About 4,000 brick and stucco finds, retrieved in Ghazni by the Italian Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan (1957-1978), compose one of the largest and most varied corpora from the medieval Eastern Iranian lands. Many of these evidence emerged during the excavation of the Ghaznavid royal palace (late 11th-early 13th c.): along with marble ones, they bear witness for the lavish architectural decoration that used to adorn the sultans’ court. Others, retrieved scattered and re-employed in Ghazni area, might have belonged to still unknown monuments. The Corpus shows a high variety in morphological and functional typologies (panels, friezes, frames, columns, pilasters and tiles) as well as in decorative techniques (brick carving before or after firing, stucco incision or moulding, painting of both brick and stucco) and patterns (carved vegetal, zoomorphic and geometric patterns, edgewise laid bricks to compose geometric or epigraphic designs). The minarets of the Ghaznavids Mas’ūd III and Bahramşāh, still dominating the Dašt-i Manāra of Ghazni, attest the successful use of backed brick in the area, which continued through the Ghurid period too. Such diffusion makes it difficult to date finds precisely.

Wall covering from the royal palace. **Brickwork frieze carved in high relief before firing**, decorated with a vegetal motif (triangular cavities on the leaves surface). On the left, a stucco fragment showing the same decoration, probably made to replace a damaged brick frieze.

Wall covering. **Frames carved in the brick’s depth**. The heart-shaped sequence (above) is attested on the minaret of the Ghaznavid sultan Mas’ūd III. The sequence of running animals (below) is comparable to those carved on Ghaznavid marble panels. The employment of similar elements on Ghurid monuments as well bears witness to the artistic continuity in Ghazni area.

Wall covering. **Big panels composed by edgewise laid bricks** designing geometric patterns and inserted stucco tiles (pentagonal, quadrangular, butterfly-shaped) decorated with a stylized vegetal motif.

Wall covering from the royal palace. **Stucco tiles** decorated with moulded high relief vegetal pattern and red painting (on the left), and the name of Allah carved in Kufic script (on the right).

Pillar covering. **Epigraphic frieze** composed by painted edgewise laid bricks on a stucco honeycomb-like background. The inscription, along with other two fragments, mentions a sultan protocol.