

## About the Cover

### ICM Madrid 2006

As Manuel de León and Allyn Jackson explain elsewhere in this issue, the next International Congress of Mathematicians will be held in the summer of 2006 in Madrid. As many mathematicians already know, a number of extremely handsome posters have been distributed to advertise the event. The image on this issue's cover, which shows the cupola of the *Sala de las dos Hermanas* in the Alhambra, is taken from one of them. Two of the posters are shown in the article by Allyn Jackson, and the other two are reproduced below. The verses by Ibn Zamrak, mentioned in a caption in Jackson's article, are just visible on the cover. One of the posters below exhibits a view of the Colegio de las Teresianas, designed by the Barcelonian architect Gaudí, and the other the cupola of the imperial Escorial Palace just outside Madrid. The graphics designer for all of the posters associated with the ICM 2006 was Maria Casassas of Barcelona. The photographer was Marc Llimargas, who specializes in architectural photography. In particular, he did the photography for a recent book on Gaudí.

The geometric nature of Islamic design, incorporating complex symmetries, has been well-explored from a mathematical point of view. A fairly sophisticated discussion, referring specifically to the Alhambra, can be found in the book *Classical Tessellations and Three-manifolds* by José María Montesinos. One good introduction to the Alhambra, with a short discussion of the mathematics in context, is the book *The Alhambra* by Oleg Grabar. A mathematical treatise much respected by nonmathematicians is the University of Zürich Ph.D. thesis of Edith Müller, *Gruppentheoretische und Strukturanalytische Untersuchungen der Maurischen Ornamente aus der Alhambra in Granada*.

Our thanks to Manuel de León for his help in obtaining the images we used.

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