Pattern Research Project: An Investigation of The Pattern And Printing Process - Moorish Revival

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Moorish Revival
HISTORY OF THE ALTRIA

The Altria Theater, originally known as the ACCA Temple Shrine, was built and used by the Shriners for the first 15 years of the theater's lifespan. The name was changed to the Mosque Theater when the city of Richmond bought it in the 1940s. In 2014, a renovation took place to restore the building to its original glamour. Wilson Butler Architects and Evergreene Architectural Arts were in charge of the renovation. When it reopened, its name was changed to the Altria Theater. As the suburbs became more popular, the theater lost its appeal. The transformation of the theater was an attempt to attract people back into the city by using the arts.

DISCOVERIES

While researching, I realized that this pattern in particular was not going to yield very much specific information. I dug into the history of the Altria, and I found information that lead to the research of Moorish vegetative designs. I was able to learn about how the pattern was originally installed by learning how it was restored. By digging into the history of all the pieces that make up the Altria, I was able to find out so much more about my pattern.

MOORISH REVIVAL

Moorish design and architecture is a branch off of Islamic design. From Moorish design comes several different motifs. Examples include, arches, calligraphy, decorative tiles, and vegetative design. The Moors were a group that originated in North Africa. After conquering the Iberian Peninsula in the 700s, they controlled Spain, France, and Portugal for many centuries.

Mosques are the most common structure in Moorish architecture. Patterns were used to adorn buildings, textiles, and manuscripts. Vegetal patterns in particular draw from the traditions of ancient Byzantine culture. This family of design was not fully developed until the medieval period.

CRAFT

The vegetative pattern is painted onto a plastered wall. During restoration there were surface cleaning, filling, inpainting, and loss compensation that all had to be dealt with. Someone would have used a stencil to paint this pattern onto a column.

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