Geometric Decoration | Geometric Decoration in Ceramic Recipients

‘Naturalistic motifs are increasingly schematised to reach absolute simplicity.’

In ceramics, geometric motifs are often derived from the simplification of naturalistic plant motifs that have become increasingly schematised and geometric over time. This abstraction process can easily be seen in certain plates and bowls with radial geometric plant decoration. The forms develop from originally naturalistic motifs (such as a flower with rounded petals) to reach the absolute simplicity of radial lines that form triangular sections.



Name:
Bowl with radial decoration

Dynasty:
Hegira second half of 3rd century / AD second half of 9th century Abbasid

Details:
Museum of Civilisations | Museum of Oriental Art "Giuseppe Tucci"
Rome, Italy

Justification:
The flower is an ideal motif for decorating bowls. The most naturalistic representations, such as the first, enable it to be recognised in its more schematic manifestations: the ten petals that surround a radial composition, the flower with its two coronas of petals whose alternating colours lend it certain dynamism, and finally the radial lines.



Name:
Glazed bowl

Dynasty:
Hegira 339–90 / AD 950–1000 Umayyad al-Andalus / caliphate period

Details:
Museum of Mértola
Mértola, Beja, Portugal

Justification:
The flower is an ideal motif for decorating bowls. The most naturalistic representations, such as the first, enable it to be recognised in its more schematic manifestations: the ten petals that surround a radial composition, the flower with its two coronas of petals whose alternating colours lend it certain dynamism, and finally the radial lines.



Name:
Glazed bowl

Dynasty:
Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Almoravid or Almohad

Details:
Museum of Mértola
Mértola, Beja, Portugal

Justification:
The flower is an ideal motif for decorating bowls. The most naturalistic representations, such as the first, enable it to be recognised in its more schematic

manifestations: the ten petals that surround a radial composition, the flower with its two coronas of petals whose alternating colours lend it certain dynamism, and finally the radial lines.



Name:
Hemispherical plate

Dynasty:
Hegira 6th–7th century / AD 12th–13th century Almohad

Details:
Silves Municipal Archaeology Museum
Silves, Faro, Portugal

Justification:
The flower is an ideal motif for decorating bowls. The most naturalistic representations, such as the first, enable it to be recognised in its more schematic manifestations: the ten petals that surround a radial composition, the flower with its two coronas of petals whose alternating colours lend it certain dynamism, and finally the radial lines.
