

Elements in Iranian Architecture

Iranian architecture is beautiful, symbolic, and full of meaning.

1. Tilework (Kāshi Kari)

- Buildings are decorated with blue, turquoise, and gold tiles
- Designs include flowers, stars, and calligraphy (beautiful writing in Persian or Arabic)

2. Iwans

- A large arched entrance or porch

3. Domes (Gonbad)

- Colorful domes are placed over mosques and shrines
- Sometimes decorated inside with mirror mosaics

4. Minarets

- Tall towers beside mosques
- Used to call people to prayer

Famous Examples of Iranian Architecture

- Persepolis – Ancient palace with stone columns and carvings (Achaemenid era)
- Shah Mosque of Isfahan – Blue-tiled domes and arches (Safavid era)
- Golestan Palace – Royal buildings with mirrors and gardens (Qajar era)
- Windcatchers (Badgirs) of Yazd – Towers that cool the air using natural wind