

Worksheet for Yasemin Gencer's "Mihrab"
by Sascha Crasnow
(to be used with [video linked here](#))



Key Takeaways:

1. What does the term *mihrab* mean? What does it connote?
2. What is a *mihrab* in the context of mosque architecture? Where is it positioned within the mosque? How does it function in relation to those individuals who come to the mosque for communal prayer (*salah*)?
3. What are the typical components of a *mihrab*?
4. What are some examples of architectural niches similar to the *mihrab* that pre-date the advent of Islam?



5. Describe the decorative components of *mihirabs*. What do they include? What do they not include? What religious or cultural elements influence these decorative elements?
6. Outside of the mosque, where can one find a *mihirab* or else *mihirab* imagery?

Contextualizing the Work

1. Choose an example of a *mihirab* not covered in this presentation. What characteristics identify it as a *mihirab*? How is it decorated? How do these ornamental choices reflect its location (both architectural site and geographical location), function, symbolic meanings, etc.?