

Art History 331  
Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia  
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The origins and concept of a "mudéjar" style: the Church of Santa Cruz (El Cristo de la Luz) (former Visigothic church, turned mosque of bab al-Mardum), c. 1000 & c. 1220, Toledo

A working definition of "mudéjar"

Muslim craftsmen, as well as Christians and Jews who had worked under Muslim power, now working under Christian control, at a time when Islamic culture and power was no longer a "threat, and there was a relaxation of Christian cultural "defensiveness"

Questions

1. How do the **seven comparative images** from earlier course material provide a plausible "visual context" for this building?
2. In what way(s) do the resulting "visual composition" and "meaning" of the church of "El Cristo de la Luz" parallel those of the Great Mosque of Córdoba?
3. How does the church flesh out this statement by David Raizman ("The Church of Santa Cruz and the Beginnings of Mudejar Architecture in Toledo," *Gesta* 38 (1999), 138): "This unique and hybrid architecture emerged not at the moment of conquest but more than a century later, when political and economic circumstances were more favorable to building, and when the incorporation or integration of Islamic forms could be seen as the visible counterpart to the image of a cosmopolitan Christian capital."