Theory

I will use acculturation theory to analyze the architecture of the California Missions as well as the concept of hybridity. Acculturation theory, as defined by Thomas Glick and Oriol Pi-Sunyer in the article titled “Acculturation as an Explanatory Concept in Spanish History,” they state that culture is not isolated and is penetrable to other external forces that cause culture changes. Therefore, when applied to the Moors in Spain it is visible in the structure that even after the Spanish had been able to take over the state, once again, they were susceptible to some of the Moorish culture but, in this case it would be their architecture. The writers also discuss that other than the fact that acculturation affects almost every culture, time also plays an important role when applying acculturation since it is through time where one sees the borrowing and incorporation of how cultures begin to assimilate even if the assimilation may or may not be forced upon a group of people. Thus, pre and post Reconquista, reconquest, the Spanish chose what elements of the Moors they wanted to maintain whether, it was intentional or not, the culture contact between the Moorish people and the Spanish had already occurred thus, there is a “painless assimilation” of the groups in question (Glick & Pi-Sunyer, 1969). Moreover, hybridity can also be used to describe the inevitable integration of different cultures and does not limit to syncretism which is always linked with religion (Kraidy, 2005: 1). Silvia Nagy-Zekmi (2007) explains that hybridism is the concept of people being a bit of everything or a mixture. Therefore, if implemented to the California missions’ architectural style, one can see the different elements that were used together to create one whole structure. The concept of hybridity within culture but more importantly within race, language and ethnicity is all correlated
into one since, it can best help explain how it can reflect the historical, geographical, as well as linguistic diversity of the various culture mixtures that exist (Kraidy, 2005: 2).

Bibliography

