

INTERIOR - HANDMADE - MADE TO LAST - LIVING - REINVENT - OLD CARIO

# THE OLD CAIRO



## Architectural Heritage

Historic structures feature mashrabiya—projecting wooden lattice screens that filter light, ensure ventilation, and allow discreet views while preserving seclusion. High ceilings, thick stone walls, marble floors, and central courtyards act as natural climate regulators, trapping cool night air and expelling heat through strategic vents. Mosques like the Alabaster Mosque showcase vast domes (up to 21 meters wide) with intricate marble inlays, stained glass, and pendentives transitioning square plans to circular vaults.



## Interior Design Elements

Coptic churches display geometric patterns, vegetal motifs, and saint imagery on limestone and wood, influencing later Islamic non-figural ornamentation. Mamluk mausoleums boast bronze doors with repoussé geometric designs and mihrabs of precise colored marble calligraphy. Residential spaces in areas like al-Darb al-Ahmar reveal artisan workshops producing brass lanterns, silk carpets, and bookbinding in vibrant, textured interiors.



## Byhand African Artisans

Byhand African Artisans ([www.byhandafricanartisans.com](http://www.byhandafricanartisans.com)) collaborates with Egyptian and African craftspeople to create handmade “slow design” products from materials like alabaster, clay, copper, salt, and embroidered wool, preserving age-old techniques. They foster dialogue between modern design and traditional artisanship, ensuring each unique piece reflects human variation and pride in quality. Operating through endless iteration—from concept sketches to perfected harmony—their work connects global markets to authentic heritage crafts















## **The People**

The heart of BYHAA lies in the hands of people rebuilding their lives through craft. Many of our artisans are refugees and individuals from marginalized communities who carry skills in carving, weaving, dyeing, and metalwork that are passed down through generations. Through close, long-term collaboration, we support each artisan as a person first – valuing their story, their pace, and their creative voice.

We work with artisan families, urban refugees, and community-based cooperatives to ensure dignified income, fair conditions, and space for individual expression. In this way, each piece becomes more than a product; it is a testament to resilience, belonging, and the power of human craftsmanship.



byhand  
AFRICAN ARTISANS

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