

The Atabegs and Ayyubids | Madrasas and Education

‘Bimaristan Nur al-Din was a treatment centre and medical school equipped with a comprehensive library.’

Hospitals (bimaristans) were important centres for scientific learning. The voyager from al-Andalus, Ibn Jubayr, was amply impressed by the newly built Bimaristan Nur al-Din, which he noted was both a treatment centre and medical school equipped with a comprehensive library; he also describes ‘the ticking water clock’ he saw at the Umayyad Mosque. Abu al-Fadl Muhammad bin ‘Abd al-Karim al-Harithi, known as al-Muhandis, or ‘the Geometer’, was a resident doctor at the hospital as well as being a multi-talented polymath. It was he who designed the geometric woodcarving on the door of the bimaristan and he also repaired the mechanical clock at the Umayyad Mosque.



Name:
Hospital (Bimaristan) Nur al-Din

Dynasty:
Hegira 549 / AD 1154 Atabeg

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
Bimaristans Nur al-Din and al-Qaymari owned comprehensive medical libraries for students.



Name:
Hospital (Bimaristan) Nur al-Din

Dynasty:
Hegira 549 / AD 1154 Atabeg

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
Bimaristan Nur al-Din, view of the main iwan which was used as library.



Name:
Hospital (Bimaristan) Nur al-Din

Dynasty:
Hegira 549 / AD 1154 Atabeg

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
Bimaristan Nur al-Din, the carved wooden door designed by al-Muhandis 'the Geometer'.



Name:
Hospital (Bimaristan) al-Qaymari

Dynasty:
Hegira 646–54 / AD 1248–56 Ayyubid

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:

Bimaristans Nur al-Din and al-Qaymari owned comprehensive medical libraries for students.



Name:

Hospital (Bimaristan) al-Qaymari

Dynasty:

Hegira 646–54 / AD 1248–56 Ayyubid

Details:

Damascus, Syria

Justification:

View of the waterwheel that supplied Bimaristan Qaymari with the water necessary to fulfil its therapeutic function.



Name:

Hospital (Bimaristan) al-Qaymari

Dynasty:

Hegira 646–54 / AD 1248–56 Ayyubid

Details:

Damascus, Syria

Justification:

Bimaristan Qaymari, view of the main iwān which was used as library.
