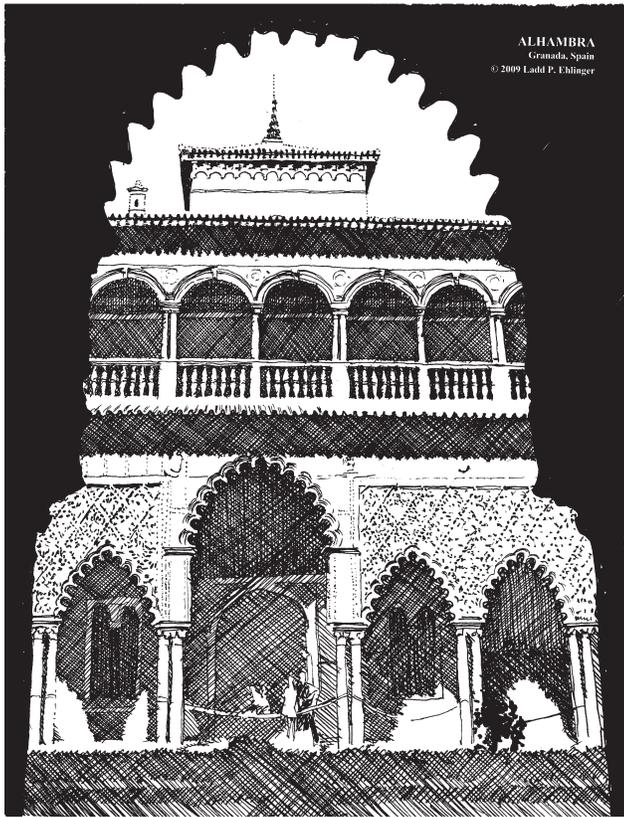




ARCHITECTURE

EHLINGER & ASSOCIATES

THIRD QUARTER 2009



ALHAMBRA, Granada, Spain

The Alhambra was a fortified palace with a complex of buildings set on the highest hill in the city of Granada, Spain.

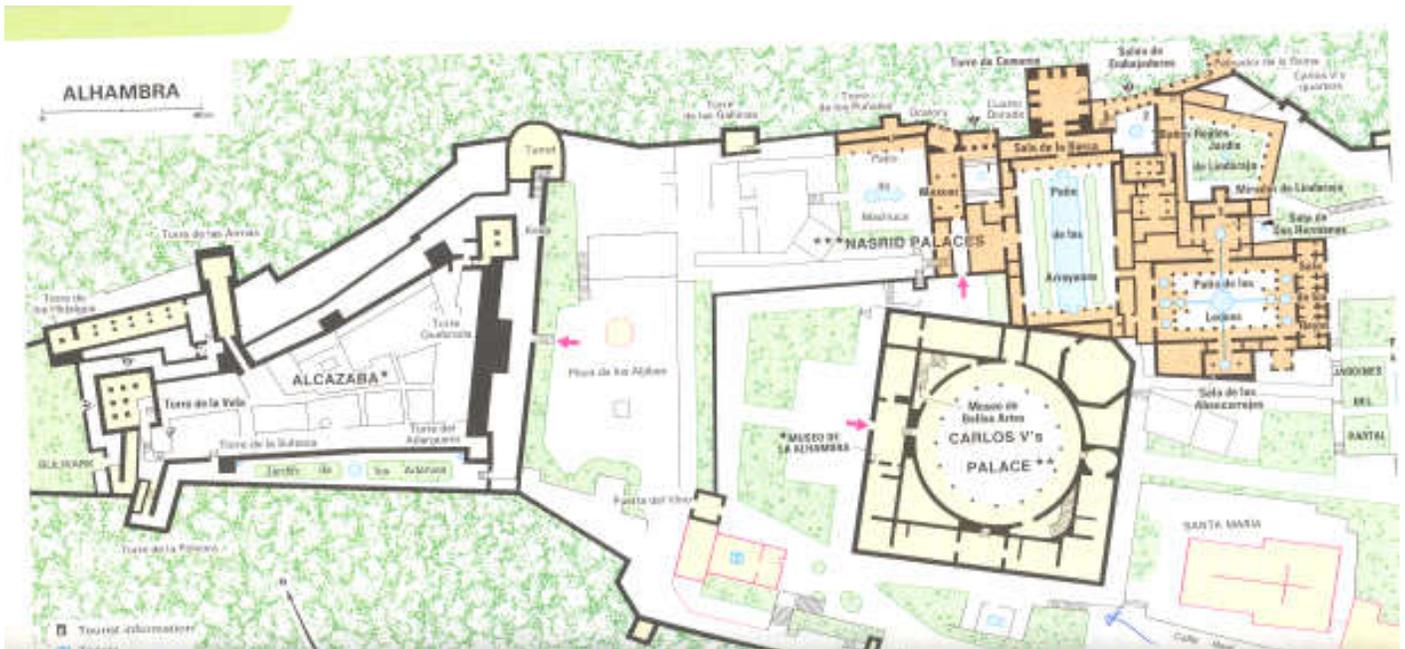
It was the last and finest Moorish palace of the Islamist empire that ruled Spain from 710 AD until 1492 AD. It was built between 1338 AD and 1390 AD by the Nasrid dynasty after their power was on the decline. But it flourished for over a century as a grand finale. In fact, Granada was the last city to fall to the army of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella when the Moors were finally driven out of Spain in 1492. Remember that two other events also marked 1492 and the reign of Ferdinand & Isabella: the financing of Columbus and his discovery of America, and the expulsion of the Jews and the Moors from Spain under an edict which commanded that they should “convert, leave or die.”

The Alhambra was built of more temporal materials than most Moorish palaces. Wood and stucco comprise the

majority of the structure and decoration. The stucco is richly carved in a technique we have discussed in previous newsletters - mudéjar - an intricate and elaborate arabesque interlacing and weaving of patterns.

This issue's limited edition print of a sketch by Ladd P. Ehlinger, AIA is of the facade of the Patio de los Leones (Courtyard of the Lions). Two other patios comprised the organizing scheme of the Alhambra: the Patio de Cuarto Dorado (Courtyard of the Golden Room), and the Patio de los Arayanes (Courtyard of the Myrtles). All buildings faced one of these patios and were accessed through them and to each other through narrow passageways. The Patio de los Leones was punctuated with a fountain in the center and was the seat of the government and also contained the Hall of Justice as well as the court itself in the Sala de los Reyes (Chamber of the King).

The Patio de los Leones is arcaded at the perimeter, with a filigree wall of mudéjar stucco above and then topped with another arcade. Blocks with entrances to important spaces accent the facade. Inside in the Hall of Justice are more displays of elaborate stalactite stucco ceiling work with the mudéjar walls.



Successor Spanish kings did little to enhance the Alhambra. The worst was the Palace of Carlos V built in 1526 in the Spanish Renaissance style. It is a fine Renaissance building, but it clashes with the Alhambra aesthetically and crowds it spatially. It simply doesn't belong there.

ON THE THRESHOLD

The spring bronze weatherstripping found around the front doors of our homes has acquired much more significance today than in the past because of energy conservation concerns. It deters the leakage of water and air around three sides of the perimeter of the door. This air leakage, whether in summer or winter, is one of the largest energy expenditure factors. Today it is usually supplemented by an additional compressible bulb type weatherstripping mounted on another jamb location.

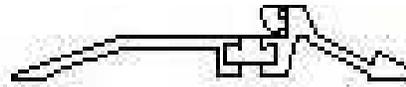
At the bottom of the door, the functions of deterring air and water intrusion are shouldered by the threshold. The term "threshold" comes from the Old English, where thresh was used on the dirt or stone floors to soak up the damp and cold, and a bar was placed in the door opening to "hold" the thresh in the room. Now in addition to performing the function of deterring water and air intrusion, the threshold is used to retard sound transmission as well as smoke infiltration under doors. Meeting the needs of handicapped persons has also a great influence on design of thresholds. A lower profile with a maximum vertical height of 1/2" is mandated for handicapped access thresholds.

The more popular types of thresholds are of aluminum or bronze. Solid bronze lasts longer and the finish will not wear off after repeatedly being walked upon. Solid bronze thresholds come in polished brass finish or an oil-rubbed dark bronze finish.

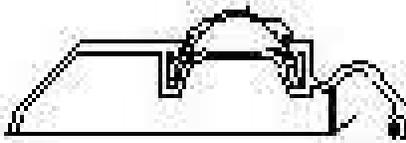
There are a multitude of threshold types. One special type of saddle threshold has been developed as a result of fire regulations which prohibit combustible floor covering (carpet) from running continuously under a door, as might be found in a hotel guest room. It provides a dead airspace between the corridor carpet and the guest room carpet to keep fire from spreading.



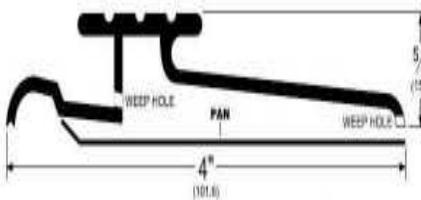
Another, the panic type, is usually used for out-swinging doors to meet various code or security issues. These types are designed for the vertical rod of the device to engage as a sort of panic-exit device, while also providing weatherproofing protections at the bottom of the door.



The vinyl top threshold is similar to the saddle except across the top of the saddle there is a strip of vinyl inserted to make a more effective seal. Vinyl tops are acceptable, but not recommended for commercial use because the vinyl wears out when exposed to high traffic.



The interlocking type of threshold has a hook strip mounted on the underside of the bottom rail of the door which interlocks with a Tee shaped portion of the threshold such that water is diverted into a channel below in the threshold where it can then weep back to the exterior. This type of threshold is the most secure of all of the types in blocking air and water infiltration.



WELCOME ABOARD!

Welcome Aboard to Michele Kelly, our new Administrative Assistant in the Metairie office. Michele Kelly is a 1986 Graduate of LSU with a Bachelor of Arts

degree in accounting/finance.

Michele comes from a construction background with over 13 years experience in residential construction. She is proficient in all aspects of accounting and taxes as well as all administrative areas. Michele has also worked independently in the accounting field for more than two years.



She is the mother of two children and currently resides in Mandeville along with her daughter.

Also Welcome Aboard to Mark Crow, our newest Intern Architect in the Metairie of-

fice. Mark has a B. Arch. degree from Louisiana State University Baton Rouge in 2009. Mark also is a graduate of Brother Martin High School in the class of '03.

At E&A, Mark is in training for the registration exam for architects. As such, he is learning computer drafting skills as well as how to put a building together in a professional manner. He is involved in the



production of Contract Documents in the areas of wall sections, plan sections, toilet partition details, cabinet details, site details, and stair details. These are the usual areas of beginner involvement.

Mark enjoys working out and getting involved in competitive sports such as football and volleyball. He is always interested in learning something new. Mark would like to travel to different parts of the world like Egypt, Germany, Spain, Italy, and seeing what is out there. He likes coming up with creative ideas and innovative ways of doing things. His motto is "Live life to the fullest and don't hold back."