

Appendix 3

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