

Mosaic Foundation 2004-2005 Lecture Series:
**WEST LOOKS EAST: THE INFLUENCES OF
TRADITIONAL ARAB DESIGN ON CONTEMPORARY WESTERN
DESIGNERS**
Arts of Splendor: Islamic Luxury Goods in Renaissance Italy

ART

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February 10, 2005

A WORD FROM THE SPEAKER: Between about 1300 and 1550, manufactured goods imported from various Islamic lands served as models for Italy's developing decorative arts: silk textiles, ceramics, glass, gold-tooled leather, and inlaid brass. The influential imports reflected changes in foreign production centers and international trade routes during this period. Changes in the Italian culture and economy determined the timing and pace of development in the individual Italian crafts. The extended period of the Italian developmental process and its various foreign sources contributed to diversity in the types of objects produced, and in their decoration.

BIOGRAPHY: Rosamund Mack, is an art historian and independent scholar, who has been on the adjunct faculty at Georgetown University and is currently a consultant to the National Gallery of Art. Dr. Mack began her academic career at Mount Holyoke College in Art and Italian and received an MA and PhD from Harvard University in the Fine Arts and Italian Renaissance Art respectively. She spent fourteen years in the Middle East during her husband's Foreign Service assignments. Dr. Mack is the author of the book, *Bazaar to Piazza: Islamic Trade and Italian Art, 1300-1600* and lectures widely in the US, Europe and the Middle East.

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SUGGESTED READINGS:

Ahmad Y. al-Hassan and Donald R. Hill, *Islamic Technology: An Illustrated History* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1986),
Introduction, Chapter 6 on glass and ceramics, and Chapter 7 on textiles, paper, and leather.

Richard A. Goldthwaite, *Wealth and the Demand for Art in Italy, 1300-1600* (Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1993).

Robert Irwin, *Islamic Art in Context: Art, Architecture and the Literary World* (Abrams, New York, 1997),
Chapter 9: Beyond the Frontiers of Islam.

Lisa Jardine, *Worldly Goods: A New History of the Renaissance* (Doubleday, New York, 1996).

Rosamond E. Mack, *Bazaar to Piazza: Islamic Trade and Italian Art, 1300-1600* (University of California Press, Berkeley, 2002).

WEBSITES:

National Gallery of Art (www.nga.gov), to Exhibitions, to Palace and Mosque, to Artistic Exchange (under Other Online Resources).

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery (www.asia.si.edu), to Iraq and China: Ceramics, Trade, and Innovation.