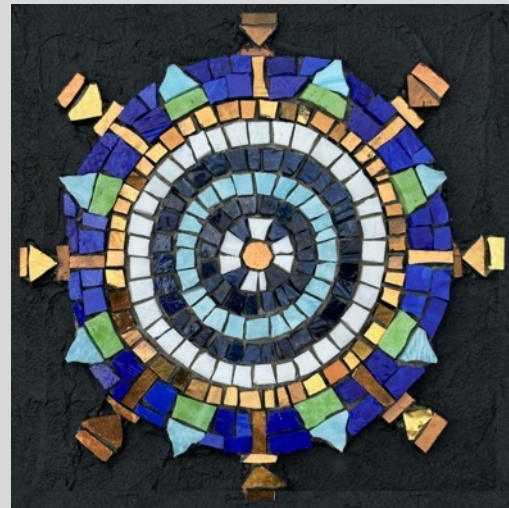
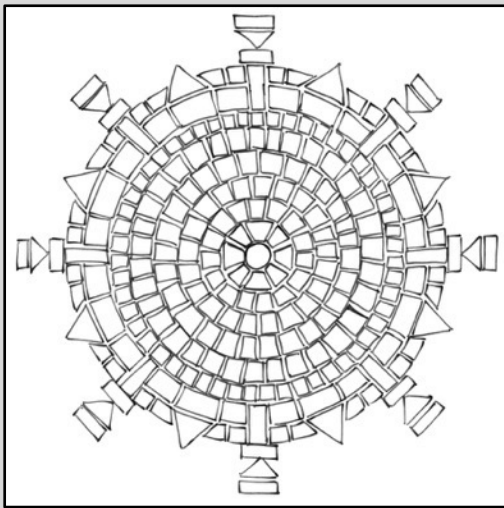
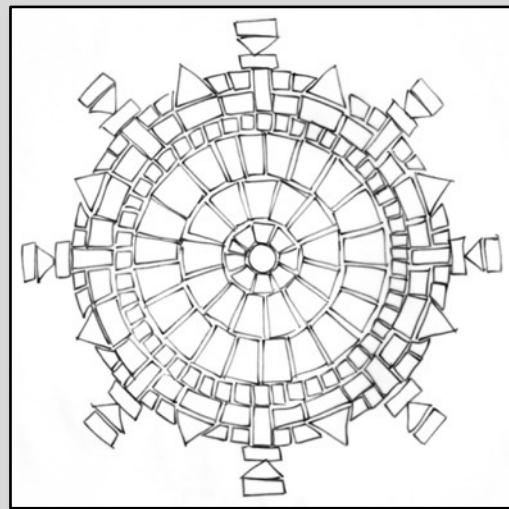




ART of ANDAMENTO

Curriculum for Mosaic

RAVENNA INSPIRED BYZANTINE STAR



ANDAMENTO APPETISER 2





A BITE OF HISTORY

WHERE IS RAVENNA?



iStock.com/gt29

Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Ravenna, Italy



iStock.com/dmitriymoroz



iStock.com/sansa55

This Andamento Appetiser is inspired by a mosaic from the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, a UNESCO World Heritage monument in Ravenna, in the region of Emilia-Romagna in Northern Italy. The city was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire from 404 – 476 ACE. Galla Placidia was the daughter of Emperor Theodosius and had a complex life filled with the frequently changing dynamics of a powerful political family in a turbulent time.

The Mausoleum was commissioned by Galla Placidia between 425 - 450 ACE in a cruciform layout, and intended to be her Mausoleum, however she died and was buried in Rome. It is a very simple and unassuming structure from the outside. You may notice the small number of slim alabaster windows that allowed diffused light to enter the building. The remaining interior light originally came from lanterns.

The interior of the building is nothing short of breathtaking with a marble floor and decorative marble walls to about 7 feet, above that the walls and ceiling are all decorated with smalti and oro (gold) mosaic. The large quantity of gold smalti (oro) creates a rich warm reflective glow within.

The style of the building and decorations blends eastern and western roman traditions, byzantine style and Christian imagery. It is a masterpiece of byzantine mosaic.





INSPIRATION



This sample draws inspiration from one style of star found in the ceiling of the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Ravenna Italy.

You can see in the image of an original star above there are approx. 60 tesserae across the diameter of the design. In the interpretation there are 21 tesserae across the diameter. If you can afford to use Oro (mosaic gold) in this sample, it really lifts the mood of the design.

I have used a bronze/copper gold, not a yellow gold to create a more antique feeling.

This sample has been created using six colours of Mexican Smalti

1. Dark Blue
2. White
3. Light Blue
4. Light Green
5. Cobalt Blue
6. Gold (Oro)

Each piece of smalti has been cut into approx. 4-6 tesserae.

Substrate Size
Size 17 x 17cm
Or 6.5 x 6.5 inches

Created using the direct method with tinted thinset.

Thinset is another term for Cement Based Adhesive

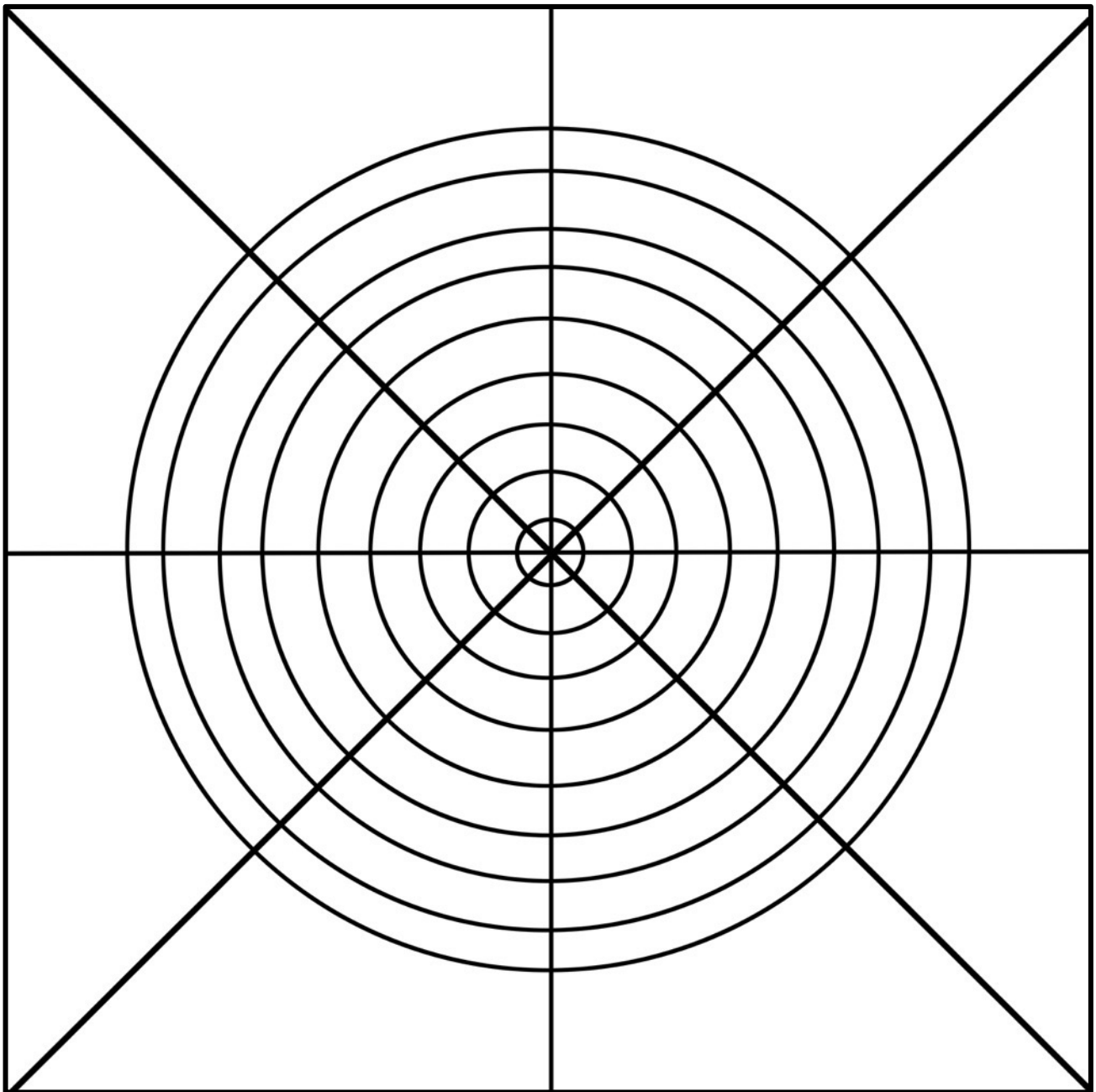
You could also use a water-based glue such as PVA or Weldbond and then grout the finished sample, or paint the substrate black before you start.

This sample is ungrouted and the surrounding substrate has been rendered with black thinset.





TEMPLATE

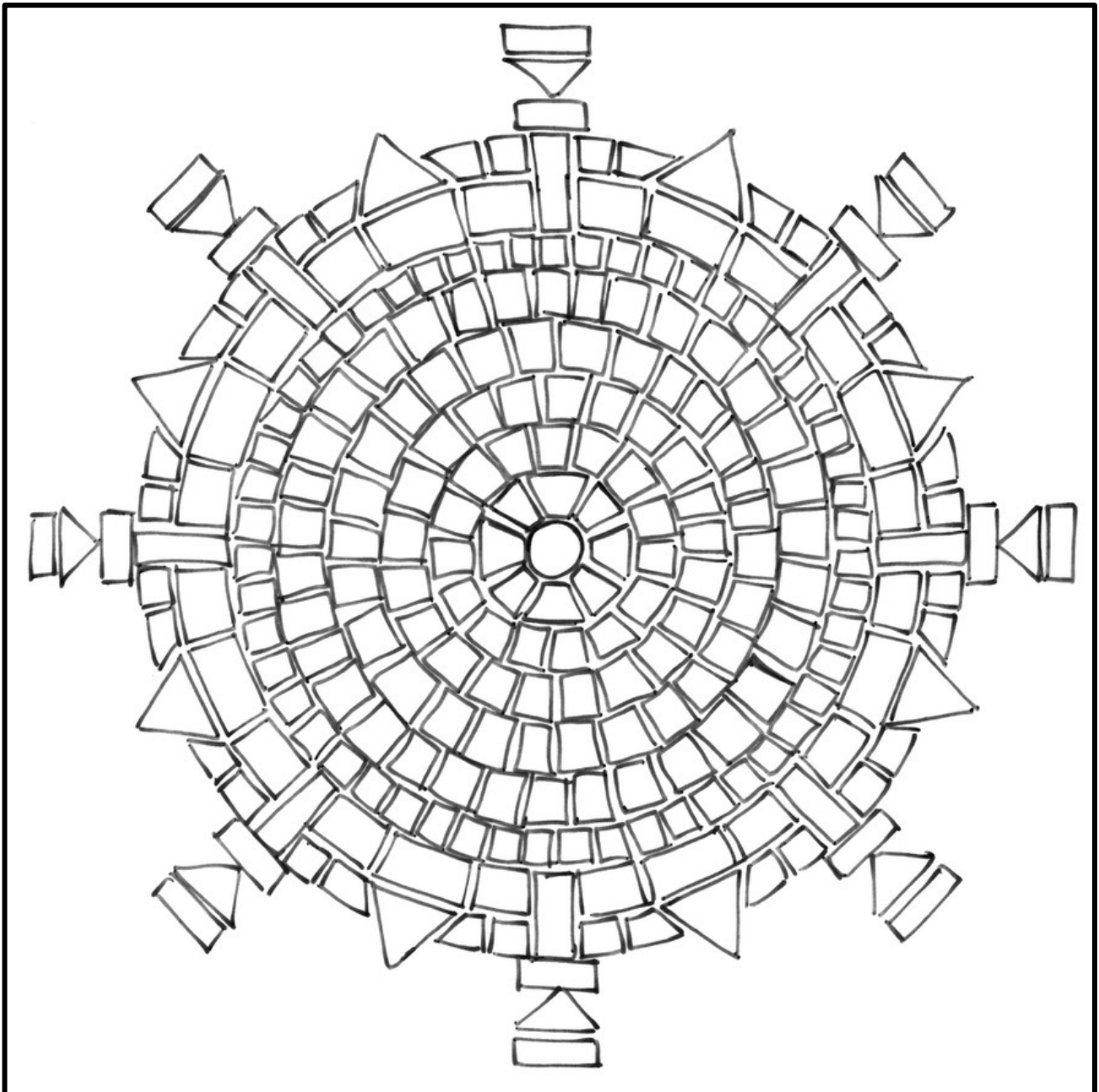


Print out this template and place it under one layer of tracing paper. Then draw the tesserae onto the tracing paper observing the lines beneath. You could draw directly onto the template, but I find the template lines can interfere. Using tracing paper also allows you to create several versions such as the following two tesserae drawing examples.





TESSERAE DRAWING 1

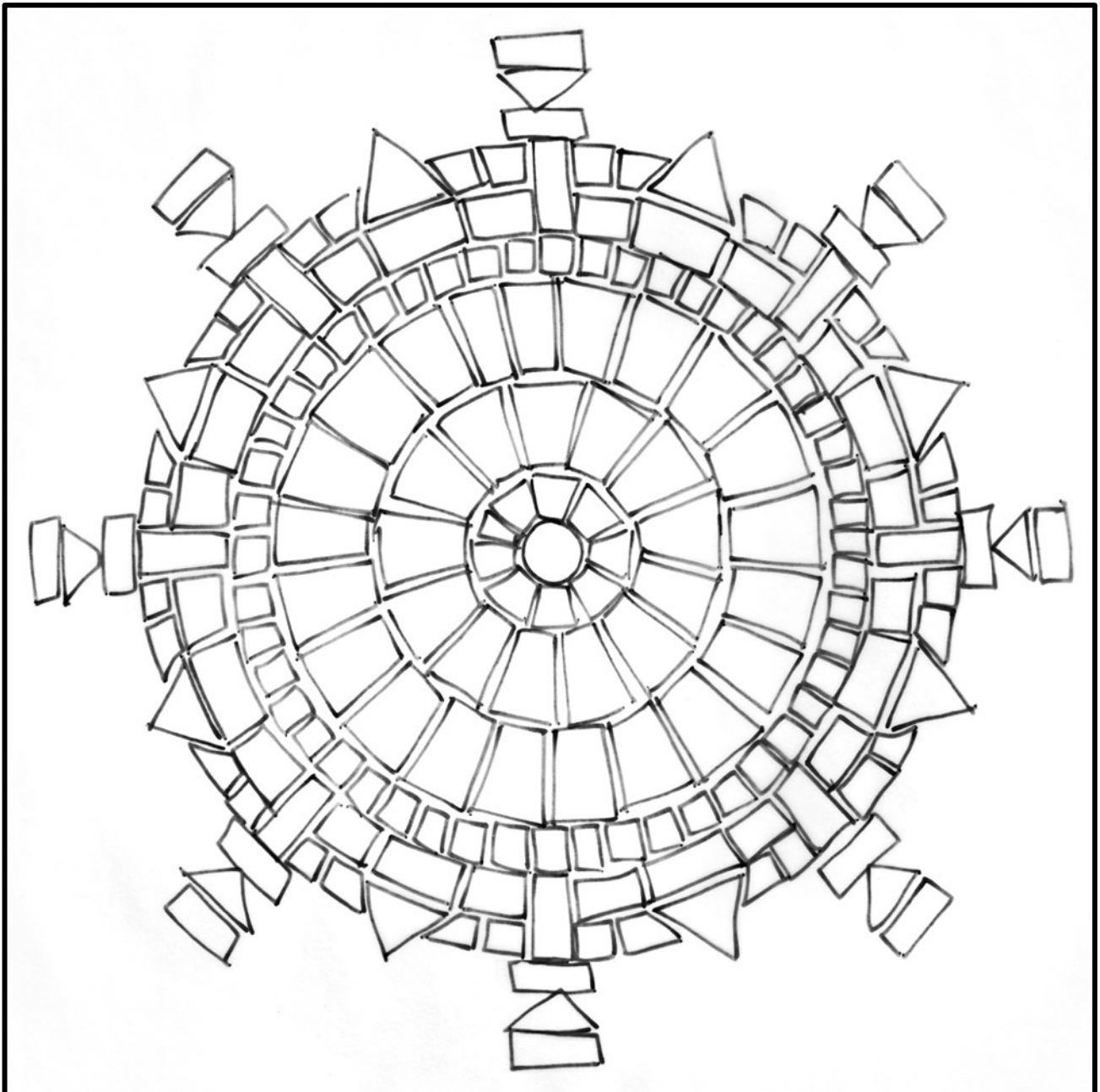


This scale tesserae drawing contains the same number of rows and tesserae of the same approximate size to those in the sample. This is the more complex of the two drawings.





TESSERAE DRAWING 2



In this scale tesserae drawing, I have combined 4 of the middle rows into two. This makes for an easier option than the previous drawing.





MOSAIC SAMPLE



I recommend drawing the vertical and horizontal lines on the substrate but that is all. Then start in the centre and work out in concentric circles. If you find your mosaic is 'growing' more than it should then drop out one of the middle rings.

