The Mosque:  

The Prophet’s mosque was the earliest mosque built around 622 CE. 

The parts:  
- **Qibla** wall or directional wall  
- **Minbar** or platform for the orator  
- **Sahn** or courtyard  
- **Riwaq** the arcades or colonnades that surround the **sahn**.  
- **Haram** the covered area before the qibla wall  
- **Mihrab** central niche constructed into the qibla wall 

Two main types of mosques  
- Hypostyle mosque (mostly used in Western Islamic architecture)  
- Iwan style mosque (mostly used in Easter Islamic or Persianate architecture)

The Dynastic Builders:  
- **The Umayyad Dynasty (621-750 CE) of Syria and Spain**  
- **The Nasrid Dynasty (1232-1492 CE) of Granada, Spain**  
- **The Mughal Dynasty of the Great Emperors (1526-1707 CE) of India**

Key Architectural Monuments:  

1. **The Great Mosque of Cordoba** built in 786 and enlarged during the 9th and 10th centuries by the Umayyad Dynasty.  
   - **Voussoirs**—wedge shaped element of the arch  
   - **Maqsura**—Cordoned off enclosure of a mosque for royalty 

2. **The Alhambara Palace** 1333-1492 built in Granada, Spain by the Nasrid Dynasty.  
   - Inscription "There is no victor but Allah"-- Wa-la ghaliba illa-liah  
   - **Mirador**—architectural or garden that offers sweeping landscape views. Overlook.
3. **Fatehpur Sikri** (founded 1569) a palatine city built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar (r. 1556–1605) in northern India.
   - Diwan-i Am—public audience hall
   - Diwan-i Khass—a private audience hall
   - Ibadat Khana—house of worship built 1575 CE

4. The **Taj Mahal** (built 1632-1648) mausoleum built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (r. 1592-1666) in northern India
   - *charbagh*—four-part garden
   - *pishtaq*—formal gateway
   - *‘Urs*—celebration of a death anniversary
   - *kabristan*—cemetery

Selected Reading list:


