

Mosaics

Origins and development



Latin word “musàicus” - Muse

muses were
worshiped in
caves

2nd century
spread of
multicoloured
tesseras

MOSAIC

7th century
spread in
Greece and in
Asia Minor

Second half of
the 1st century
use of molten
glass tesseras

4th and 5th
centuries:
decoration of
floors and walls
with black and
white tesseras

The presence of
large floors with
polychrome
mosaics in the
Middle Ages

Preparation in thin plates adding
coloured pigment to the glass



Cut by hand

Technique of Molten Glass



Subsequently
the tesseras in
gold background

Interposition on a thin
gold layer



Pressed onto fresh plaster



Different
sizes

← *Tesseras* →

Applied onto
covered
drawing



Slightly distant one from the
other

- 10^o century - The Normans, settled in present Normandy

- 11^o century – The Normans arrive in southern Italy

- Foundation of Anversa

- Altavilla family conquers southern Italy



- 1088 - Roger II founded the Reign of Sicily

- Replacement of ancient clothes with luxurious clothes of Byzantine's kings.



Crowning of Roger II

- Roger II receives the crown of Sicily from Jesus
- Roger II - byzantine and regal clothes



- The traditional iconography of the Norman king is abandoned
- Bayeux tapestry witnesses the synthesis between Northern European and Latin populations



- Cooperation between Arab and Byzantine workmen

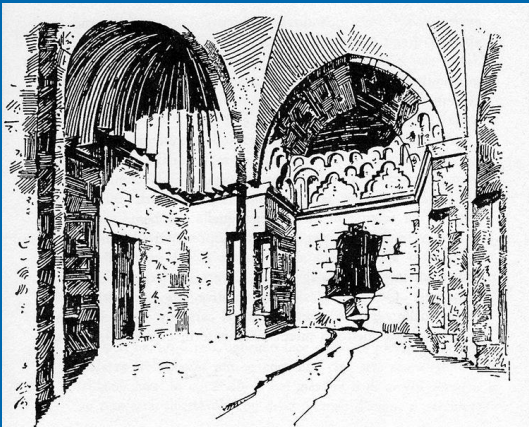


Geometric forms



Iconographic representations

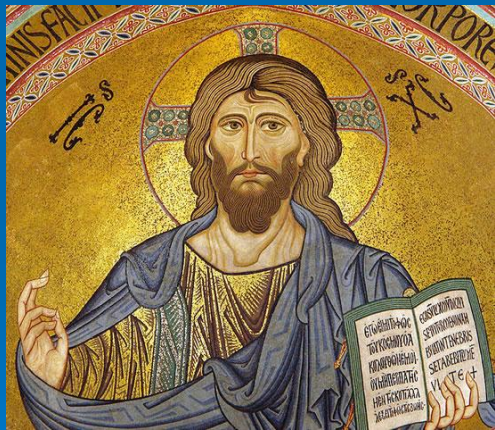




*Ivan o Camera dello scirocco
del Palazzo dello Scibene, 1130
1154, Palermo*



*San Giovanni degli Eremiti,
1136, Palermo*



*Cristo Pantocratore del
Duomo di Cefalù, seconda
metà del XII sec.*



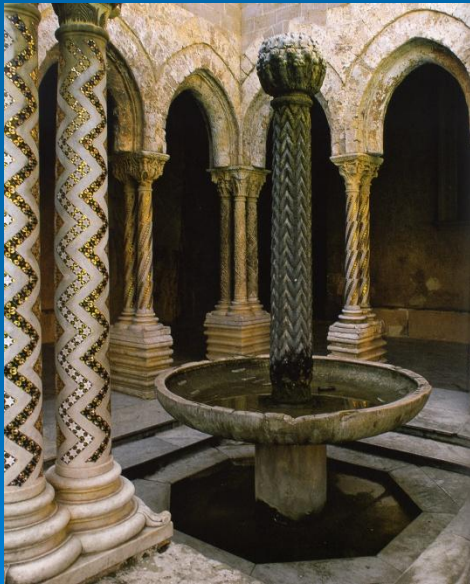
Castello della Zisa, 1165, Palermo.



*Soffitto della Chiesa di S.
Cataldo*



*Decorazione a muqarnas della
Cuba*



*Fontana del Chiostro di
Monreale*



*Abside della Cattedrale
di Palermo*

- Male clothing – classical and eastern characteristics

- Female clothing - jewelled and golden veil; clerical tunic



Jacob's departure, particolare dei mosaici del Duomo di Monreale, seconda metà del XII sec.

- Byzantine characteristics:
tunic with jewelled decorations
short on knees



- The Virgin – large and gold mantle; tunic with snug sleeves and cuffs adorned with golden embroidery

- Giorgio Antiocheo – gold hemmed tunic; golden mantle made of silk

