Descriptions of Baghdad around AD 1000

On both sides of the river were palaces, gardens and parks of nobles with marble steps led down to the water's edge. There were finely built mosques and baths.

Baghdad was a veritable City of Palaces, not made of stucco and mortar, but of marble. The buildings were usually of several stories.

The palaces and mansions were lavishly gilded and decorated, and hung with beautiful tapestry and hangings of brocade or silk. The rooms were lightly and tastefully furnished with luxurious divans, costly tables, unique Chinese vases and gold and silver ornaments.

Gondolas decked with little flags, dancing like sunbeams on the water, carried the pleasure-seeking Baghdad citizens from one part of the city to the other.

Along the wide-stretching quays lay whole fleets at anchor, sea and river craft of all kinds, from the Chinese junk to the old Assyrian raft resting on inflated skins.

The mosques of the city were at once vast in size and remarkably beautiful. There were also in Baghdad numerous colleges of learning, hospitals, infirmaries for both sexes, and lunatic asylums.