



Blackwork Journey ***Inspirations*** ***Doors***



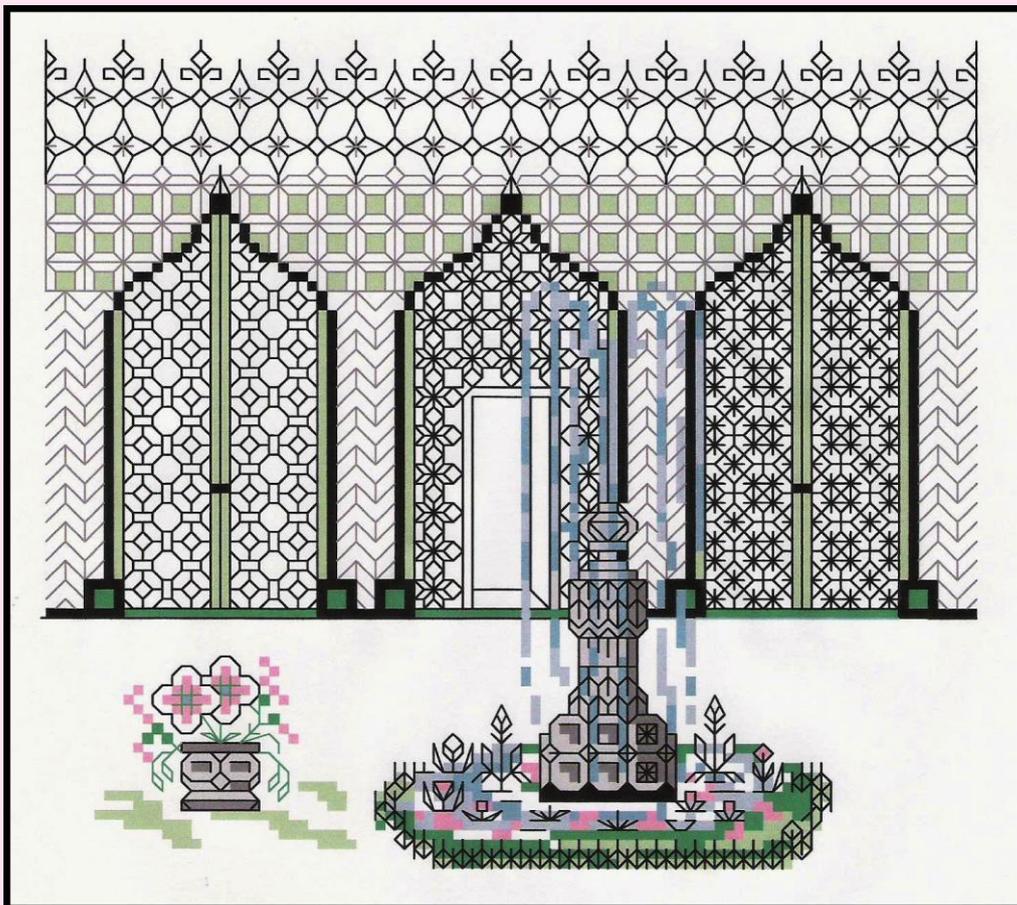
Blackwork Journey Inspirations - Doors

What are doors and Jali?

A door is a movable barrier used to open and close the entrance to a building, room, or cupboard, usually a solid panel hinged to or sliding in a frame. This description understates the significance that a door holds for the individual building. It may be a means of keeping out intruders - heavy, wooden, studded, impressive, or a thing of beauty, inlaid and decorated, painted or carved.

From humble wooden doors in Bahrain to their ornate counterparts, there is a special magic. What do they protect? What secrets lie behind them?

These are all “doors” but create diverse and challenging inspirations for the designer.



CH0099 Arabian Courtyard – jali screens and doorway opening onto the courtyard

What are jali?

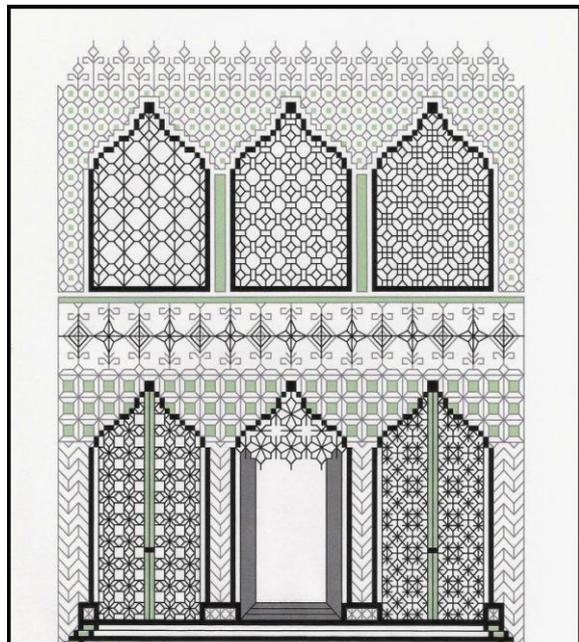
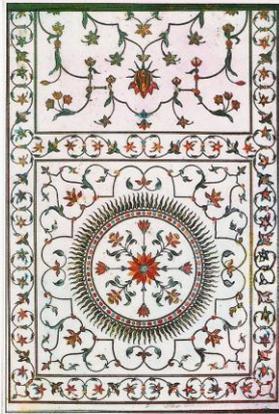
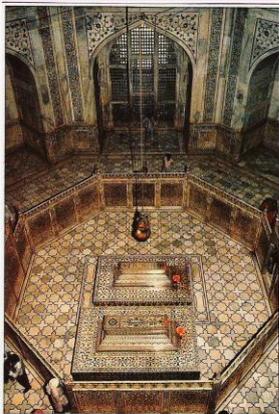
A jali or jaali, (Hindi:जाल) is the term for a perforated stone or latticed screen, usually with an ornamental pattern constructed through the use of calligraphy and geometry. This form of architectural decoration is found in Indian architecture, Indo-Islamic Architecture and Islamic Architecture.

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Early jali work was built by carving into stone, while later by the Mughals who employed the technique of inlay, using marble and semi-precious stones



Ornate doors, inlaid tombs and carved jali from the Taj Mahal, India



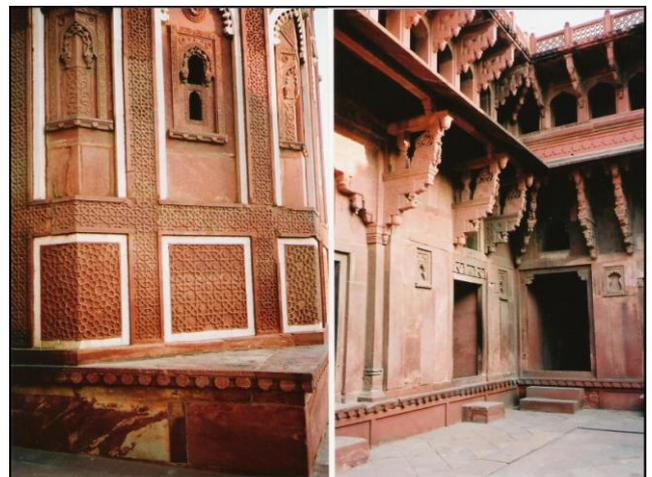
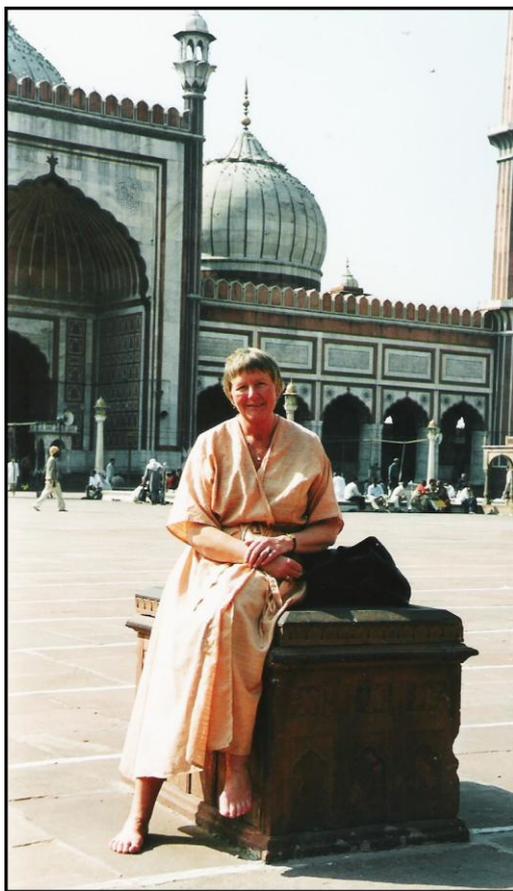
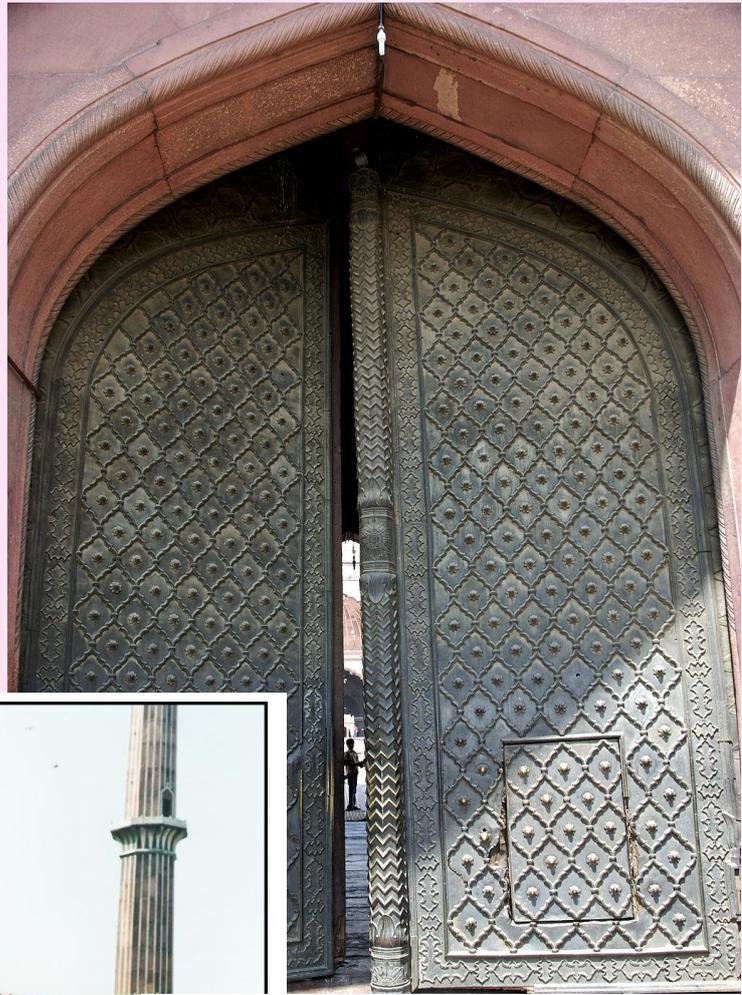
CH0111 Eastern Magic uses geometric motifs to create the design.

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The large Iron door of the main entrance of the Jama Masjid Mosque, Delhi has a smaller door set within it to allow access when the main door is closed. Look through to door to find?

Similar doors can be found through the Middle East and Asia. Whilst they are functional they are also skilfully crafted.

Doors from important buildings in Europe can also display the same craftsmanship and beauty! They can be used as a source of design and adapted in so many ways for the embroiderer to use.



The arches and doors of the Jama Masjid Mosque and the Red Fort, Agra were ornate and large, designed to impress anyone who entered!

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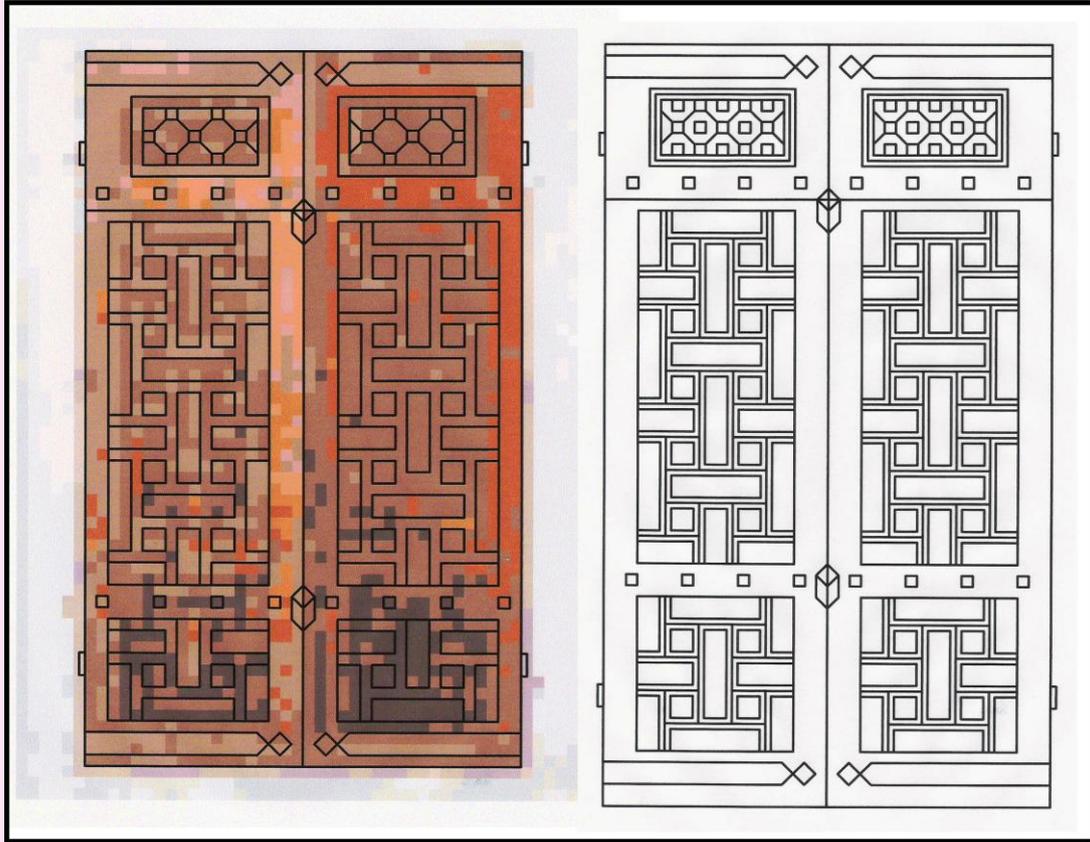


Ornate inlaid doors from the Topkapi Palace, Istanbul contrast with the simple wooden door from the New Mosque, Istanbul

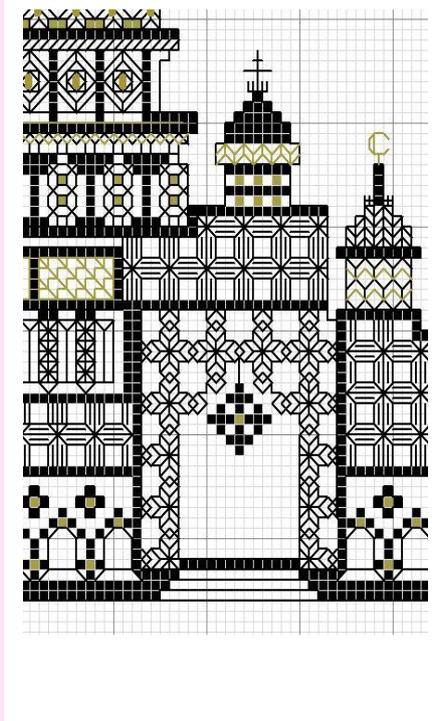
My blackwork door is based on a door in the New Mosque, Istanbul. It was constructed in golden brown wood with simple carved geometric patterns and covered by a turquoise leather

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door curtain. Whilst it was one of many designed to protect the mosque from the bustle of the city it retained a quiet strength and charm.



The door from the New Mosque, Istanbul was a blackwork design waiting to be discovered! Contrast this with the gilded, ornate doors of the Harem in the Topkapi Palace which performed the same role of keeping the world at bay and its residents contained, but were works of art created by highly skilled artisans using a number of different mediums.

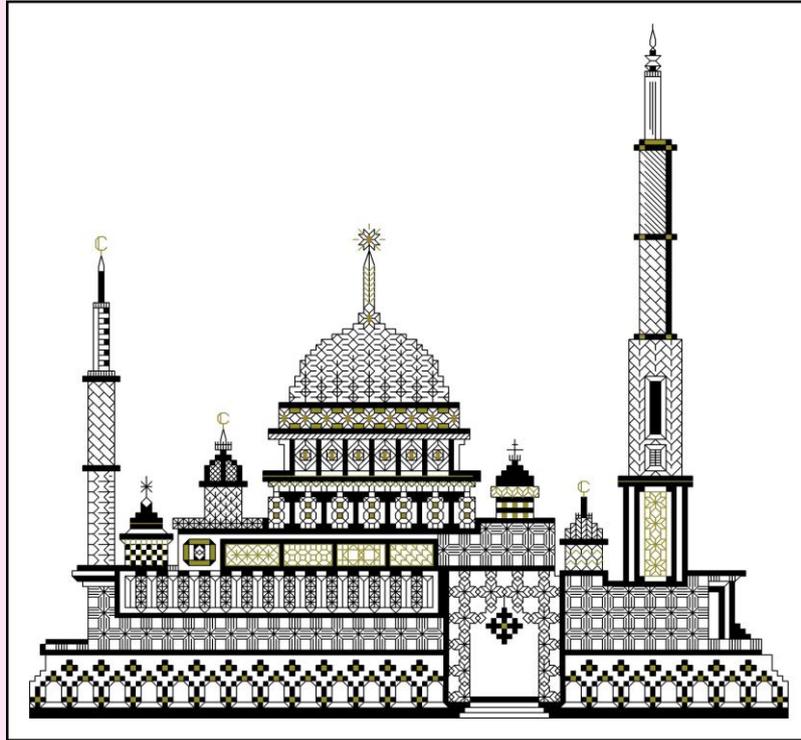


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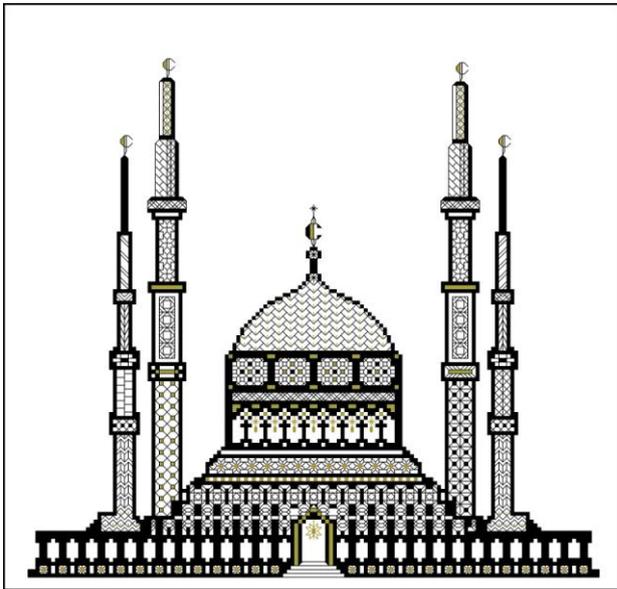


Look through the doorways of Abu Dhabi to see what lies beyond?

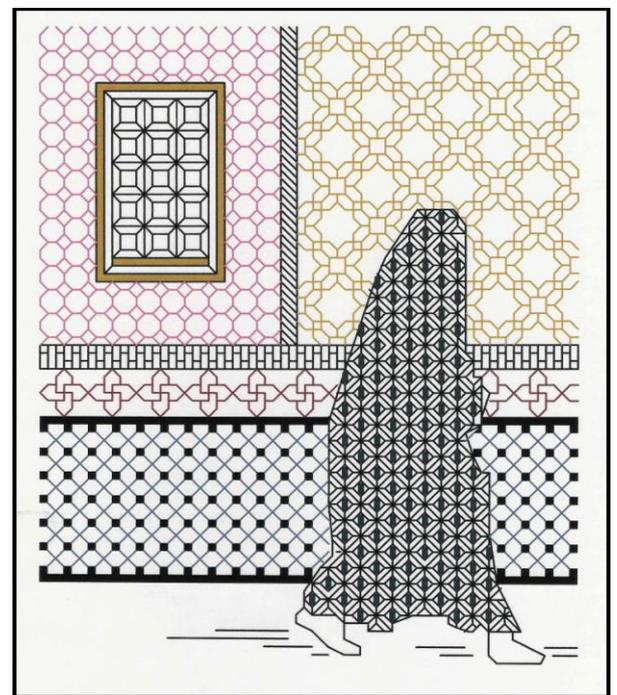
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CH0162 Friday Mosque and CH0165 Blue Mosque are inspired by the architecture of India and the Middle East



CH0081 'Woman in Black' walking past a mosque led to an embroidery in black and in colour.



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I was fascinated by a fire damaged building in Doha where the walls had been stripped of their covering and the doorway opened onto chaos. It could be used as a basis for a black and white piece. A door does not have to be beautiful to be a source of inspiration!



Look at your doors and see what you can discover for your inspiration!

Liz