Plates LXXVI to XCIV
PANELLING
Ensembles and Details

Cathedral Mosque of Qus. Details of Panelling of the Minbar (Pl. LXXVI to LXXXII).—These pieces belong to the backrest, façade and uprights of the chair crowning the minbar of Qus, as well as different parts of this pulpit; they represent very pure fragments of this handsome piece of furniture.

Although not one of the monuments of Cairo, the Mosque of Qus has been considered by us as a monument of this city. It was built in effect under the inspiration of Arabic civilization, particular to this city.

Moristan Hospital (Pl. LXXXIII and LXXXIV).—The beams represented in Plate LXXXIII are from a small room off the women's ward. These fragments were not visible because they were flush with the ceiling, which is very high; in order to draw and stamp them, we took advantage of building repairs undertaken at the time, placing them within our reach. They offer the same type of decoration as certain panels of the entrance door to the courtyard of this edifice and to one of the sick wards.

The Moristan Hospital is a most curious edifice which has never been reproduced with the care it deserves.

We will only draw attention to the median part of the panels of sculptures on the large inner door (Pl. LXXXV); the carving here is on a level just above the frame, while the rest is deeply carved so as to stand out, light against a dark background, and thereby enhance the effect of the sculptures.

Minbar of the Mosque of Qasr (Pl. LXXXV to LXXXVIII).—Minbars are always in the shape of staircases, as prove those of the Mosque of Qaytbay (Pl. LXXXIX) and the Mosque of Qus. A side of this one has been extended to make a regular surface of it. These fragments show the backrest and the façade of the pulpit set atop the minbar.

Mosque of Tulai’ Abu Rizk. Details of the Minbar (Pl. XC to XCI).—This minbar, dating from the same period as that of the Mosque of Qus and built under the orders of the same ruler, the governor of Thebaïd at the time, is not the work of the same sculptor. The work is equally fine, but different, with a more sculptural effect. The arabesques of Qus more closely resemble point lace and appear somewhat inspired by the Alhambra.

The workmanship of the arabesques of one portion of the grille of the maqsura offers a particularity in that it was largely made following the whim of the chisel, without a preliminary sketch or, at the very least, without a regular and mathematical design. This is not very noticeable in the carving because the design has had to be regularised since, in order to be followed; so worm-eaten was the original that the grain of the sycamore wood showed as much as the arabesques.

Tomb of Sultan al-Ghuri. Leaves and Cupboard Frames (Pl. XCIi).—We have provided quite a large number of plates which, although all very interesting as examples of ornamentation, could perhaps seem uniform in colour. We have hence thought it necessary to give this one a different hue, in the double aim of relieving monotony and of providing a new example of what can be achieved with this ornamentation, simply by varying colours.
CATHEDRAL MOSQUE OF QUS
Minbar, Section and Details (12th century)
CATHEDRAL MOSQUE OF QUS
Decorative Sections of the Minbar (12th century)
CATHEDRAL MOSQUE OF QUS
Minbar, Details of the Woodwork (12th century)
CATHEDRAL MOSQUE OF QUS
Door of the Minbar (12th century)