

Geometric Patterns and Rhythm of Qawwali

TFJ-BNU Thesis 2020

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Abstract:

- Music is a set of sounds arranged in a way that is pleasant to the ears. It engages our auditory senses and sometimes puts us in a trance, soothes us or fills us up with energy. Music fuels our emotions and creates harmony within us. It affects our soul. At times, it expresses things that we cannot verbally express. I started with different types of music, which led me to discover Qawwali in depth.
- In the present time, Qawwali has undergone modernization in its overall structure and the instruments accompanying it. It is rarely present in the original pure form. With the passage of time, this has somehow lead to people getting distance from it. Thus the main idea behind my thesis topic is an attempt to identity and bring to light original essence of Qawwali.

Qawwali

- Qawwali is a style of Sufi devotional music marked by rhythmic improvisatory repetition of a short phrase, intended to arouse a state of mystical ecstasy.
- Qawwali is a celebration of love and is mostly performed in Urdu, Punjabi, Persian, Hindi, Farsi and Bengali.

Introduction:

The History, Art and Practice of Qawwali:

- By the 12th and the 13th century Qawwali in its various forms was being practiced all over the world. At that time, a disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, Amir Khusrau (R.A), a musician, a musicologist, a poet, a literary figure of a worrier, a politician, decided to make Qawwali a proper form of music poetry, spiritualism and philosophy. He established some rules, regulations and guidelines for the performance, practice and listening of Qawwali. He is the one who established it as a proper genre of music poetry and a vehicle for philosophical and literary thought. He formed Khusrawi Qawwali, which survived for 800 years.



Mind maps

- Qawwali popular in Punjab, Sindh, Hyderabad, Delhi, India, Pakistan, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions of Bangladesh.

Dalghas Shrines
originally

20th century ← International Audience ← Performance

creating Qawwali we know today

Qawwali is derived from the word Paul.

Qawl → utterance of the Prophet.

Sama → Turkey

Central Asia

Origin of Qawwali

First Qawwali by Amir Khusro (13th Century)

He is a musician, Politician, and philosopher who mixed elements from Turkey, Persia and India, in the creation of a new music.

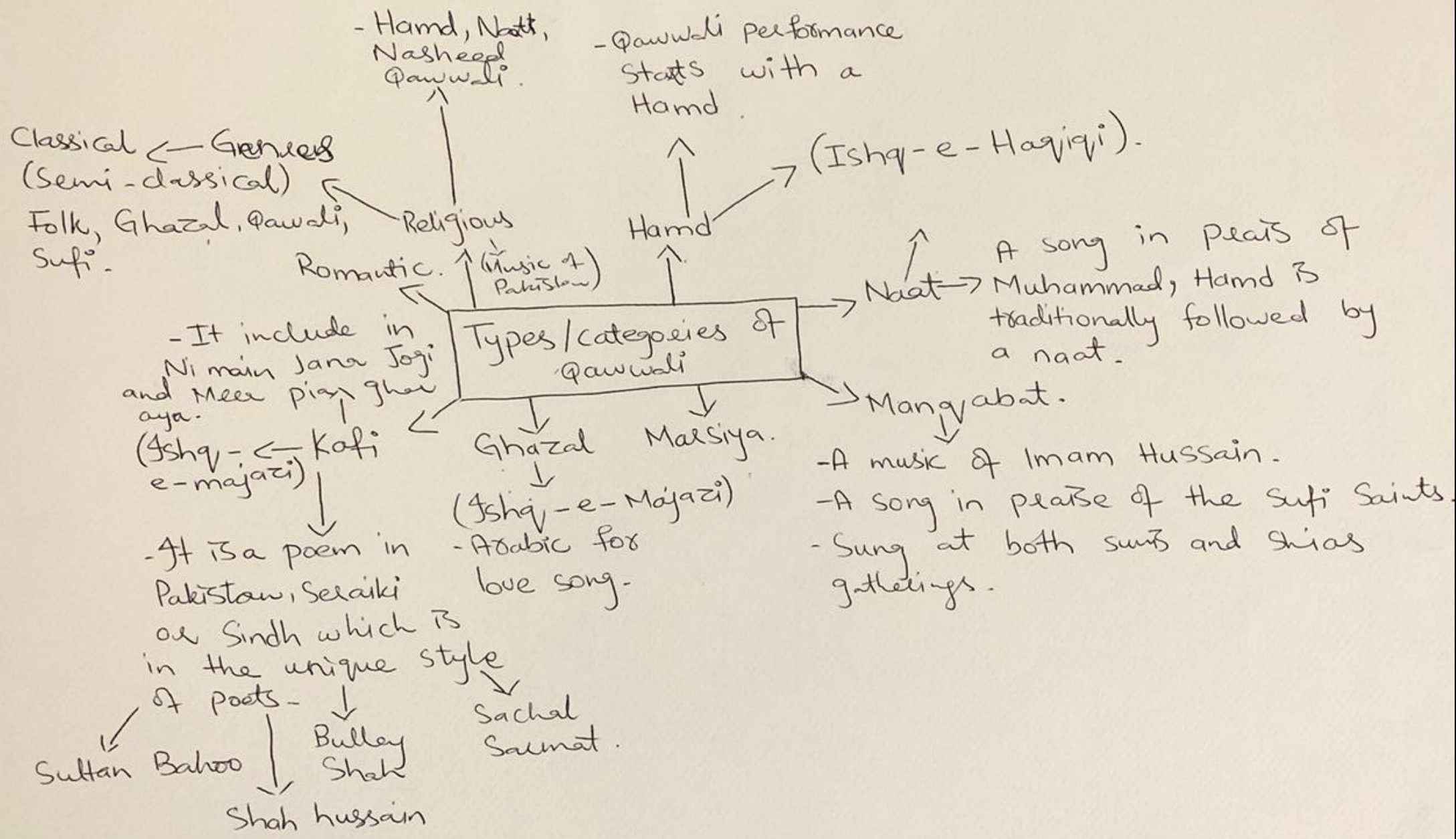
(Performance) efforts of

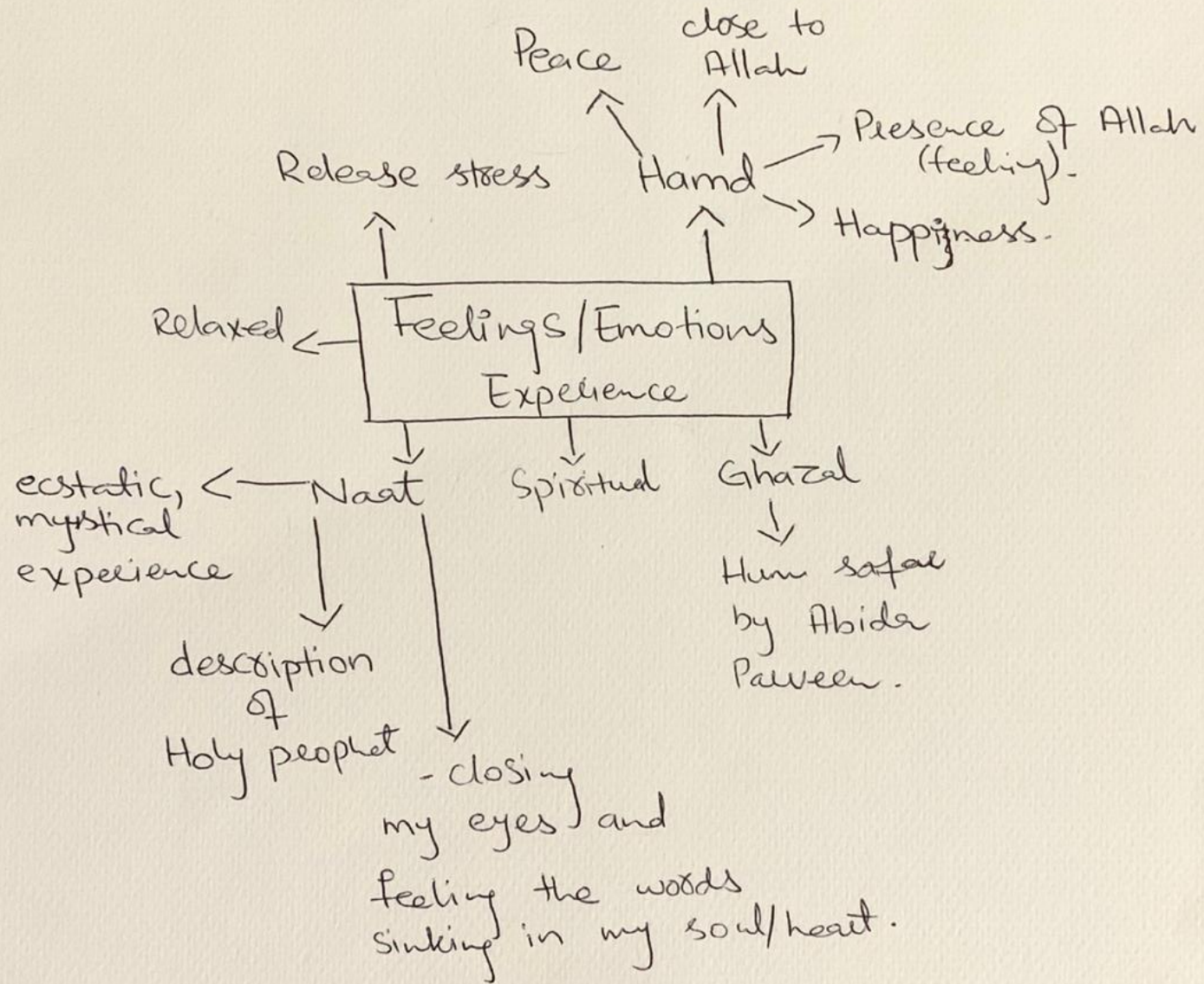
- Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.
- Sabri Brothers
- Aziz Mian. etc.

other names

Mehfil → Bangladesh
Sama → Pakistan
India (Qawwali what is sung).

Root work → Qawwali what is sung.
Paul utterance of the Prophet.
Someone who often repeats or sings.





Introduction:

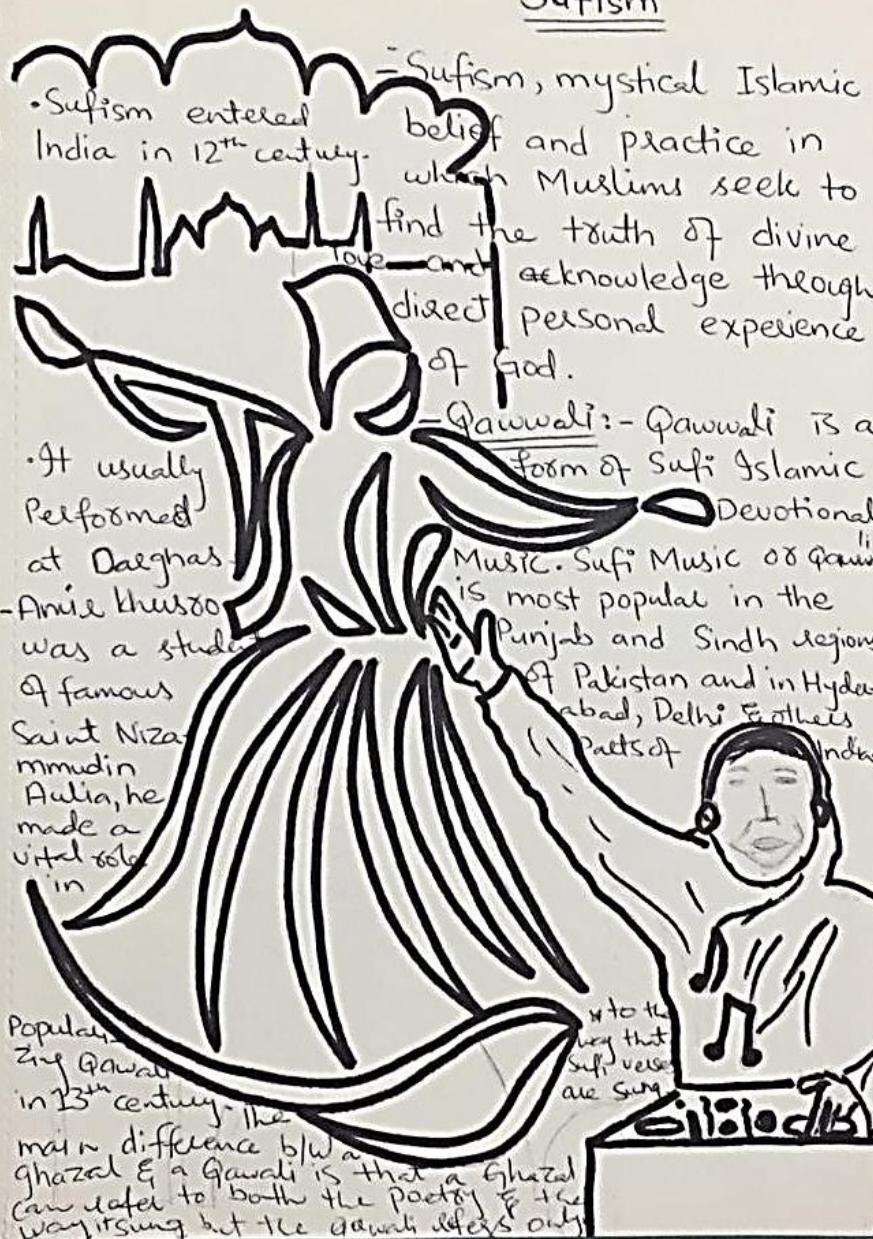
Sufism

- Sufism, mystical Islamic belief and practice in which Muslims seek to find the truth of divine love and acknowledge through direct personal experience of God.

- Qawwali: - Qawwali is a form of Sufi Islamic Devotional Music. Sufi Music or Qawwali is most popular in the Punjab and Sindh regions of Pakistan and in Hyderabad, Delhi & other parts of India.

- It usually performed at Darghas.

- Amir Khusro was a student of famous Saint Nizamuddin Auliya, he made a vital role in popularizing Qawwali in 13th century. The main difference b/w a ghazal & a Qawali is that a Ghazal can refer to both the poetry & the way it's sung but the Qawali refers only to the way that Sufi verses are sung.



Aspects of Qawwali

- Qawwal.
- Instruments. (Tabla, Harmonium, Sitar etc).
- Lyrics.
- Sur, Raag and Taal.
- Mystical feelings.
- Perception of Qawwali.

Qawwal

- Performers of Qawwali.



- Qawwal street in Karachi.



Qawwali Instruments



Lyrics



Musicians etc. Who formalized Qawwali. He defined the requirements and rule for the performance of Qawwali.

He was a musicologist, a poet, a politician, decided to make Qawwali a proper form of music. Poetry, spirituality and philosophy.



- This شعر means, that no matter how good you look, No matter how much you learn, no matter how much you achieve.

اپ نکلے سب چھینی
Tee ka os be
Bindya. Sa
اپ نکلے سب چھینی
نہ نیاں ملا نکلے
looks, eyes.

چھا نکلے سب چھینی
سر سے پیار زلا نکلے

700adlv dhande
o means
Complaint to God

تم ایک گورکھ دھندرا ہو
کبھی یہاں تمہیں ڈھونڈا، کبھی میاں پنپیا
قہاری دید کی خاطر کہاں کہاں پنپیا



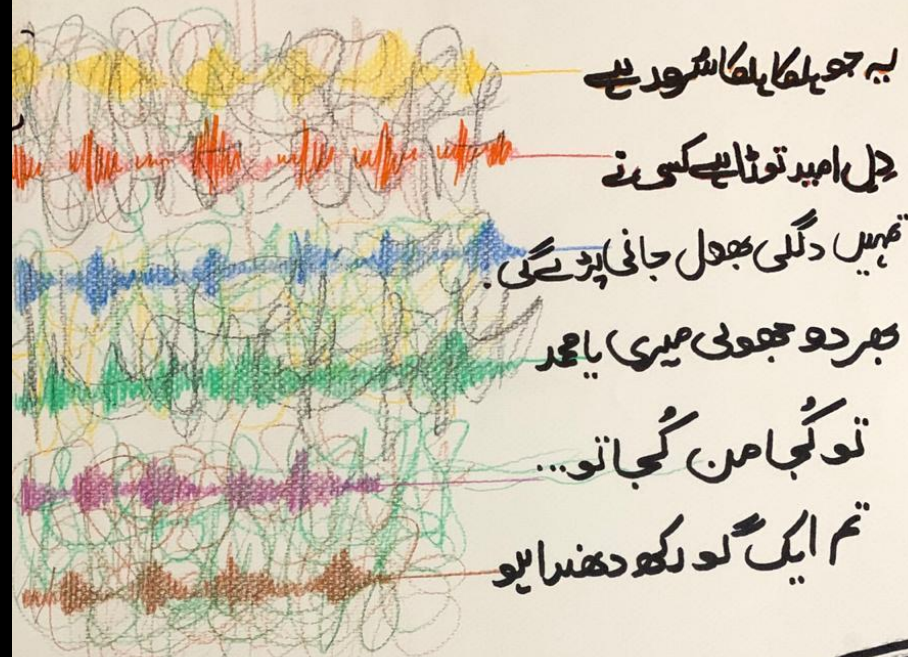
- Inspired by an artist Nadia - ANNE RICKETTS The weaving Artist.

- Translating Music Into Textiles with Besten woven -

- Sound intensity how it up and high -



→ Harmonium



یہ جو ہلکا ہلکا شور ہے

دل امید تو ٹالے کسی نے

تمہیں دگلی بھول جانی پڑے گی

بہر دو جھوٹی میری یا محمد

تو کجا من گجا تو...

تم ایک گورکھ دھندرا ہو

- Qawwali/Sufi music.

- It helps in relieving past repressing feelings. Qawwali and kalam provide help me to find peace and

organise my thoughts.

Colors like yellow,

orange and

green have

soothing affect on my mind.

- Sufi music - Qawwali Kalam and poets

has a certain consistency in it. I

have isolated their

rhythm and made it

visual using thread or embroidery

Sur, Raag and Taal

SUR

FREQUENCY

One Mutual Frequency
One Upper & One Lower of Frequency
One Natural & One Higher Frequency

SUR

FREQUENCY

One Mutual Frequency
One Upper & One Lower of Frequency
One Natural & One Higher Frequency

SUR

INDIAN NAME	PAKISTANI NAME	WESTERN EQUIVALENT
Makha	Khajur	D5
Bahar	Bahar	E4
Gandhar	Gandhar	F4
Madhya	Madhya	F#4
Pancham	Pancham	G4
Dhaivat	Dhaivat	A4
Nishad	Nishad	B4

TEENTAAL

AAVARDI

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Na	Dhin	Dhin	Na	Na	Dhin	Dhin	Na	Na	Tin	Tin	Na	Na	Dhin	Dhin
٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤

VIBHAG

TAALI

KHAALI

TAALI

QAWWALI TAAL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
DHIN	DHIN	DHA	DHA	TIN	TIN	DHA	DHA
٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤

TAAL

Sum

Taali

Khaali

Aavardi

Vibhag

First Beat in the Rhythmic Cycle

Beat with Stress

Beat with Negation of Stress

One Rhythmic Cycle

Division Within Aavardi

TEENTAAL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Tin	Dhin	Na	Na	Dhin	Dhin	Na	Na	Tin	Tin	Na	Na	Dhin	Dhin	Na	Na
٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤

THE ALPHABET OF TABLA

MAJOR SYLLABLES

KA	DHA	TIN	DHIN	TI	DHI	TU	KA	GA	TI	DHI	TAKA
ک	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	٤	ک	ک	٤	٤	٤

Teentaal: The most major time cycles in hindustani

Qawwali is always performed in adherence to the rules of raag and taal.

Raag: A sequence of musical notes upon which a melody is constructed, subject to certain rules.

Taal: Rhythmic time cycle. It is the time of cycle counted in beats.

Mystical feelings

- Ecstasy.
- Joy.
- Tranquility
- Peace.
- Trance.



Students perception of Qawwali

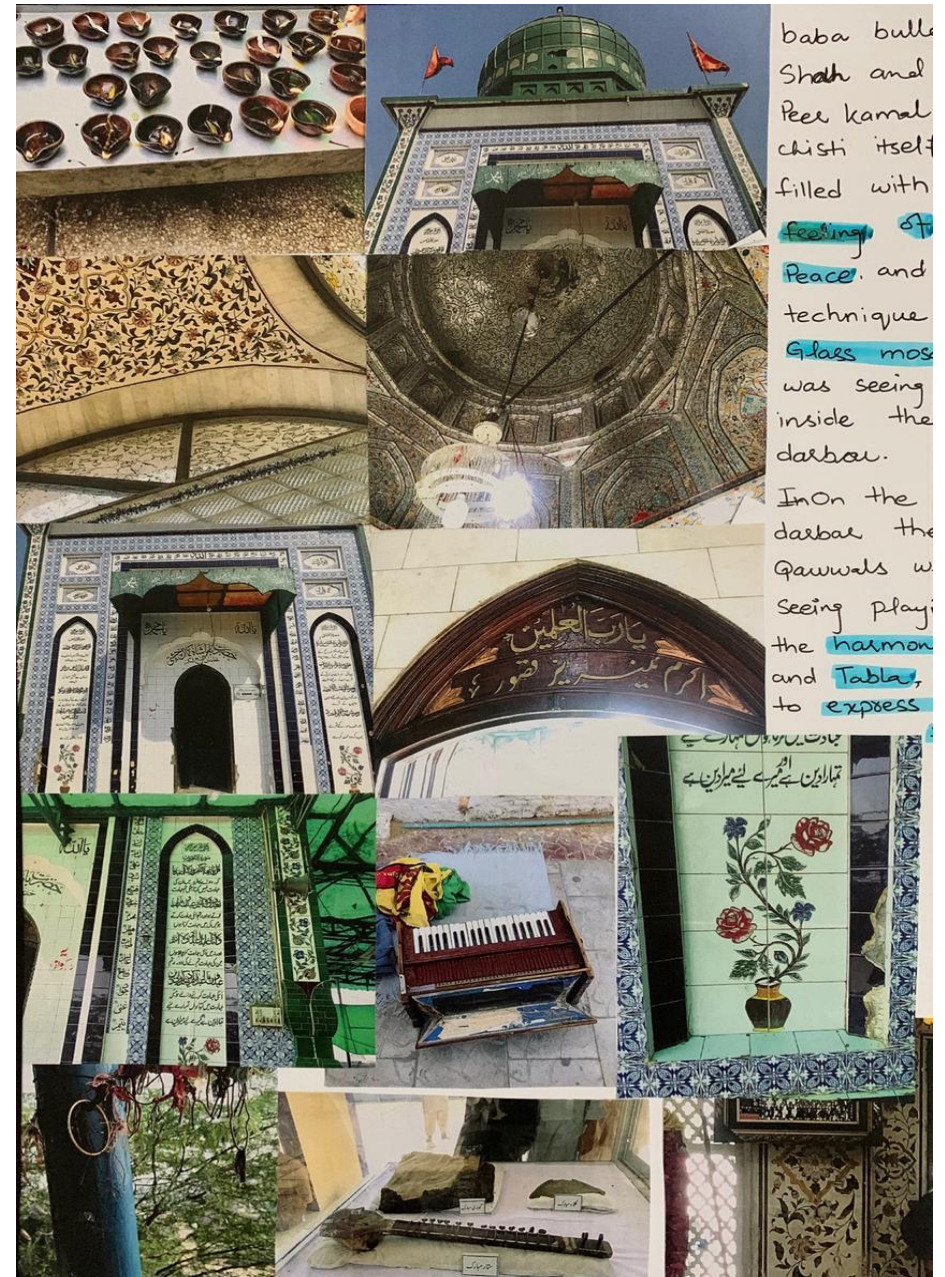


- I went to various people around campus and asked them to paint on a canvas while listening to Qawwali.



Darbar visited

- Baba Bulleh Shah.
- Syed Peer Kamal Chishti.
- Mian Meer.
- Data Darbar.
- Bibi Pak Damna.



Interview Questions:

- If a person uses non-traditional instruments to convey the same message of a Qawwali, would his music be considered a Qawwali since music in a Qawwali exists only to emphasize the words?
- There is a tradition of giving “Nazar” which refers to making small devotional gifts including money. Is it necessary? If so then why is it necessary? Where do these gifts go?
- Women can perform Sufiana Kalam but not Qawwali in particular, only men can do that. Is this true? And if it is, then what is the reasoning behind this?
- Why is the length of Qawwali so long? Some of them reach up to 30 minutes. Why is this?
- Qawwali is traditionally performed in Mehfiles with the audience sitting on the ground as it is believed to bring them closer to God, why is this? And what about the more famous Qawwal like Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan who performed for huge gathering, are those Qawwals going against the tradition of Qawwali?

- People who are not particularly religious or don't even practice Islam are also drawn towards Sufism and Qawwali in particular, what is the reason for this?
- What is the difference between *Shayeri* (poetry) and Kalam?
- Do you believe that the talent and words that a Sufi poet uses are a gift from Allah or is this something that one can learn?
- Many other genres of music have been modernized but not Qawwali, what is the reason for this? Do you think Qawwali needs modernization? If it is modernized, can it still be called Qawwali?
- Does Kalam have an effect on the verses of Sufi poetry? If so then what is the effect?
- Qawwali is just the rendering of Sufi verses, keeping this in mind, how important do you feel Qawwali is to Sufism?

Interview of local Qawwal:

- Q- Women can perform Sufiana Kalam but not Qawwali in particular, only men can do that. Is this true?

A- Hazrat Ameer Khusro started Qawwali. According to the Buzurg-nae-ud-Din, Women can also perform Qawwali but performance is mostly associated with men.

- Q- Why is the length of Qawwali so long? Some of them reach up to 30 minutes. Why is this?

A- Due to Qawwali, individuals go into a state of *Wajdani Kefiyat* (trance) and if this state is interrupted then it can have a negative affect on the soul of an individual.

- Q- How is Shayre different from Kalam?

A- Anyone can do Shayre but Kalam is based on the *Akwal-e-Zareen* (golden rules) of Baba-Bulleh Shah, Mian Muhammad Baksh etc.

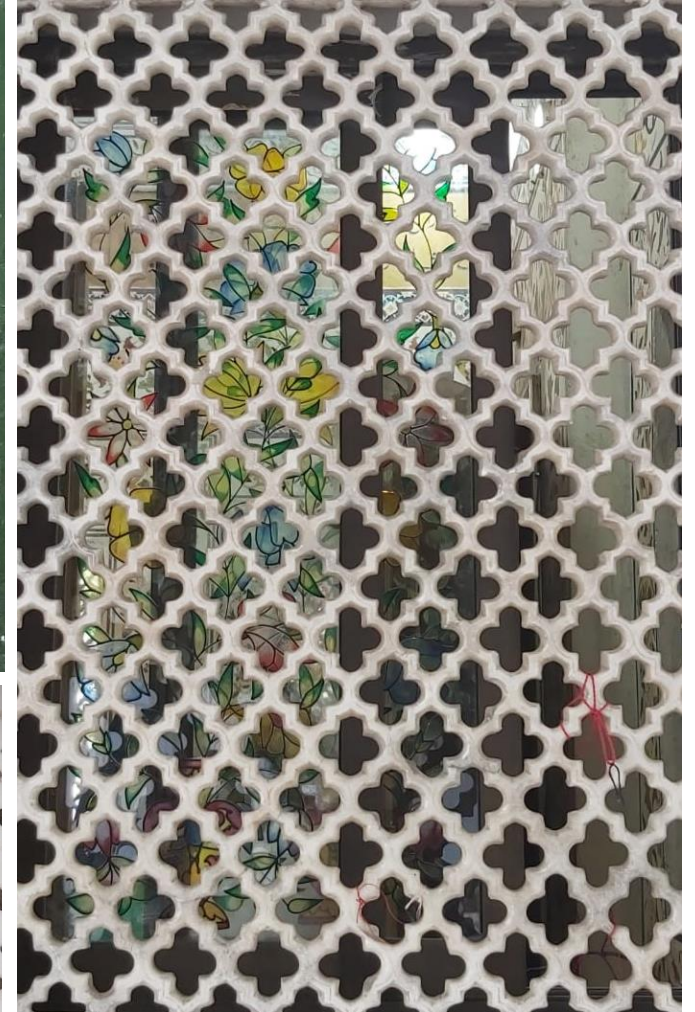
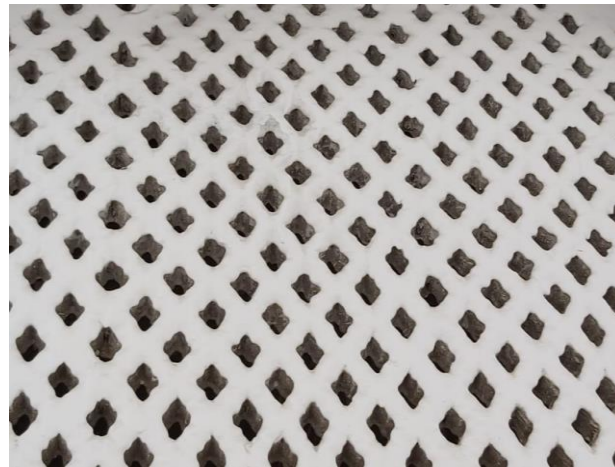
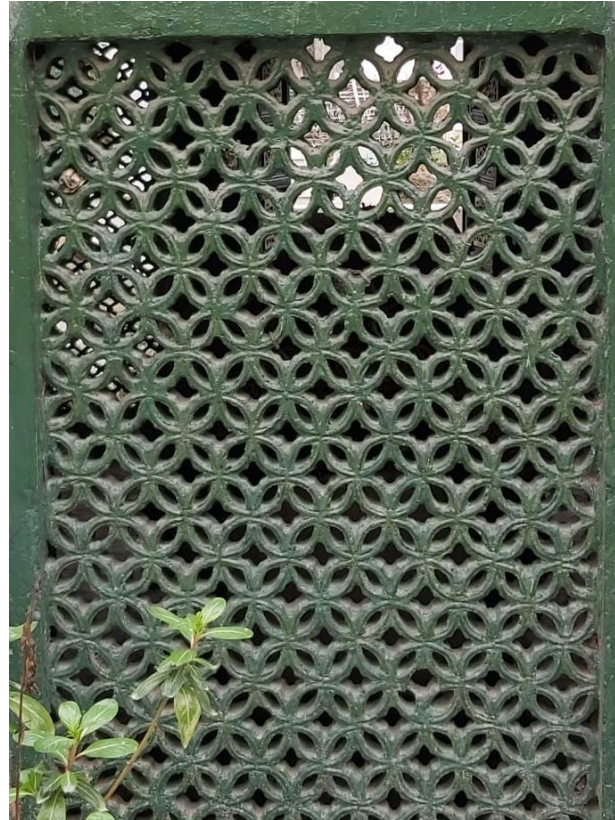
- Q- Tell us about your journey with Qawwali?

A- Our Peer is Syed Suleiman Ali Shah. We're under his Bait and he has ordered us to do Qawwali. We've been doing it for 4 years.

- Q- Do you see your children following your footsteps?

A- Yes Insha'Allah. Because it's like a process of *Tableeg* (preaching). “ *Man kunto Muola, Fabaza Aliyun Muola*” which translates to “ *jiska me Muola uska Ali Maula*” was started by Khawaja Mueen-o-Din and carried and extended by Ameer Khusro therefore it's a process of *Tableeg* (preaching) and we want our children to be a part of it.

Photography
at the
Darbars.





Islamic geometric patterns

- After extensive research, I was unable to identify any visual vocabulary to aid with my thesis. I then started exploring Islamic mysticism which led me into visiting the darbar of Baba Bulleh Shah and many more. At every darbar and Qawwali Gah, the “Jaffriyan” and “Jaaliyan” (*mesh work*) had geometric patterns which eventually resulted into me studying Islamic geometry.

-
- Islamic geometric patterns are combinations of repeated squares and circles which may be overlapped and interlaced to form intricate and complex patterns.
 - The four basic shapes repeated in Islamic geometric patterns are:
 1. Circles and interlaced circles.
 2. Squares or four-sided polygons.
 3. The ubiquitous star pattern.
 4. Multisided polygons.

Significance

- Geometric patterns in mosques reflect:
 - i. Sense of infinity of God.
 - ii. Language of the universe.
 - iii. Life and greatness of creation.
 - iv. Spiritual understanding.
 - v. Unity and the ultimate source of all diversity in creation (circle).

Prevalence

- Islam art restricts the representation of people, animals or other figures and instead abstract patterns have been encouraged. Therefore, geometric patterns are prevalent.

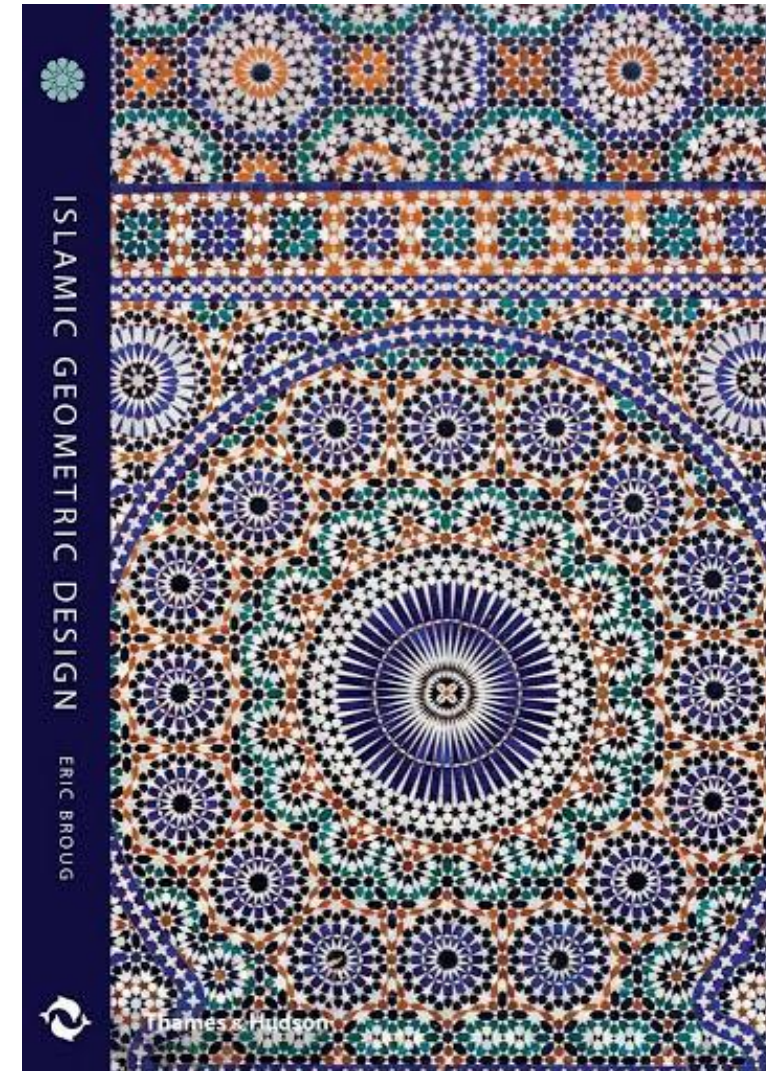


Literature on Qawwali (Articles)

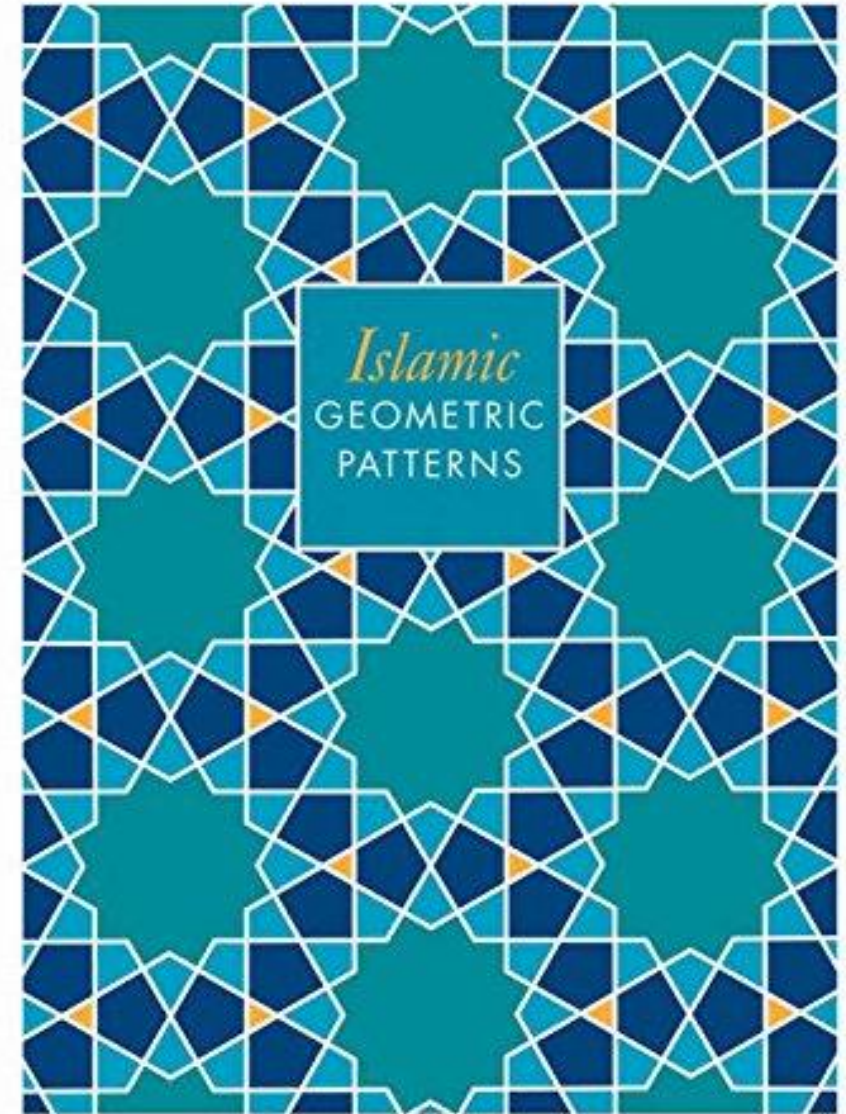
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24710608> (MYSTICAL ĠAZAL IN SUFI PRACTICE. POETICS, MUSIC AND METAPHYSICS IN THE VERSES OF ŠĀH NIYĀZ AĤMAD).
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/763973> *Exploring Time Cross-Culturally Ideology and Performance of Time in the Sufi Qawwālī* Author(s) Regula Burckhardt Quresh
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43562829> *The Sacred and the Profane Qawwālī Represented in the Performances of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan*
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44753803> *The Indo-Islamic Cultural Fusion and the Institution of the Qawwali*
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/850927> *Reviewed Work(s): Qawwali: Sufi Music from Pakistan* by
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/853569> *His Master's Voice? Exploring Qawwali and 'Gramophone Culture' in South Asia*

Books on Islamic geometric patterns

- The concept of perfection that is often associated with Islamic geometric design is relatively recent and largely comes from
 1. The preponderance of mathematical analysis.
 2. The spiritual/cosmological approach that sees parallel with divine creation.
- In Islamic geometric design, there are 3 ways to repeat a design element:
 - i. Translation, which means repeat units as simply placed next to each other
 - ii. Rotation, which means repeat units are rotated around a central point
 - iii. Reflection, which means repeat units are mirrored along a line.
- One of the golden rules of Islamic geometric design is that lines do not change course at intersection.



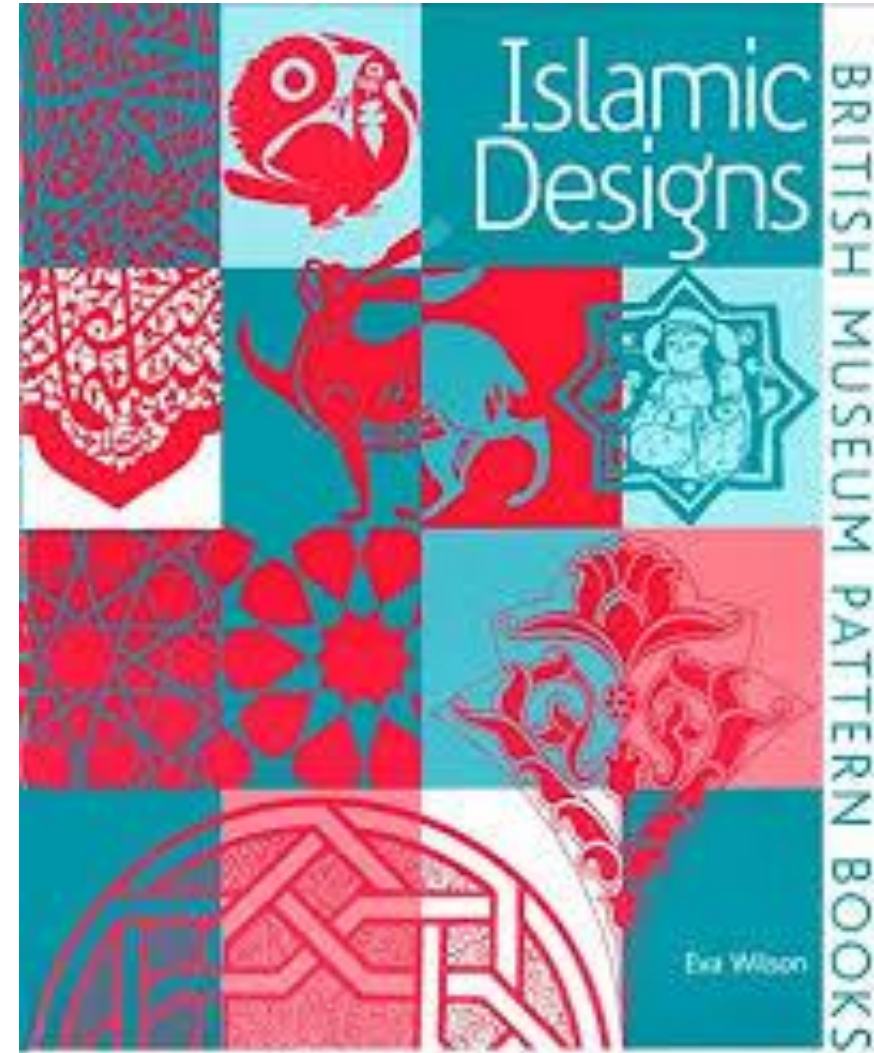
- When drawing the construction lines for a geometric composition, it is always necessary to draw circles and arcs to create significant intersections.
- In architecture, strict adherence to geometric principles in plans and elevations was the basis of the harmony and discipline which characterizes all Islamic art.
- At various points in the history of Islamic geometric design, craftsmen have used a variation on the traditional interlacing band technique, this alternative technique uses interlacing bands do not suggest a continuation beyond the boundaries of the composition but to create discrete shapes that are connected to each other like links in a chain.



Thames & Hudson

ERIC BROUG

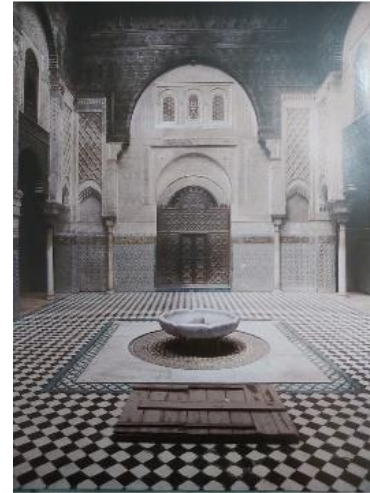
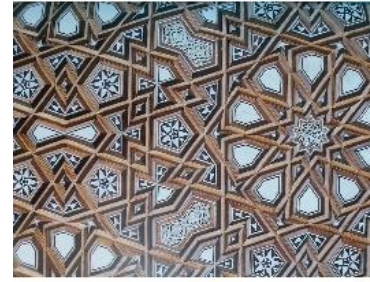
- Islamic geometric decorations refers to the use of small glazed tiles, covering large surface areas with repetitive patterns and bold colors.
- The majority of Islamic geometric patterns start with one of the 3 basic designs: The square, hexagon and pentagon. These can be achieved by various arrangements of circles.
- The purpose of Islamic geometric designs is to raise spiritual understanding through contemplation of its complex patterns.



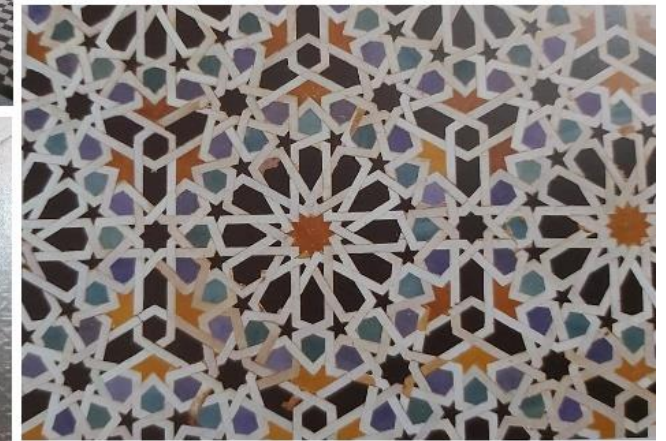
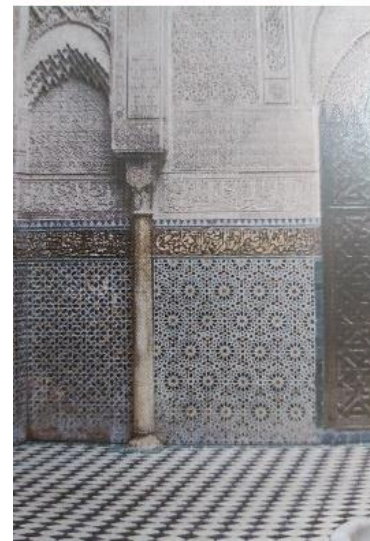
Cosmology Geometric Patterns Board

Islamic Geometric Design

The geometric mosaic.
Cosmological significance in
patterns.

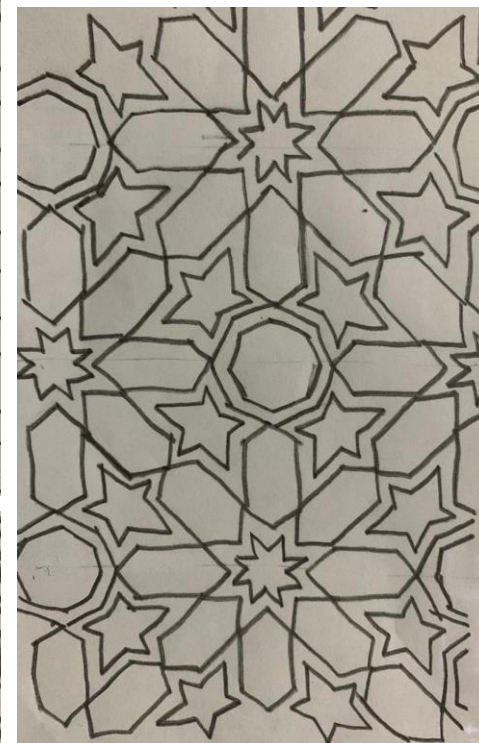
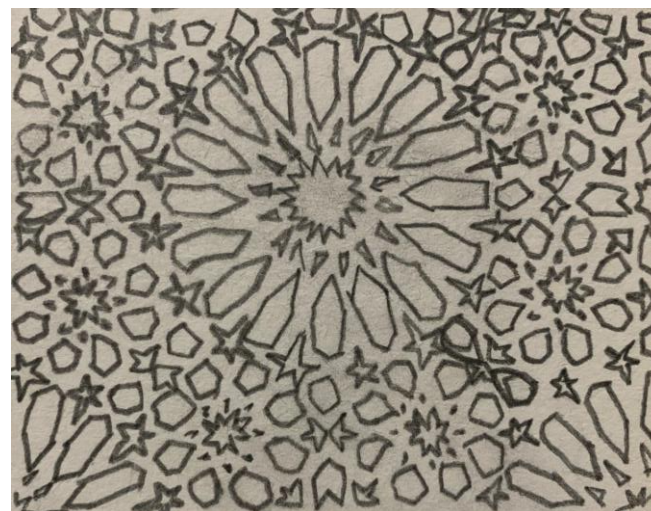
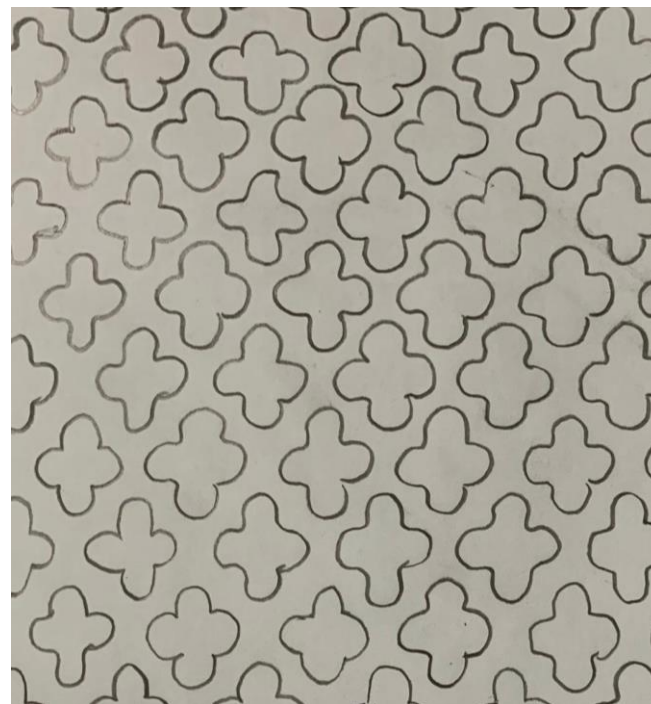


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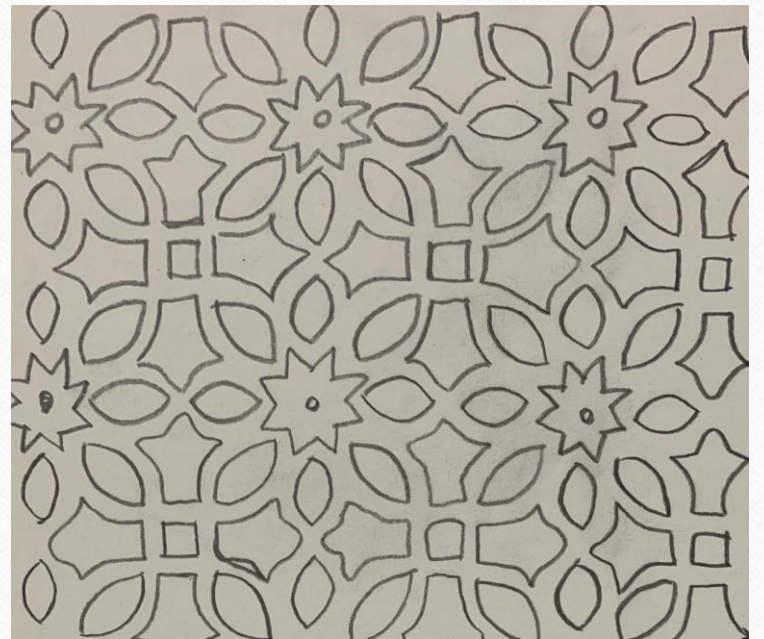
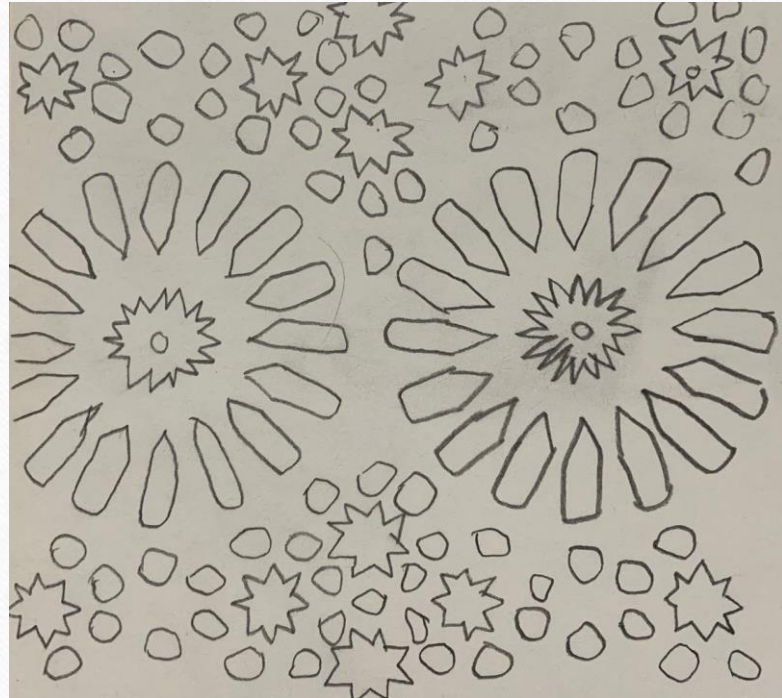
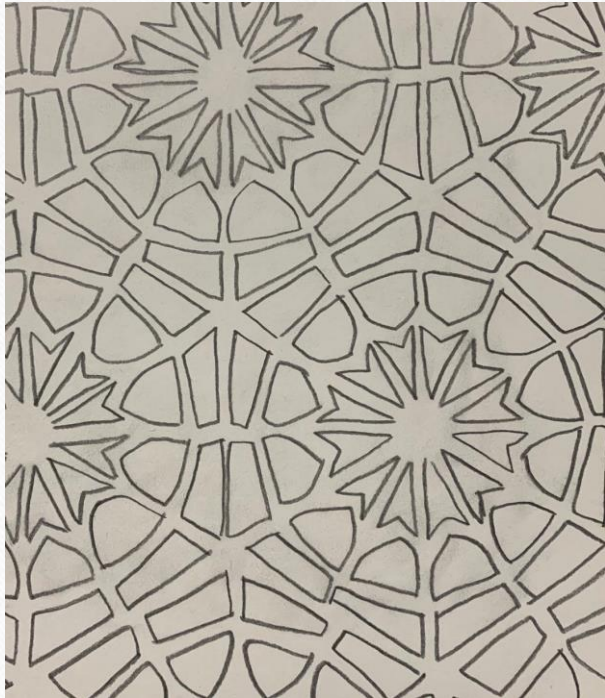


These patterns were used in the
Minbar and mihrab of the
mosque of the cairo

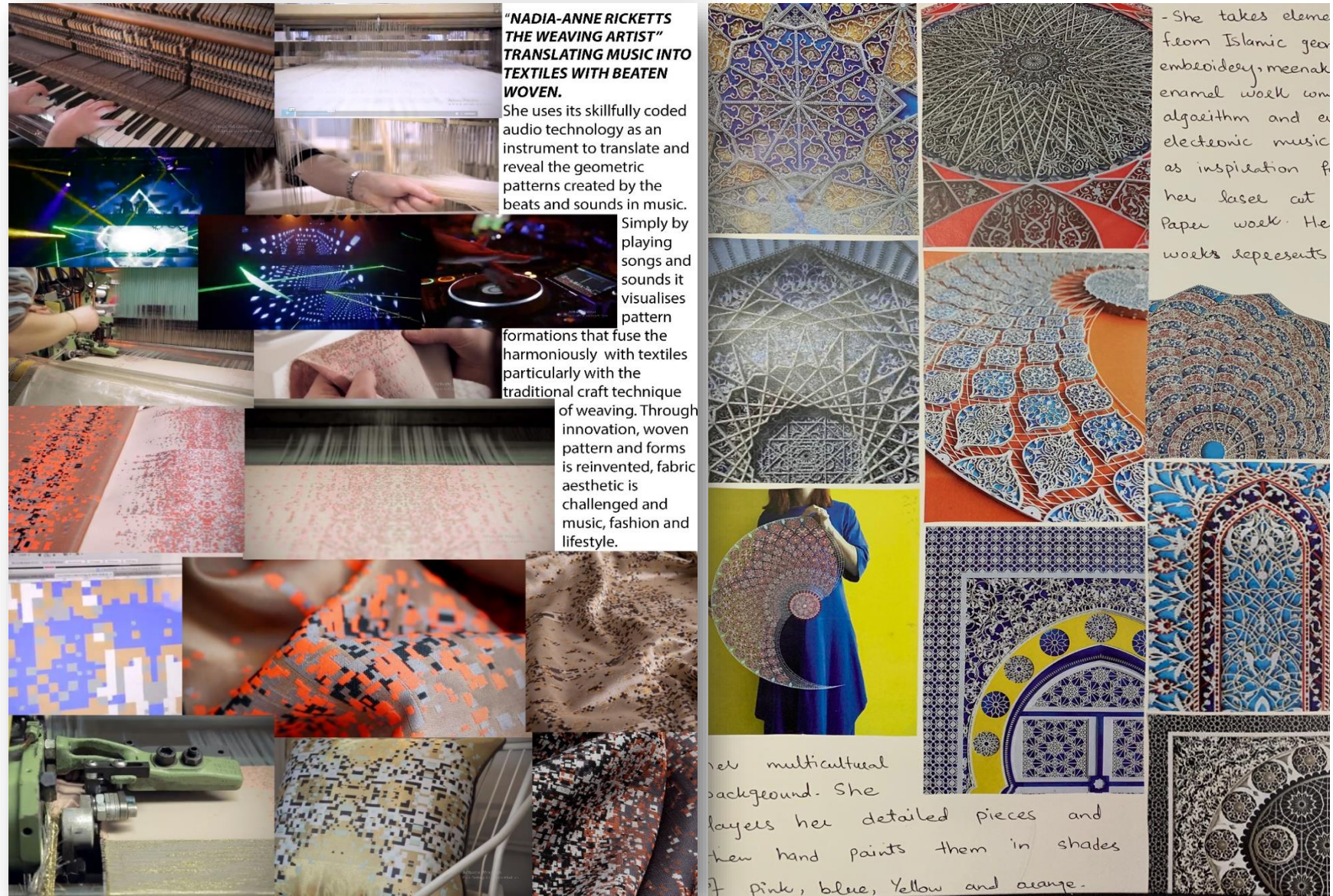
Patterns
Isolated from
darbars and
books



Final drawings



Artist research board



- Nadia Anne Ricketts.



- Wassily Kandinsky



she is going to include the music that she listened to while making each quilt.

Sewing and machine

- when she make a quilt for someone she listen to music that reminds her of them. If it is someone that she don't



know, she try ask what kind of music they like. Music is a huge part of her life.

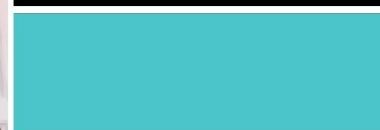
It inspires, motivates

and moves ~~her~~ her. She believe that the music helps keep her connected to the recipient of the quilt. Music allows her to stay calm and happy, even

when she is working on a super frustrating pattern!



Color board



Fabrication samples for mini thesis





- Various patterns printed on velvet.



- I attempted to connect leftover fabric pieces together using basic machine embroidery.



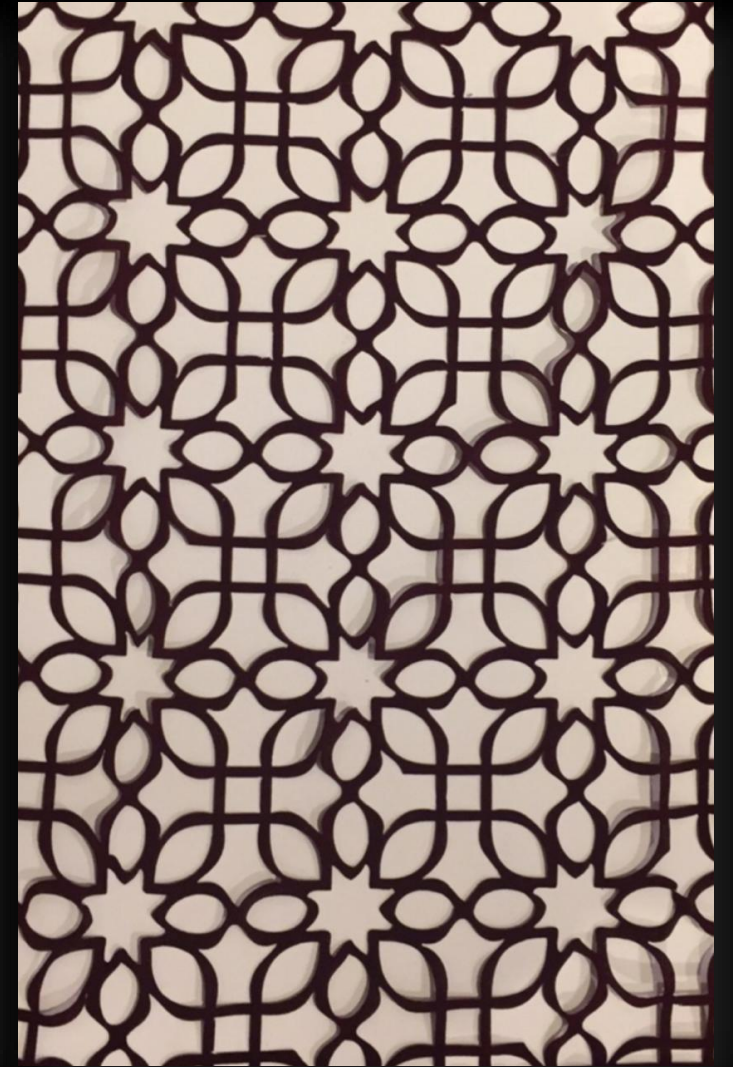
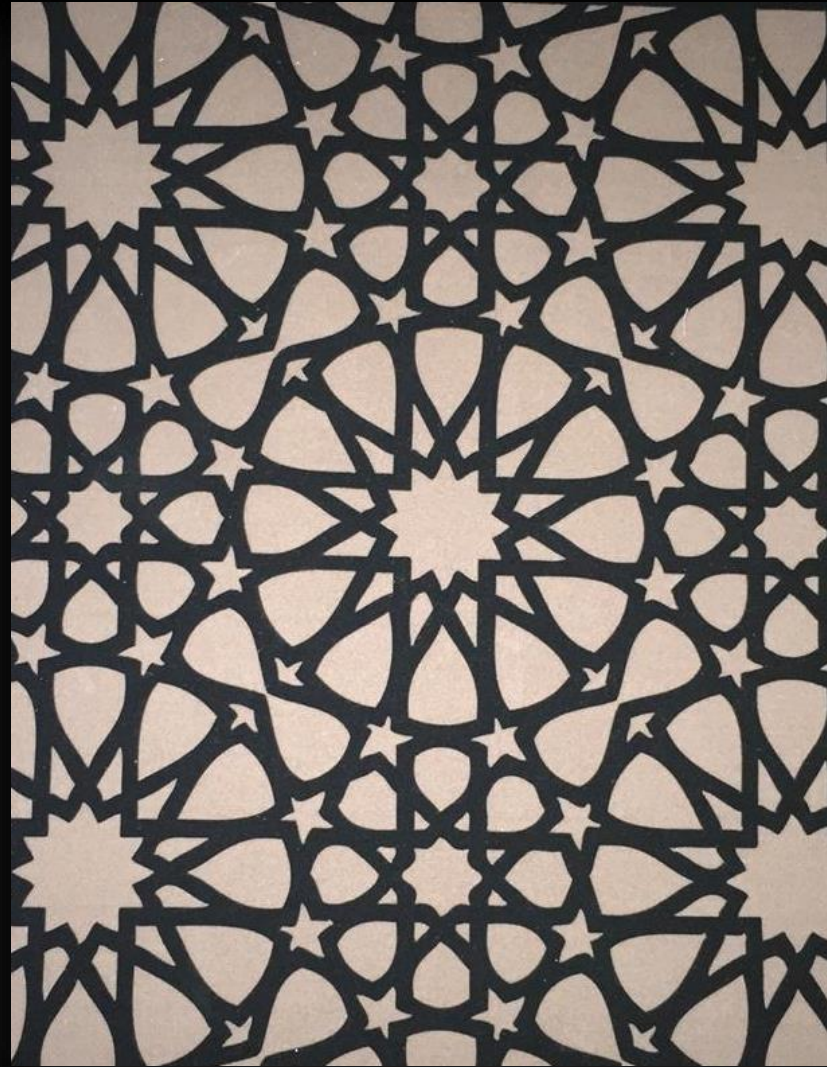
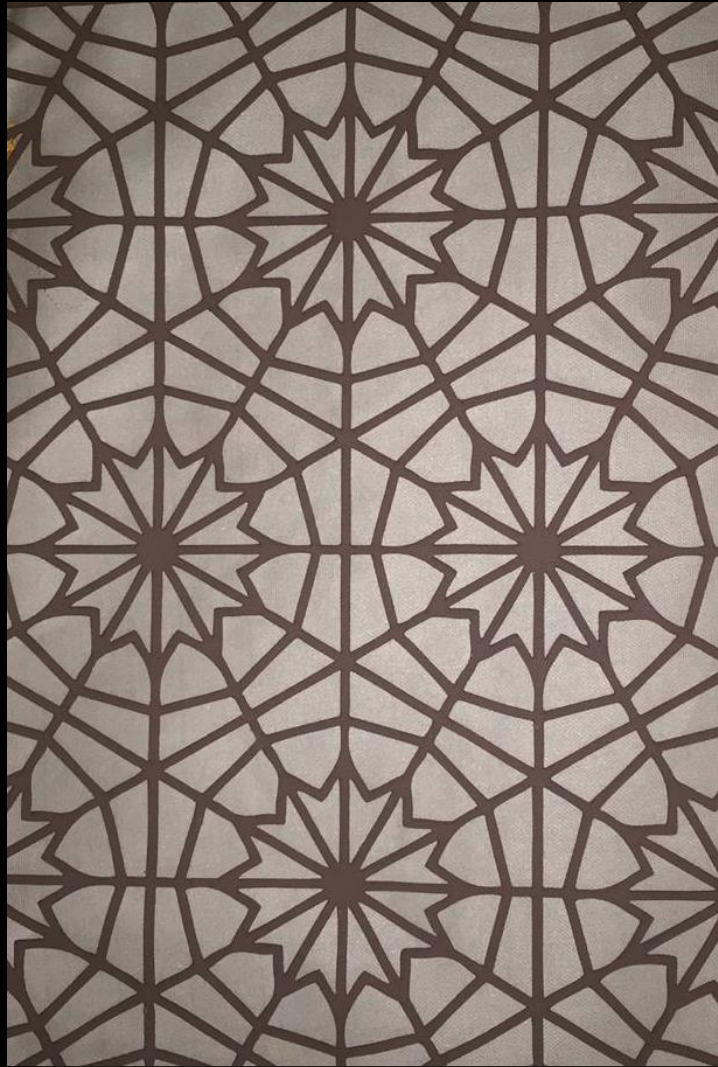


Block printing





Laser cut on suede and leather

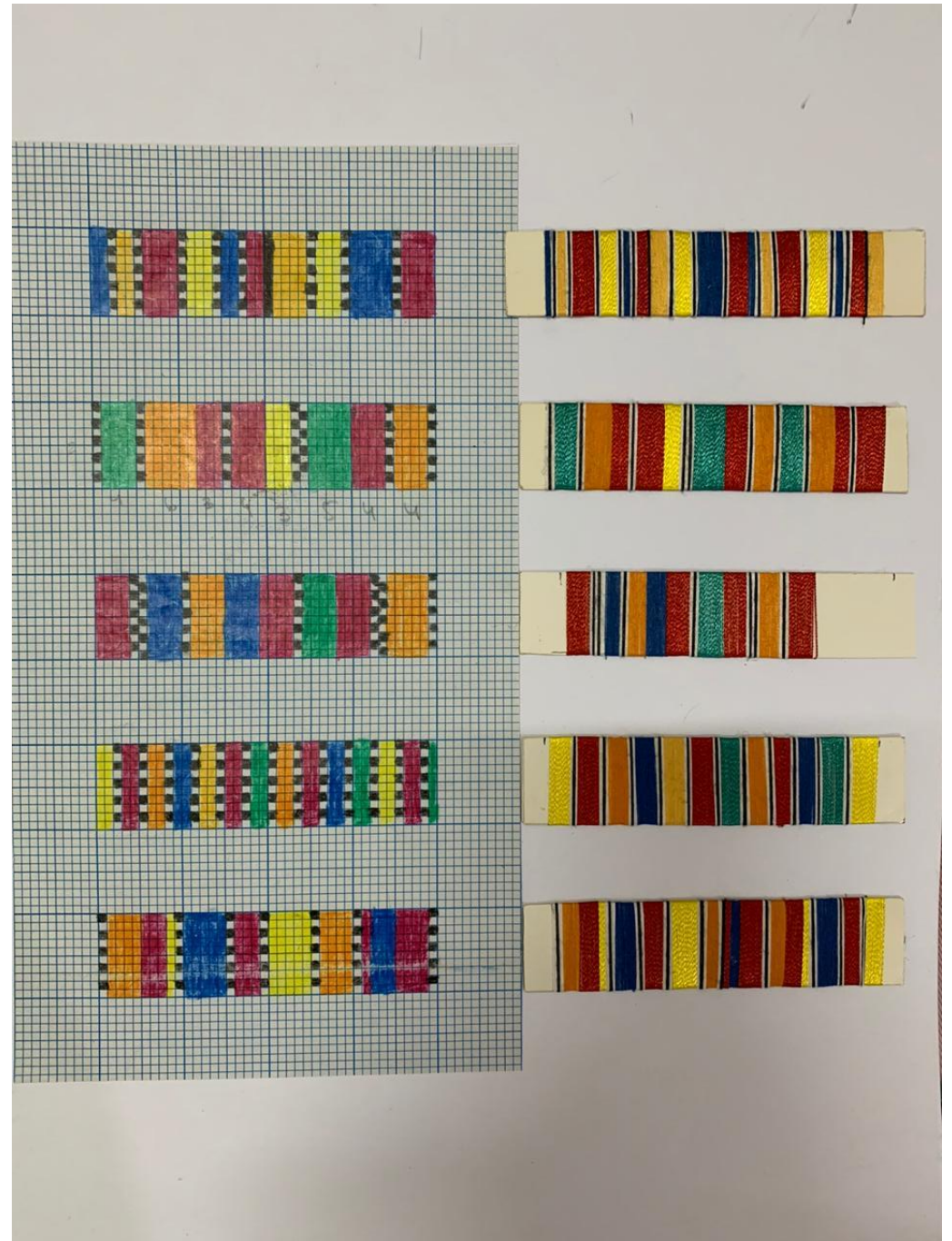


Patch work on suede



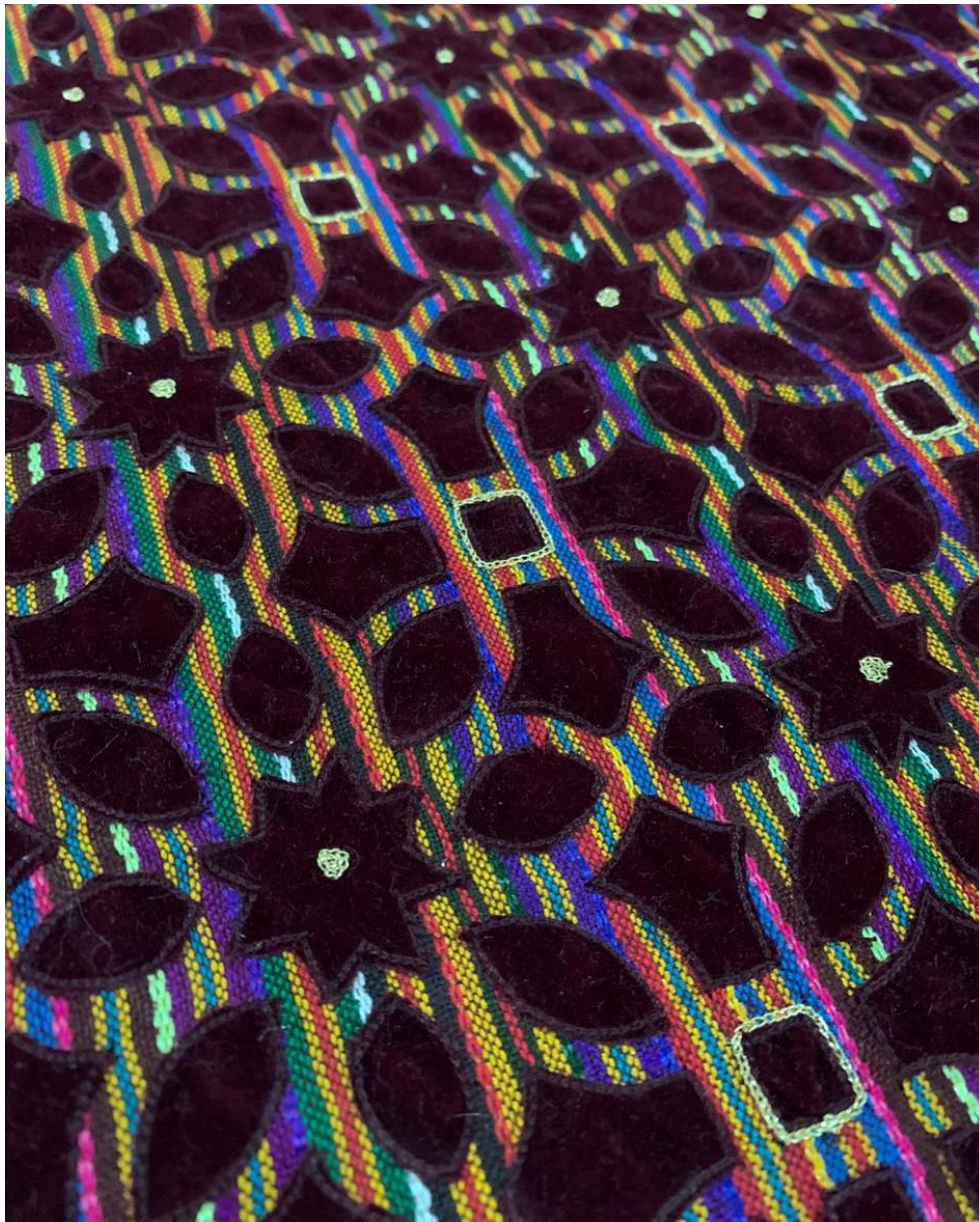


Warp plan for weaving sussi

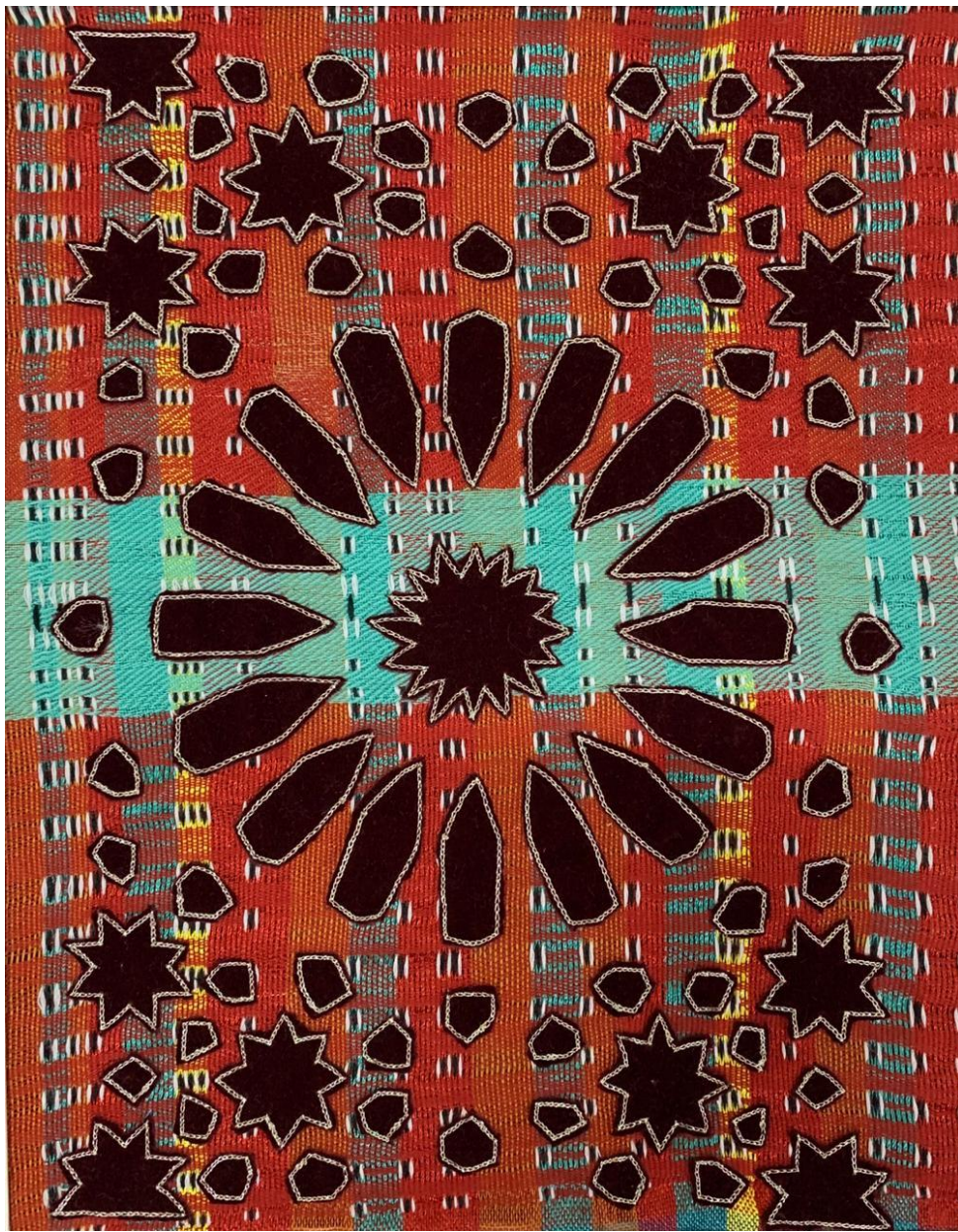




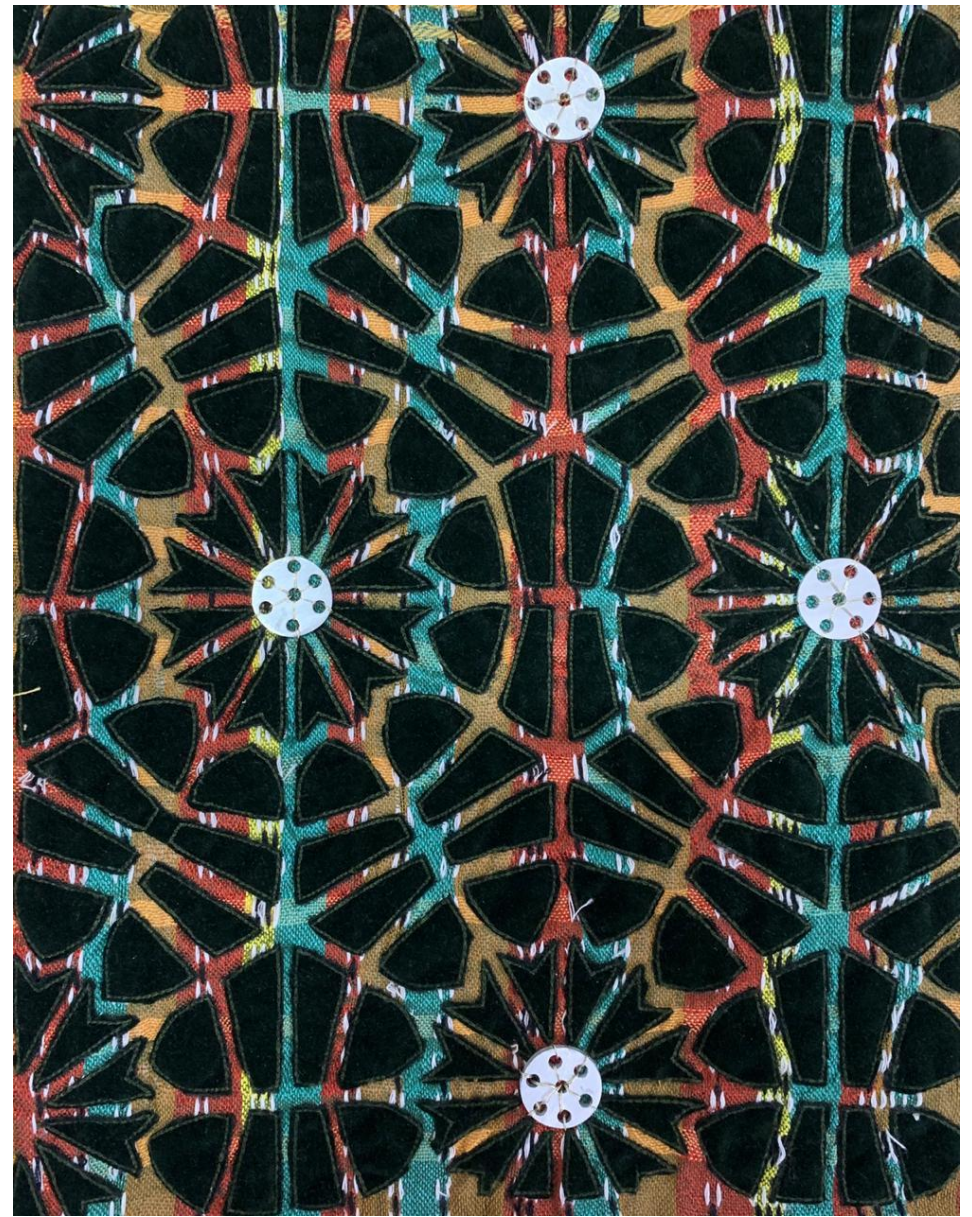
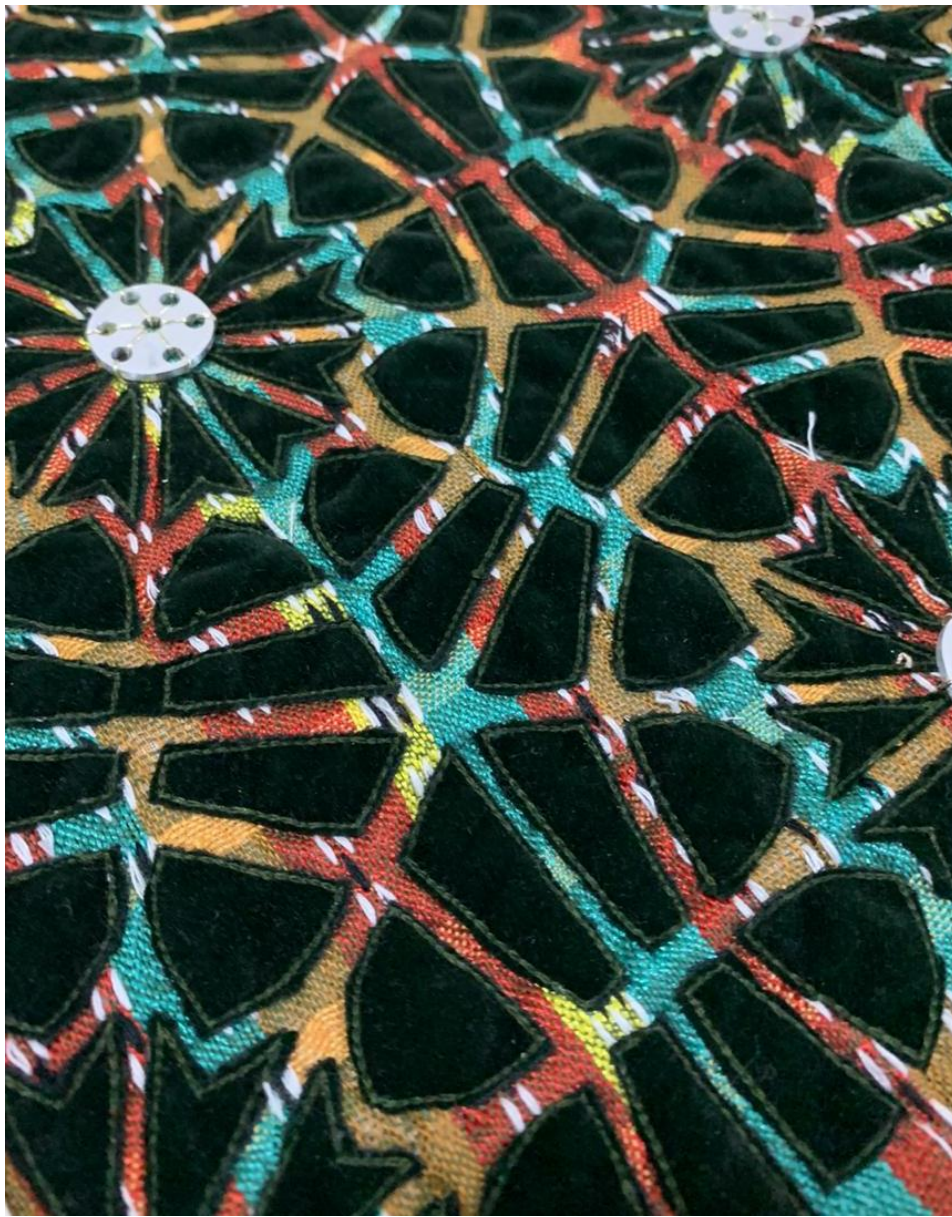
- Laser cut patterns were attached to the weaved sussi with tilla through adda work.



- Suede pattern is attached to sussi using the aari technique of adda work.



- Suede pattern is attached to sussi using the aari technique of adda work.

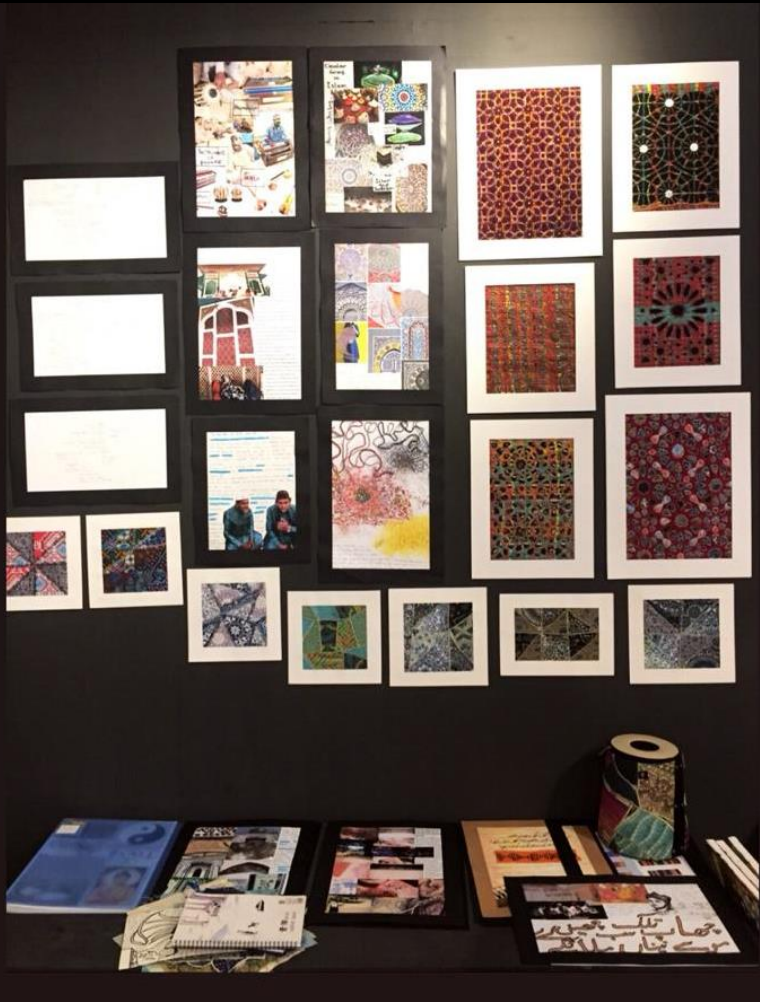


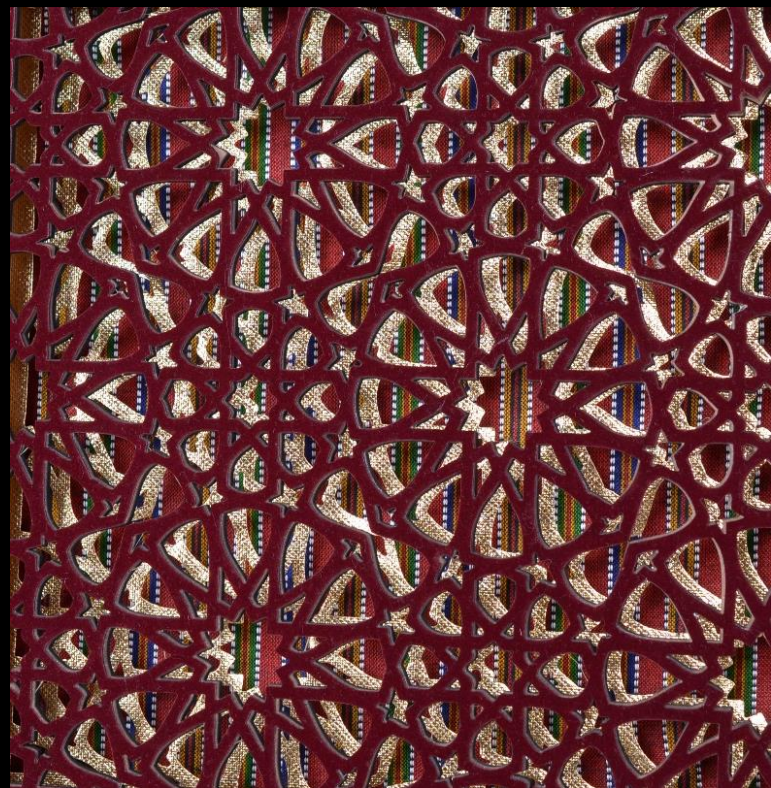
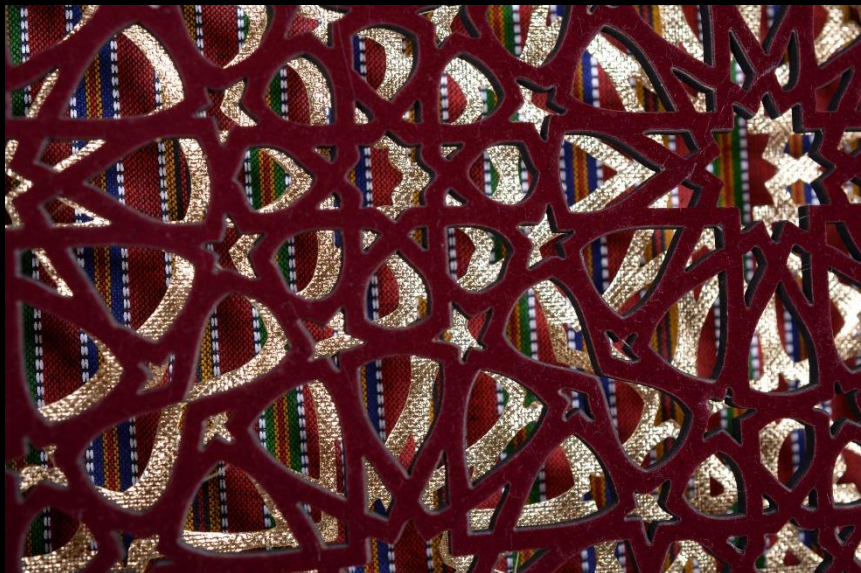
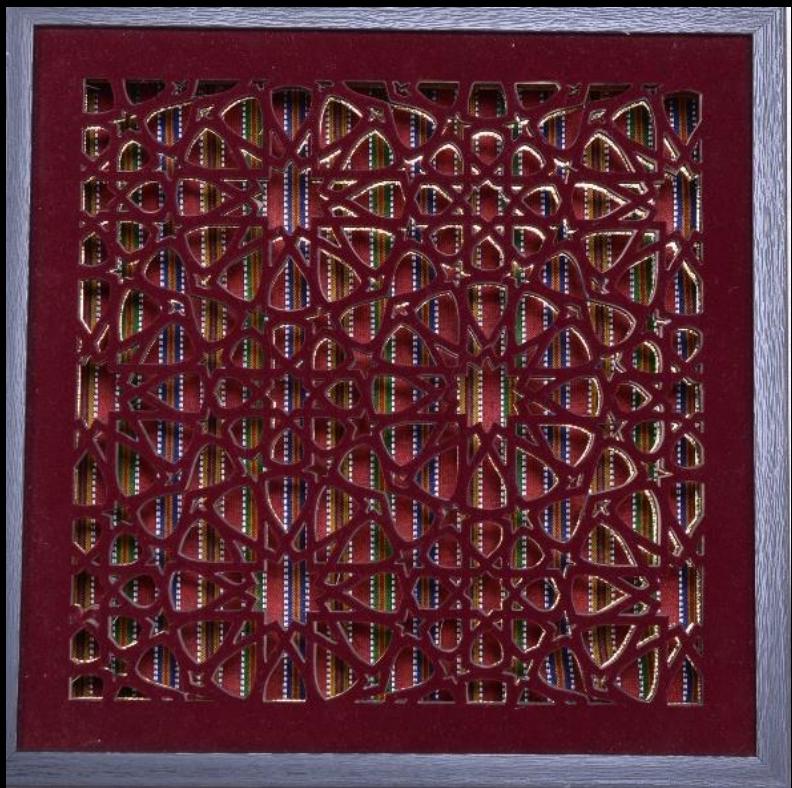
- Metal pieces were used along with suede patterns.



- Ajrak is attached to sussi using the aari technique of adda work.

Mini thesis display





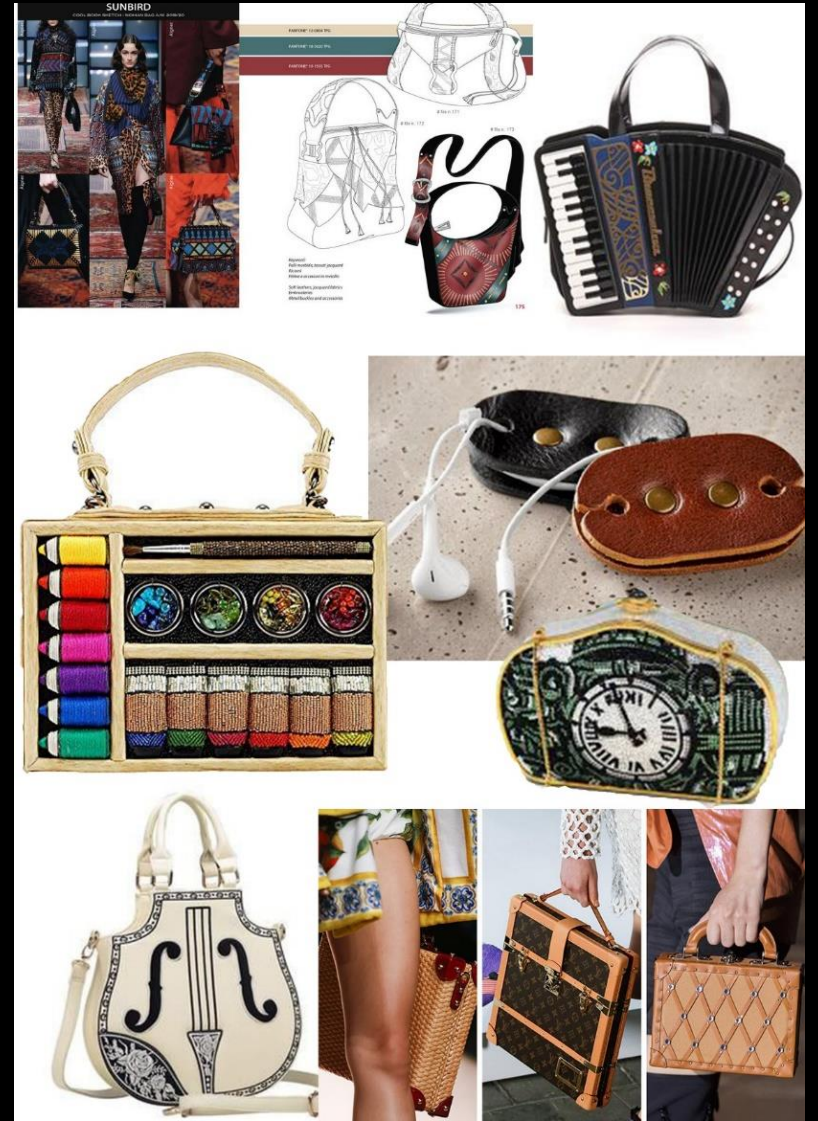
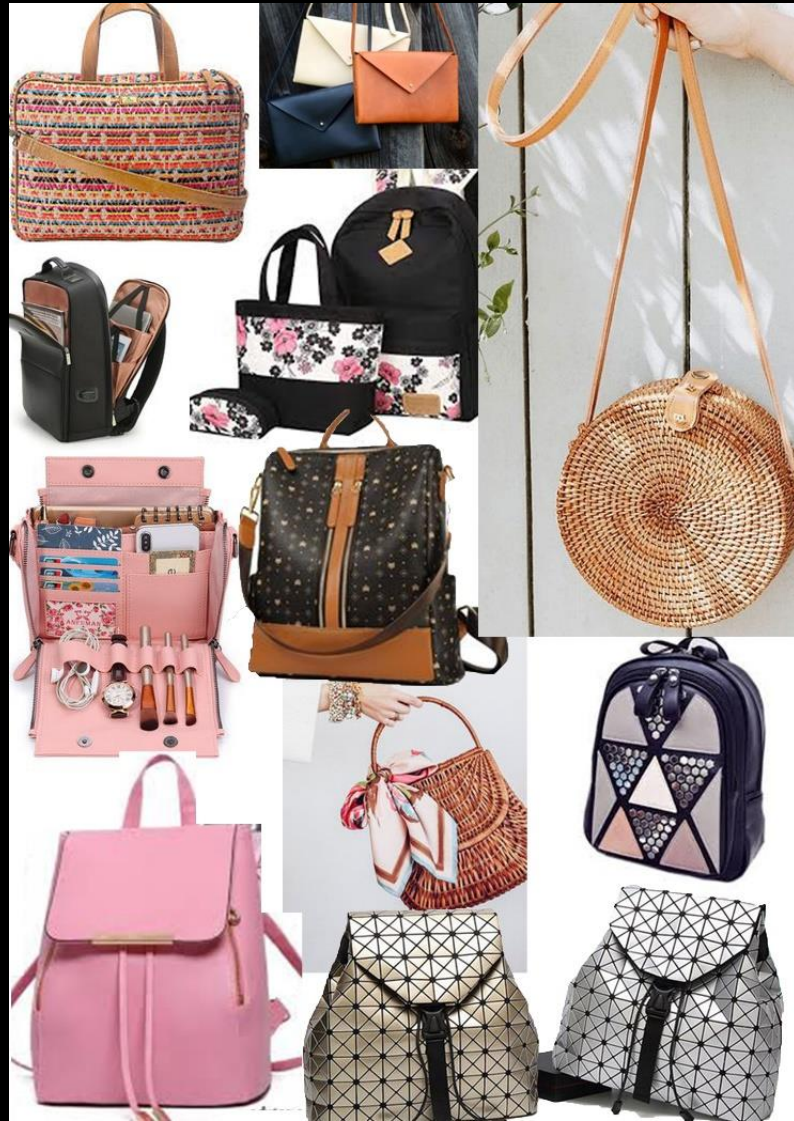
Final product

- After my research, I decided to make bags in which I utilized the likeness of the shapes of the instruments that are used in Qawwali.
- The great philosopher Plato once said “ Rhythm and Harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul”, and Qawwali is rendered for the soul.

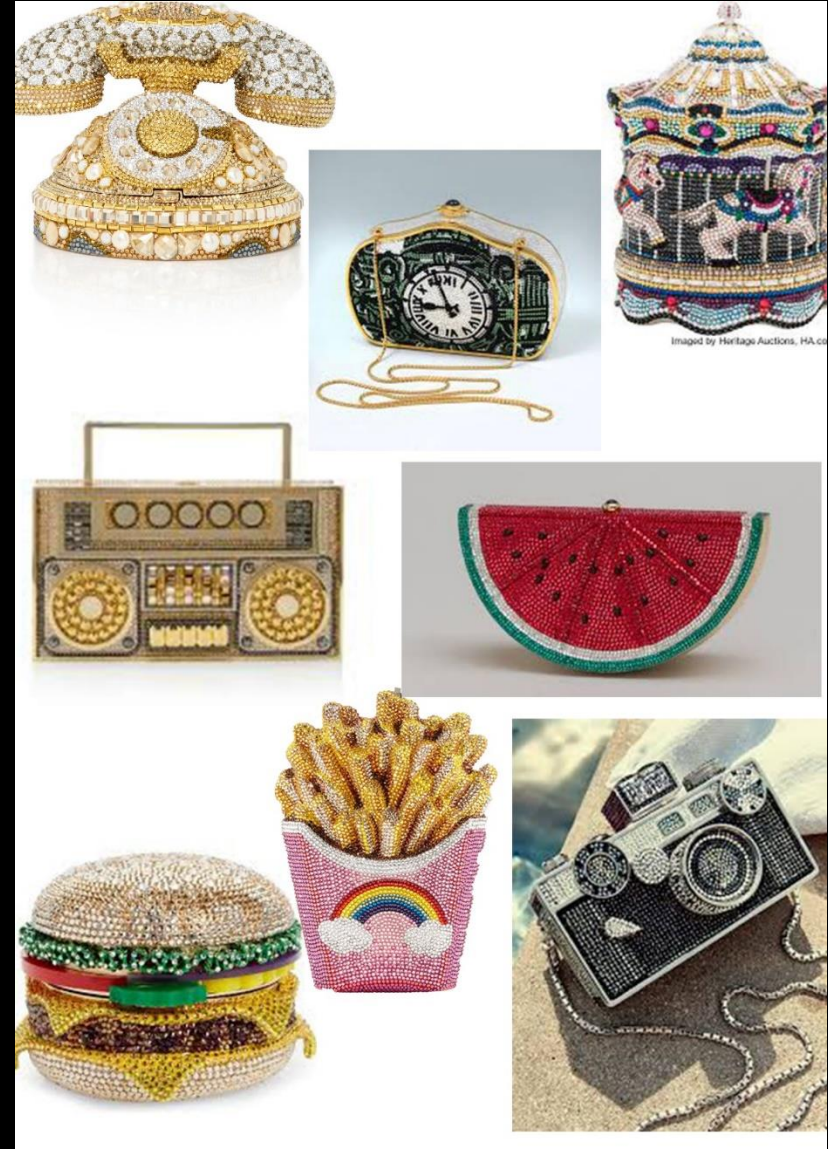
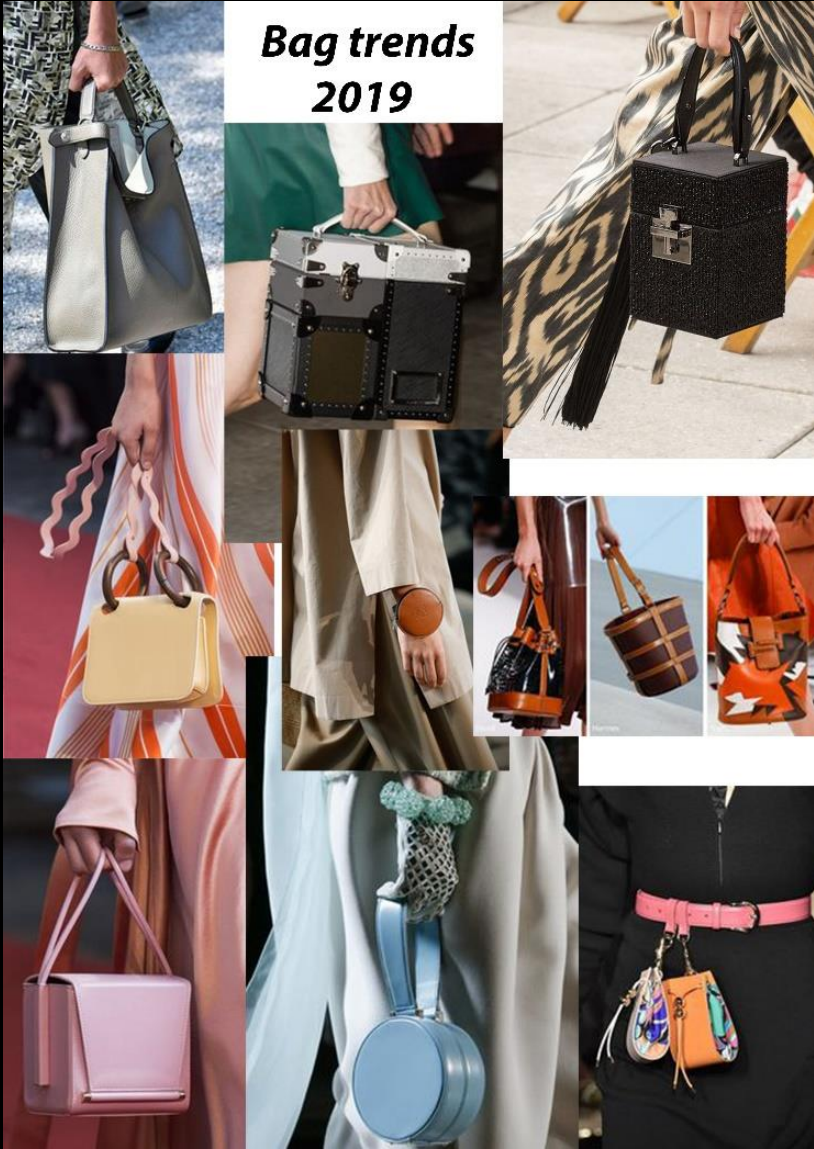
Product Prototype:

- Prototype: I used the shape of Tabla. The reason supporting my choice was that tabla is a very important instrument in Qawwali, it builds up the rhythm which is one of the key aspects in Qawwali. Qawwali has the ability to mend broken souls and tabla is a central instrument in Qawwali.





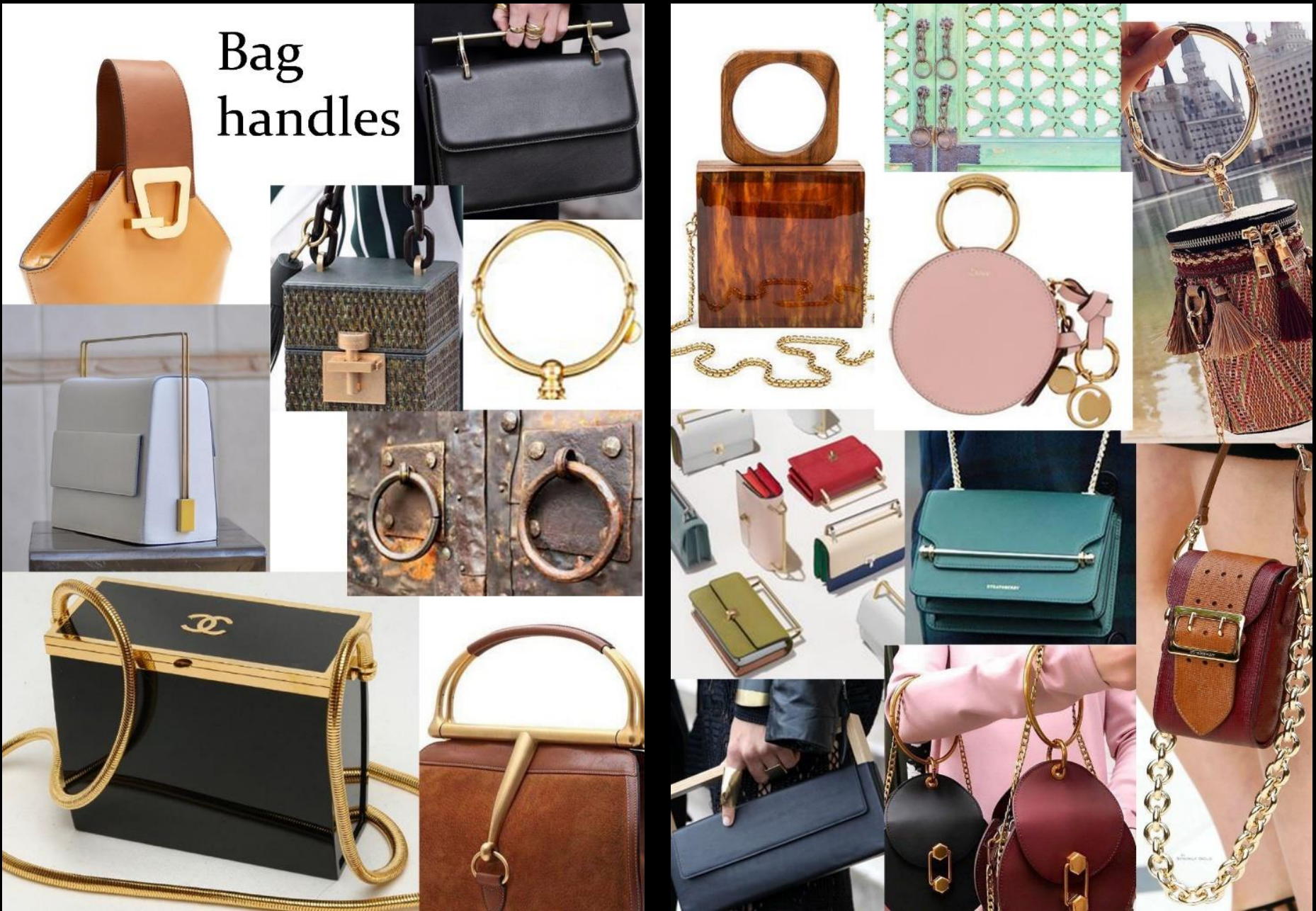
Bag trends 2019



Handles research:

- Since my bags contained a lot of detailed embellished work, I wanted my straps to be more neutral. My choice of bag handles was inspired by the handles present in darbars. I conducted research on various handle shapes and bought my handles of choice by visiting multiple hardware stores.

Bag handles

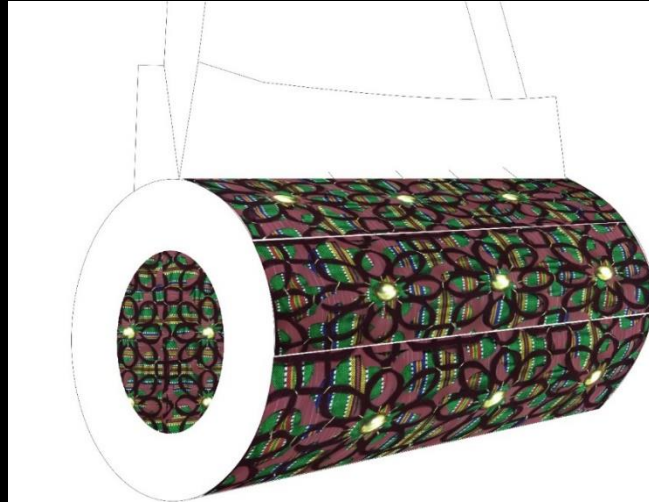


Market research for bag handles



Bag drawings and mappings:





Fabric and materials for bag fabrications

- Sussi fabric.
- Leather.
- Suede.
- Metal handles. (from hardware stores).
- Gotta, naqshi, kora, dabqa, tilla etc.
- Golden wire (Charpaa vaan), shoes straps.

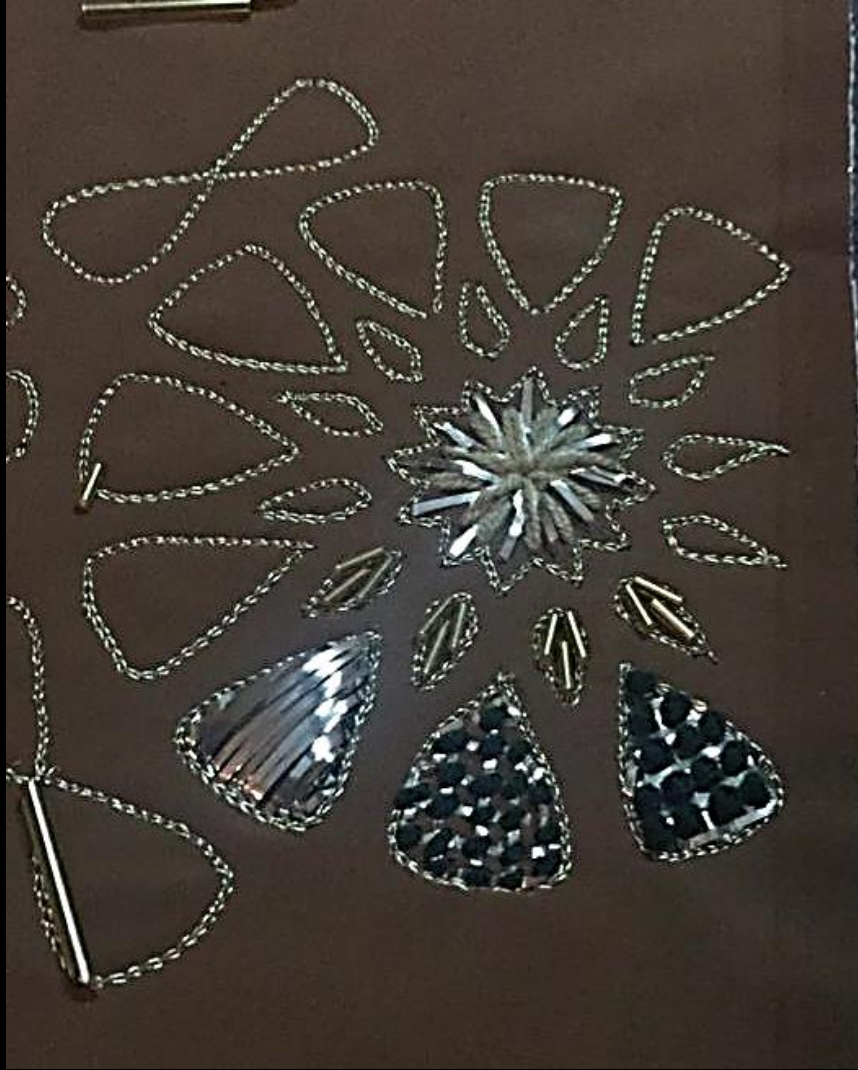
Techniques for fabrications:

- Adda work.
- Hand and machine embroideries.
- Laser cut on leather and suede
- French knot, long gira, pitta, chain stitch.

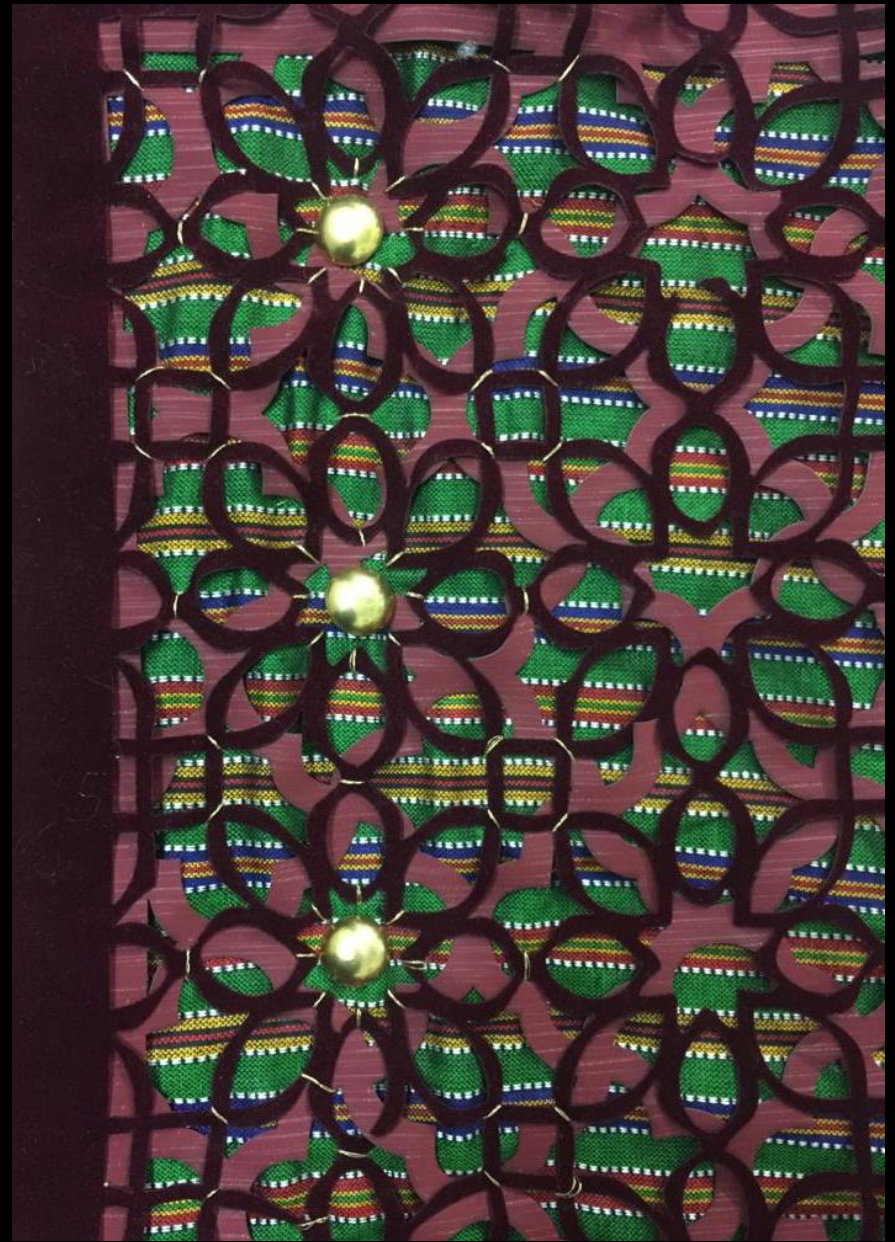
Process of final bags
fabrications:

Process of final bags fabrications



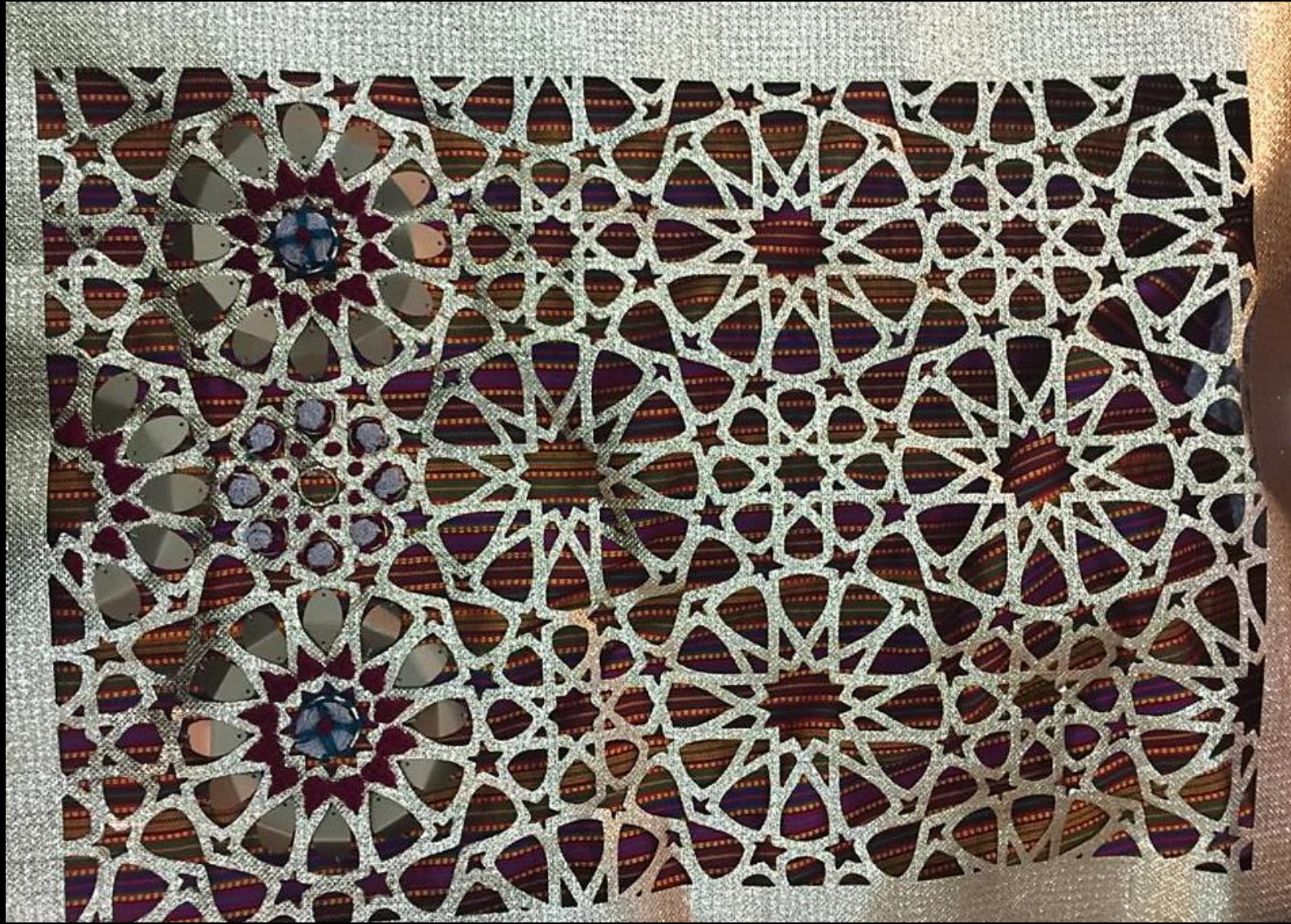






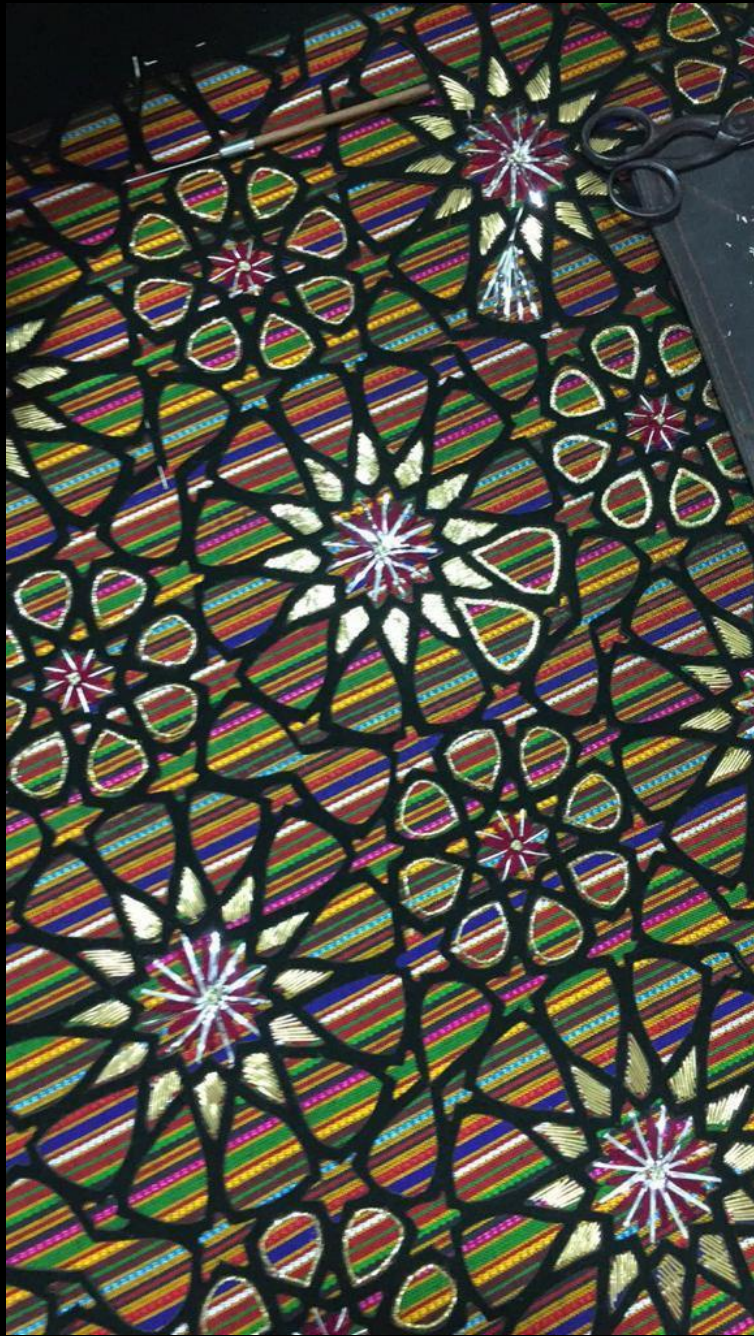




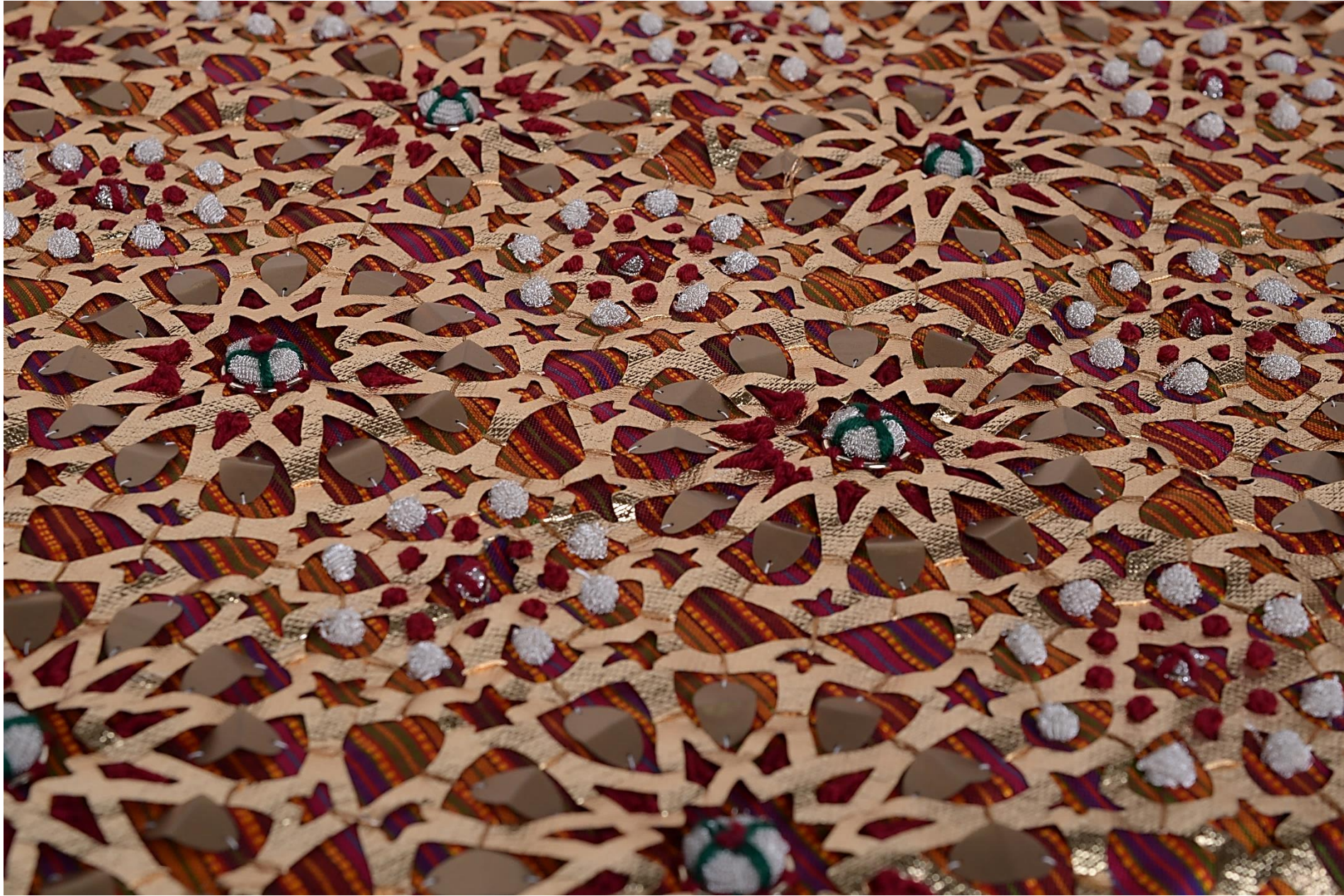








Final fabrications for
bags/products:

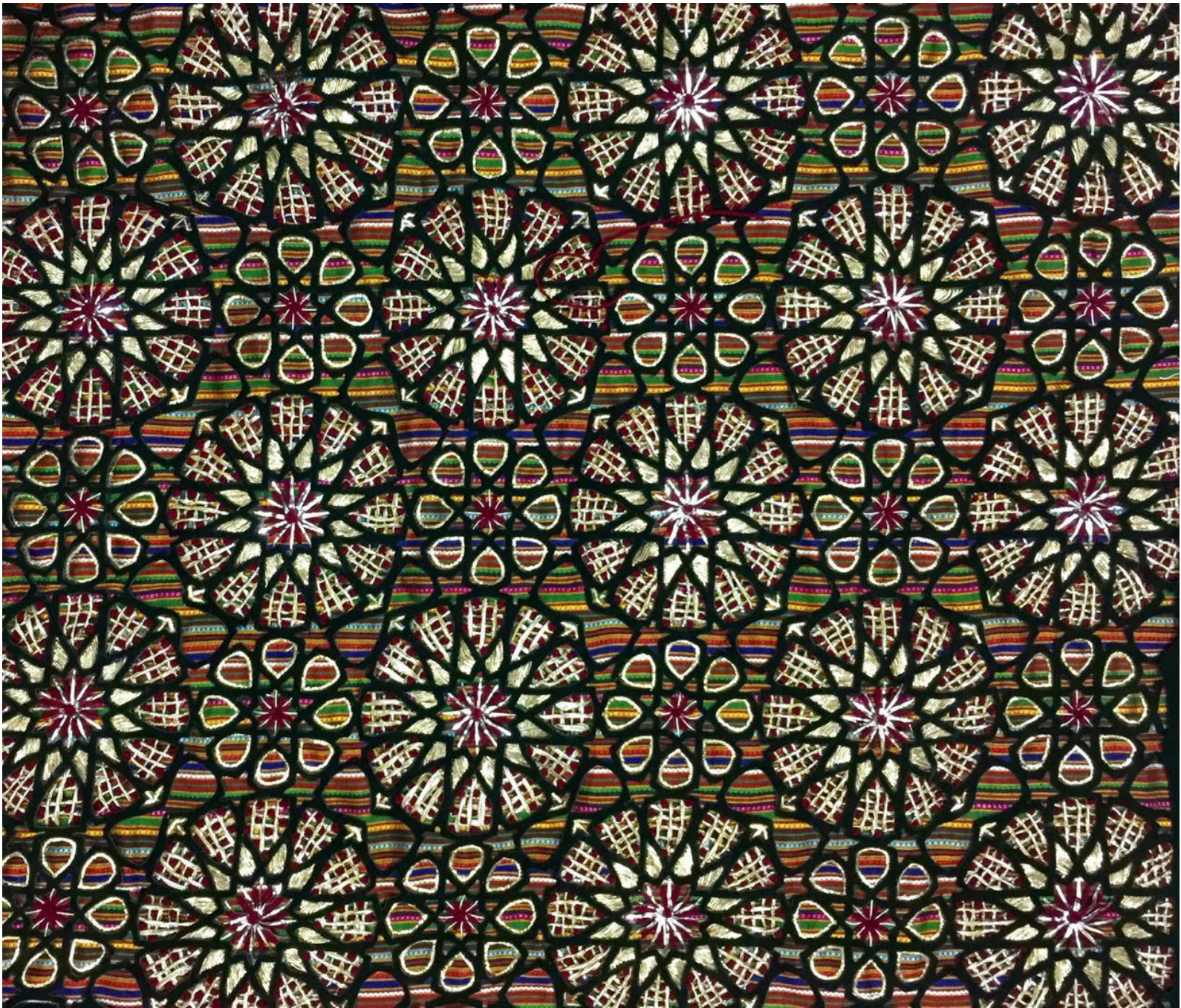














Choosing appropriate handles for bags











Bag hangings/bag chimes.

Bag hangings/bag chimes



Height: 2.5 inches
Width: 2 inches

3D hangings





Size
Height: 2 inches
Width: 3 inches



Final Bags



Size:
Height: 10 inch
Length: 6 inch
Handle size: 33 inch
Round handle: 3.5/3.5 inch

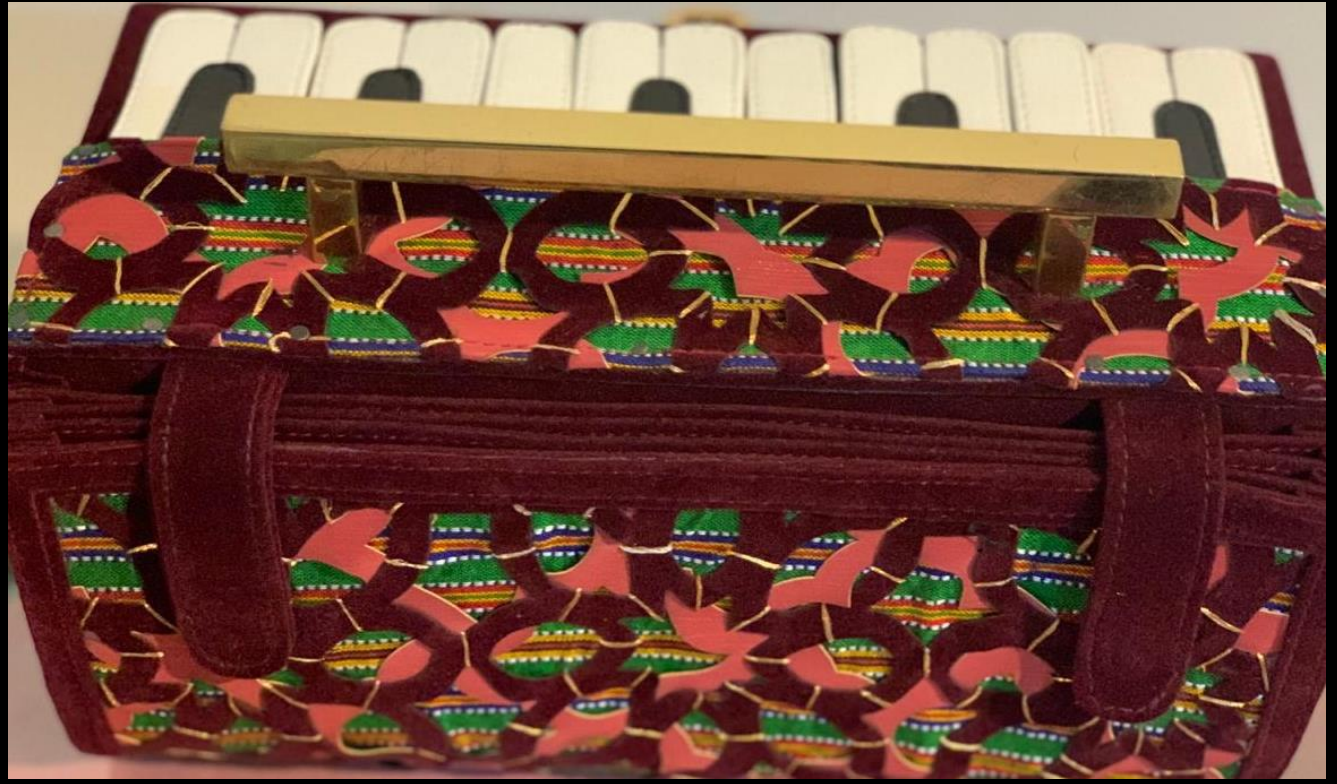




Size: Height: 9 inch
Length: 6 inch
Handle size: 3/2inch



Size: Height: 5.5 inch
Length: 11.5 inch
Width: 8 inch





Size:

Height: 7.5 inches

Length: 6 inches



Size:
Height: 9 inch
Length: 11 inch



Size: 8/8 inches
Width: 2.5 inches





Size:
Height:9 inch
length: 11 inch
Width: 1.2 inch









Thank you