

THE MAKING OF THE
Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art

AT THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM



EDITED BY

Rosemary Crill and Tim Stanley

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Map by Technical Art Services

Front jacket: Computer-generated view of the Jameel Gallery, looking south

Back jacket: Annotated working layout of the Turkish ceramics display

Frontispiece: Computer-generated view of the Jameel Gallery, from the south-east entrance

Title page: Fritware bowl, Iran, probably Kashan, *circa* 1200. V&A: C.125–1931

Contents page: Tilework pillar, Bukhara, *circa* 1360. V&A: 567–1900 and 586–1899

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The Victoria and Albert Museum in London houses one of the world's most important collections of Islamic art from the Middle East. This book provides a beautifully illustrated record of the creation of the new Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art, which has been built to house more than 400 rare and precious pieces, including the famous Ardabil carpet, as well as fine examples of craftsmanship in ceramics, rock crystal and wood carving.

A history of the acquisition and early years of the V&A's Islamic collections sets the scene, and is followed by an account of the curatorial processes involved in the selection of themes and objects, both for the redisplay and for the exhibition *Palace and Mosque*, which travelled to the USA and Japan while the new gallery was being built. A discussion of the design concept for the Gallery, illustrated by computer-generated images of the new space, highlights the challenges of creating a more modern environment for Islamic art, and of presentation and interpretation to a wider public through interactive devices and other educational tools. V&A conservators also show, through a series of case studies, how objects of different types were prepared for display, while the lead-up to the actual installation of the objects is described in detail.

As well as appealing to those with a fascination for Islamic art, the text by members of the team who were closely involved in the project, the technical details and the plans of the Gallery will interest museum professionals, exhibition designers, architects and conservators from all parts of the world. *The Making of the Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art* is also a unique record of the start of an important new phase in the history of the V&A's Islamic collections.

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Also available from V&A Publications:

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