

embellished with coloured tracery, which excluded the sun and rain, while, at the same time, it admitted a sufficiency of light through its semi-transparent texture, and added greatly to the effect of the whole pile, each portion of which was in strict harmony with the general plan.

This, for originality and splendour, might vie with the happiest examples of Egyptian art, and even the most elaborate arabesques and emblazonry of the middle ages: to which it bore a certain resemblance. It was a noble and imposing display, as distinct as the two continents from the European style of the seventeenth century, yet not on that account less worthy of admiration—as the young German believed.

Tazinco now informed them that they were within the precincts of the royal abode; and, ascending the terraces, he beckoned to one of a number of richly dressed nobles who were scattered about the pavilion platform. Sending this person in advance, to give notice of his arrival, the guide then led his companions into a triangularly-arched corridor that seemed to run along the front of the building, within the piers, and was crowded with the different officers and menials of the court.

After some delay, the noble in waiting returned