

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL STUDY OF THE VAULTS AT CENTRAL AND EASTERN MAGHREB DURING THE ISLAMIC ERA

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ABSTRACT

Vaults are fundamental architectural systems used to provide to span the space between walls, piers, or other supports and to create a ceiling of a room or other enclosed space. They are characterized by their simplicity in design and in construction materials. Several research studies are interested to the Arab-Islamic cities from their monumental, architectural and urban point of view without addressing the topic of the vault. This article deals with the importance of vaults as a part of the urban fabric of Islamic Arab towns and mutual influence between the different Islamic periods. The purpose of the establishment of vaults and their utility in the social connectivity and communication between neighborhoods is also discussed.

KEYWORDS: Vault, Arch, Archaeology, Architectur, Andalusia