative and aesthetic element.</p> <p><b>Shape:</b> The triangular and rhombic shapes at the bottom represent patterns inspired by the Asir al-Qatt art, used as decorative elements.</p> <p><b>Texture:</b> The background, decorated with soft patterns, creates a visual effect that</p>
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	<p><b>Design principles and elements</b></p>	<p><b>suggests texture and enhances the depth of the painting.</b>  <b>Balance:</b> A clear balance between the heavy central line and the lighter decorative elements on the sides. There is also a balance in the distribution of colors between the top and bottom.  <b>Rhythm and Repetition:</b> This is evident in the repetition of geometric motifs at the bottom and on the sides of the painting, creating a harmonious rhythmic unity.  <b>Movement:</b> The line visually progresses from the bottom to the top, creating a sense of movement and spiritual exuberance.  <b>Unity:</b> There is stylistic unity among all elements of the painting, from the calligraphy to the decoration to the colors used.</p>
<p><b>Arabic calligraphy</b></p>	<p>The center of the work features interlaced Thuluth or Diwani Arabic script, in an expressive and fluid style that reflects the depth of meaning. The use of a gradient color from blue to black symbolizes spiritual or emotional ascent.</p>	
<p><b>Background</b></p>	<p>Decorated with very light, soft gray inscriptions resembling Islamic or cloud motifs, they convey a sense of calm and do not distract from the main element.</p>	
<p><b>General composition</b></p>	<p>The composition is centrally vertical, conveying a sense of rectitude and sophistication, with horizontal balance across the decorative elements on the right and bottom sides.</p>	
<p><b>Colors</b></p>	<p>The primary colors are gray, white, black, and gradient blue, with touches of red, yellow, and green in the side motifs, creating a visual harmony of calm and warmth.</p>	
<p><b>General feel</b></p>	<p>The painting suggests serenity and sublimity, thanks to the fluidity of the lines, the gradation of colors, and the ascending shape of the writing. It also expresses a connection to identity and heritage in a sober and contemporary manner.</p>	

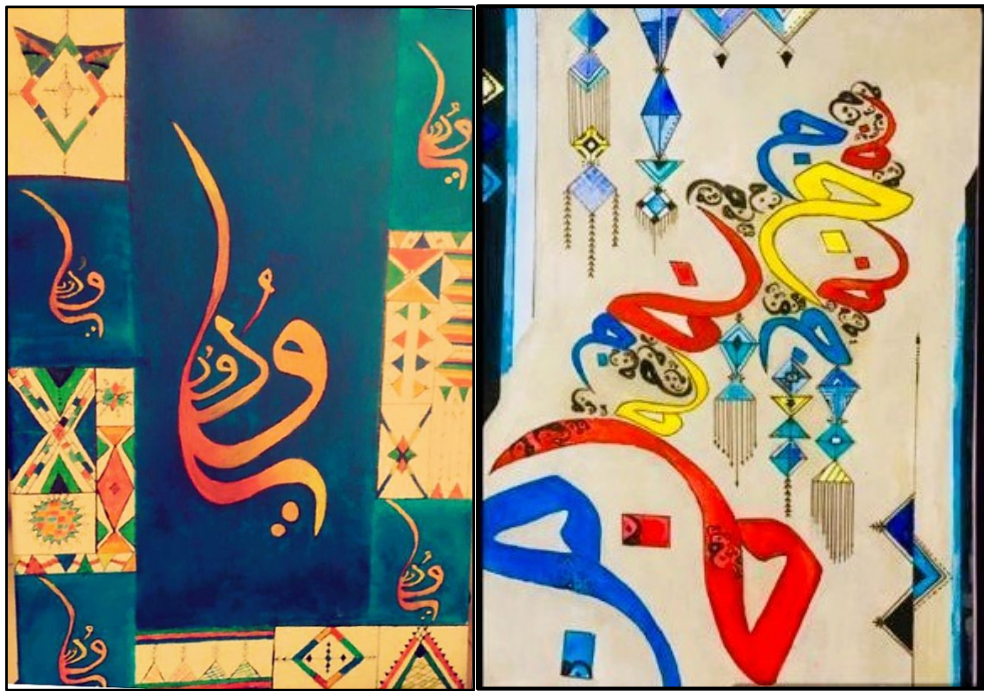


Image 6. Paintings by students of King Khalid University

<p>Analysis of the third work</p>	
<p><b>Element</b></p>	<p><b>Analysis</b></p>
<p><b>Arabic Calligraphy</b></p>	<p>The phrase "Al-Hayy Al-Qayyum" (The Ever-Living, the Sustainer) appears in expressive, free-style calligraphy in the bottom-right section, giving spiritual depth and emphasizing the power of the Arabic language. The letter "Meem" (م) is also displayed decoratively in the top-left corner.</p>
<p><b>Stylistic Diversity</b></p>	<p>The artwork blends different styles: realistic (mosque silhouette), abstract (blended colors), and decorative (geometric patterns on borders), creating a rich and culturally expressive piece.</p>
<p><b>Color Use</b></p>	<p>Bold and vibrant colors (yellow, red, blue, green) dominate the piece, adding energy and visual impact. The strong contrast draws attention to each part.</p>
<p><b>Visual Segmentation</b></p>	<p>The work is divided into multiple rectangular and square sections, each functioning as a mini canvas, contributing to visual variety while maintaining overall balance.</p>
<p><b>Aesthetic Message</b></p>	<p>The piece reflects pride in Islamic heritage (mosque, calligraphy, patterns) infused with modern artistic freedom, showcasing identity, heritage, and creative expression.</p>
<p><b>Design Principle/Element</b></p>	

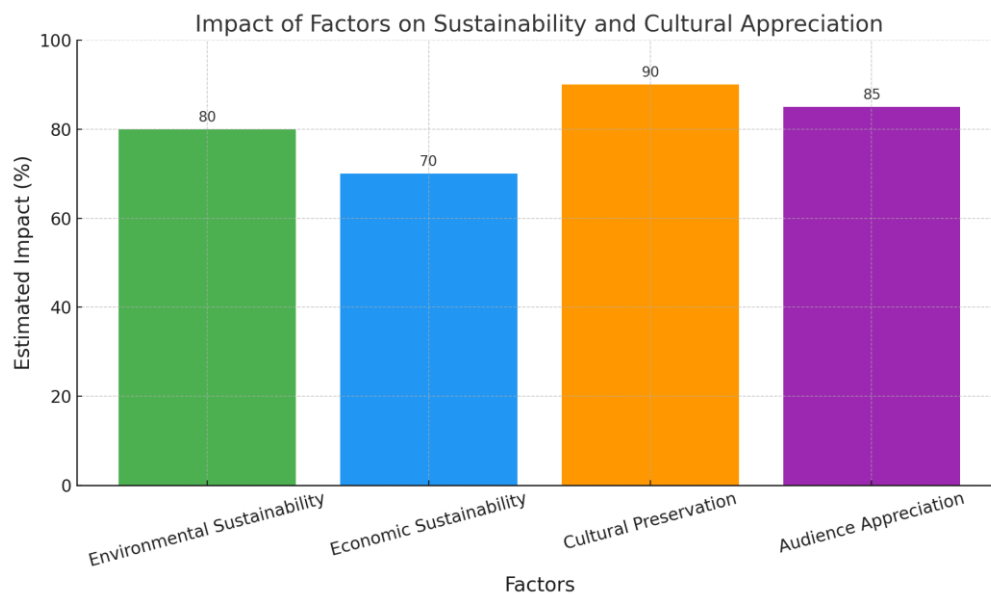
<b>Line (Calligraphy)</b>	Used as a central visual and aesthetic component, especially in "Al-Hayy Al-Qayyum", with expressive curves. The letter "Meem" also acts as a decorative feature.
<b>Shape</b>	Geometric divisions (squares and rectangles) organize the composition and give structure. Each section represents a unique visual narrative.
<b>Texture (Implied)</b>	Some sections—such as the red patterned area and abstract backgrounds—give a sense of visual texture and layered depth.
<b>Balance</b>	Achieved through the distribution of visual weight, colors, and motifs across the entire composition.
<b>Rhythm &amp; Repetition</b>	Visible in recurring motifs and patterns, especially along the borders, creating harmony and flow.
<b>Movement</b>	The eye travels smoothly from one section to another, driven by variety and color contrast, creating dynamic motion.
<b>Unity</b>	Despite varied sections, there's a clear unity in concept—Islamic heritage, color palette, and calligraphic theme.
<b>Proportion &amp; Scale</b>	The elements are proportionately balanced within their sections, avoiding overcrowding and maintaining clarity.

This artwork presents a contemporary vision that celebrates Islamic heritage—through elements like the mosque, Arabic calligraphy, and decorative patterns—while integrating modern artistic styles. It is a balanced fusion of cultural identity and expressive design, demonstrating a strong grasp of visual composition and creative storytelling.

## RESULTS

The exploration of sustainable design within the framework of Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art reveals rich intersections that significantly enhance contemporary creative practices. The findings demonstrate that integrating traditional aesthetic principles and symbolic meanings into modern design significantly contributes to sustainability by promoting the use of locally sourced materials and environmentally friendly techniques. A comprehensive analysis of the experimental design works created during this research showcased that traditional motifs could be articulated in ways that resonate with contemporary environmental goals, thereby elevating the discussion around cultural heritage in design contexts (Saudi E: A Destination U for Entertainment & Culture, 2021). Key findings indicate that participants expressed a heightened appreciation for designs that incorporated these traditional elements, viewing them not only as visually appealing but also as meaningful representations of cultural identity aligned with sustainability (Sakr T, 2023). The audience feedback affirmed the ability of Arabic calligraphic styles and geometric patterns from Islamic ornamentation to evoke emotional responses that highlight environmental mindfulness and the importance of cultural continuity in the face of modernization (Samson A Ajiboye, 2024). This is consistent with previous studies emphasizing the significance of cultural heritage in sustainable design practices, which posited that integrating historic or traditional forms can mitigate the sometimes overwhelming detachment seen in contemporary design (Muhammad A et al., 2024). Comparing these results with existing literature, such as that which discusses the dualities of traditional and modern practices in design, it aligns with arguments that aesthetic value and functionality do not need to be mutually exclusive (Zhofan I et al., 2023). The notion that sustainable design can embody aesthetic principles while contributing socially and environmentally reinforces the ideas posited by thinkers like Bourdieu, who champion the intertwined relationship between art and sociopolitical contexts (Y Bae et al., 2022). The research mirrors findings related to the redefinition of beauty in design as influenced by sustainability, paralleling trends observed in the works of influential artists who evoke community memory and identity within their practices (Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022). The implications of these findings are significant, underscoring the necessity for designers and educators to cultivate an awareness of traditional practices that meaningfully intersect with ecological concerns. This underscores an academic and practical call to rethink design curricula to emphasize sustainability, encouraging future artists to explore cultural storytelling through visual form as a method of fostering environmental responsibility (Almssad A et al., 2022). The work not only enriches the discourse surrounding Islamic arts but serves as a model for integrating cultural heritage into

sustainable frameworks that resonate globally, ensuring the preservation of identity while addressing pressing ecological issues (Alifuddin M et al., 2021).



*The chart presents the estimated impact of key factors on enhancing sustainability and cultural appreciation in contemporary design practices, derived from research into integrating traditional Islamic art elements. Environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, audience appreciation, and economic sustainability are the four measured aspects, with cultural preservation having the highest estimated impact at 90%.*

## DISCUSSION

A multitude of cultural and artistic traditions lays the foundation for examining the integration of Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art into sustainable design practices. Each of these art forms represents a significant historical legacy that offers valuable insights for contemporary design methodologies. Findings from the research indicate that the infusion of decorative patterns from traditional Islamic arts enhances sustainable designs aesthetic appeal, thus contributing to a deeper cultural narrative (Saudi E: A Destination U for Entertainment & Culture, 2021). The results also suggest that Arabic calligraphy, known for its fluidity and beauty, serves as an effective visual element that embodies spiritual and cultural values while promoting environmental awareness (Korban M, 2018). This aligns with previous studies, which highlight the impact of cultural heritage on modern design, revealing how a connection to historical forms can inspire sustainable practices (Samson A Ajiboye, 2024). Comparatively, research on the revival of traditional crafts, including Al-Qatt art, supports the notion that cultural engagement enhances community identity and fosters environmental stewardship (Muhammad A et al., 2024). The significance of these findings lies not only in the aesthetic enhancement they provide but also in their methodological implications for contemporary designers who strive to balance form and sustainability. The work also corroborates earlier studies reflecting a growing recognition of the need for sustainable practices in the arts to address the pressing environmental challenges of our time (Zhofan I et al., 2023). This shift toward sustainability in design is echoed by scholars advocating for a broader application of eco-awareness across artistic disciplines, promoting a more integrated approach to environmental design (Y Bae et al., 2022). Furthermore, the exploration of sustainable material usage within traditional practices, such as the application of natural dyes and biodegradable substrates, highlights the importance of preserving artisanal techniques as part of an ecological strategy (Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022). Engaging with local resources not only enhances the aesthetic qualities of design but also fosters community resilience, thereby reinforcing the crucial role of cultural heritage in sustainable development (Almssad A et al., 2022). Incorporating these artistic traditions into modern design creates opportunities to redefine the relationship between art, culture, and sustainable practices, as seen in initiatives that encourage the revival of Arabic calligraphy in contemporary contexts (Sakr T, 2023). By understanding the intricate connections between local heritage and modern design principles, practitioners can bridge the gap between tradition and innovation, empowering future generations to

engage with their cultural heritage in environmentally responsible ways (Alifuddin M et al., 2021). Ultimately, the integration of Islamic ornamentation and Arabic calligraphy into sustainable design not only enriches the aesthetic landscape but also reinforces cultural identity and advocates for ecological mindfulness (Bozorgi K et al., 2020).

**Table.2 Sustainable Design Elements in Islamic Ornamentation, Arabic Calligraphy, and Cat Art**

Design Element	Description
Islamic Ornamentation	Geometric patterns and arabesques used in Islamic art to create visually appealing and harmonious designs.
Arabic Calligraphy	Artistic writing of Arabic script, often used in architectural elements and decorative arts to convey cultural and spiritual significance.
Cat Art	Depictions of cats in art, symbolizing various cultural meanings and often incorporated into design for aesthetic and symbolic purposes.

## CONCLUSION

A comprehensive analysis of the aesthetic and symbolic dimensions of Islamic ornamentation, Arabic calligraphy, and Al-Qatt art reveals their potential as pivotal resources for enriching sustainable design. The dissertation examined the intricate relationship between these traditional art forms and contemporary design practices, underscoring their roles in promoting environmental sustainability and cultural heritage preservation (Alashari DM, 2022). The research problem was addressed by demonstrating how these artistic elements could be integrated into modern design while maintaining their cultural significance and ecological awareness (Sakr T, 2023). Implications of these findings are manifold; academically, they contribute to the growing discourse on sustainable design by bridging the gap between historical arts and contemporary practices (Samson A Ajiboye, 2024). Practically, they provide designers and artists with frameworks to incorporate rich visual heritages in ways that resonate with modern audiences while respecting environmental principles (Muhammad A et al., 2024). Engaging with the historical context of these artworks enhances comprehension of their value beyond aesthetics, positioning them as instruments of social change and environmental consciousness (Korban M, 2018). Future work should focus on developing educational programs that cultivate skills in integrating traditional art forms within sustainability frameworks, further empowering emerging designers (Zhofan I et al., 2023). This entails conducting workshops and creating collaborative projects that highlight the potential for sustainability in the arts, as demonstrated in practices such as upcycling and adaptive reuse in design (Y Bae et al., 2022). Further research could also explore the broader application of these principles across various artistic disciplines and geographical contexts, fostering global dialogues on cultural identity and ecological sustainability (Saudi E: A Destination U for Entertainment & Culture, 2021). Insights from the dissertation point towards fostering community engagement in preserving cultural heritage through the arts, which supports the principles of social equity and environmental stewardship (Emma K Kjörk et al., 2022). The findings advocate for a cultural revitalization wherein art and design serve not only as decorative mediums but also as vital components in the discourse of sustainability, social justice, and identity (Almssad A et al., 2022). Consequently, integrating teachings of these traditional art forms into design curricula would enhance students' competencies and creativity in addressing contemporary challenges through a culturally informed lens (Alahira J et al., 2024). This approach aligns with the research's broader aim of encouraging designers to approach their work as stewards of culture and the environment, bridging the worlds of tradition and innovation for future generations (Al-Allan M, 2020).

**Table.2 Sustainability Implications of Islamic Geometric Patterns in Contemporary Designs**

Study	Focus	Findings
Ibrahim et al. (2022)	Systematic review of integrating Islamic geometric patterns (IGPs) into modern design	Positive effects on environmental and economic sustainability through IGP implementation; social sustainability received comparatively less attention
Wu (2023)	Impact of Islamic geometric patterns on sustainable design	IGPs contribute to sustainability by minimizing material waste, preserving cultural heritage, and incorporating passive

		design strategies
Al-Mughrabi (2023)	Use of Arabic calligraphy in Islamic interior design	Arabic calligraphy occupies a special place in interior design, reflecting Islamic history and identity, and preserving heritage
Hussein (2016)	Role of Arabic calligraphy in modern interior design	Arabic calligraphy serves as a main feature of decoration, reflecting the power of letters in minimizing the impact on massive scale

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