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Religious Buildings - Mosques

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Abstract. Architecture, mastery and natyre create the organic symbiosis of meaning and spirit that in the essence of self-construction, harass themselves with shapes, which by themselves rise above them. In this way the object grows from the materials, the structure from the bases to the domes that lie between the strong ground and the opened sky, following the flow of growth to continue this continuity with the high of the minarets that tend to touch the perfections and with strength of perfection interconnect the particular elements.

Keywords: Religious architecture, Buildings, Mosque, Materials, Forms, Space, Beliefs, Developments, Comparison.

Introduction

Religious architecture is an architectural practice that involves the design and construction of places of worship or sacred space, such as churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples. Many cultures devoted considerable resources to their sacred architecture and places of worship. Religious and sacred sites are among the most impressive and permanent buildings man-made. Religious buildings and sacred structures have evolved over the centuries and were the largest buildings in the world, before modern skyscrapers.

While the different styles used in sacred architecture sometimes reflected their tendencies in other structures, these styles also remained unique from the contemporary architecture used in that time. In the architecture of the contemporary mosque there is no unanimity and point of view among the authors, nor is there any attempt to homogenize their differences. After all buildings will speak to the reader in an inimitable way.

With the rise of monotheism (especially Christianity and Islam), religious buildings increasingly became centers of worship, prayer, and meditation.

Islamic architecture

Islamic architecture encompasses a wide range of secular and religious styles from the founding of Islam till now, influencing the design and construction of buildings and structures in Islamic culture and beyond. The main types of Islamic architecture are:

- Mosque
- Tomb-Maosomeum
- Palace- Citadel
- School - Mendrese and
- Public baths- Hammamet.

For all these types of constructions, Islamic architecture developed a rich vocabulary that is also used for other important buildings.

The influence of Islam on architecture

The laws of Islam do not oblige the form of the sacred spaces in which the rituals of prayer are performed. In other words, the architecture of a mosque is not determined by religious doctrine. An essential requirement is that the space accommodate rows of worshippers standing behind an imam. Over time, the characteristic forms of mosques developed primarily in response to the variety of secular functions they supported at different times and in different places. In addition, the design of a mosque is not specific to any rite of Islam. Unlike the architecture of Christian churches, which in some cases can determine whether a congregation is Catholic, Protestant, or Orthodox, each mosque serves as a place of prayer for all Muslims.

The purpose of the first mosques meant as "place of worship", they were often simply the division of an open space in the center of the city where Muslims could gather and pray. The only defining spatial feature of these early mosques was their orientation towards the qibla - Mecca, the site of the ancient mosque, called the al-Haram Mosque, at the center of which stands the Holy Kaaba.

Additional spatial and architectural conventions began to emerge in response to social and climatic conditions. For example, a covered section was often provided to shelter worshippers from the extreme heat along the wall opposite Mecca. A warmth of prayer or mihrab, would usually define this wall so that pilgrims would immediately understand how to address their prayers.

Beyond these basic features, the rest of the mosque is an open courtyard, especially for cases, where thousands of people will gather on Friday for prayer. This simple, legible, and reproducible spatial prototype would develop into the first formal expression of covered mosques, known for their arcades and forest columns.

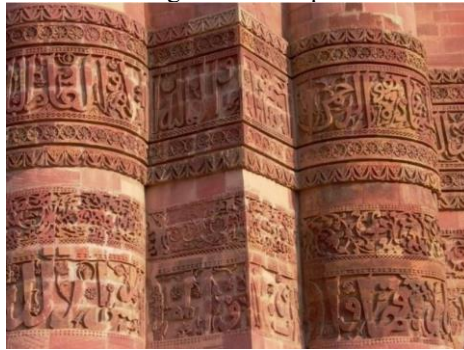
Fundamental forms in Islamic architecture

Since the Islamic religion forbids portrayals as well as the display of human figures, Islamic art and architecture has three forms of creation of art and architecture, while playing with light and shadow and water is very present too.

- Ornaments
- Repeating shapes (pattern)
- Geometric shapes

Ornaments

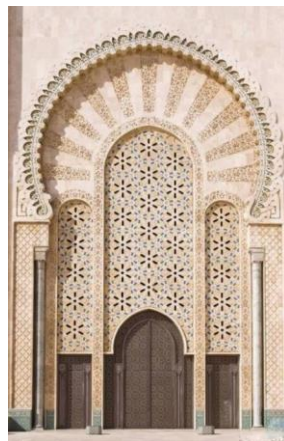
Font sizes are all coordinated by math. Inscriptions are most often used as a frame along the main elements of a building such as the portal and frames.



Writings in the Mosque, Qutub Minar, 2015 (Source from internet, based on: © Dr Ajay Kumar Singh)

Repeating forms

The designs are biomorphic, floral patterns that represent the basic order and unity of nature with great precision, flowers and trees are used as a motif for the decoration of buildings and structures.



Forms that are repeated in the Mosque, (source from the internet, based on: © Ilham Mohamed)

Geometric shapes

This form illustrates the Islamic interest in repetition, balance, symmetry, and continuous generation of the model, integrating geometry with such optical effects as balancing the positive and negative areas of a skillful use of color and tone values.



Geometric shapes in the Mosque, (source from the internet, based on: © Amani Al Ajet)

Light and shadow in the architecture of mosques

Light can exhibit a dynamic texture for architectural expansion patterns, the combination of light and shadow creates strong contrast of planes and gives the texture of carved stone as well as fitted or brick surfaces.

Water in the architecture of mosques

Water from the backyard pool and fountains helps, refreshes as well as beautifies, water can not only reflect architecture and multiply decorative themes it can also serve as a means of emphasizing visual axes.

Conclusions and recommendation's

Art can appear as religion, because from our eyes the principle of knowledge, art and religion are naturally intertwined. I think that the passage of centuries in each category of objects has left its mark, the development of technology, the development of materials has also helped each type of construction to have differences over time, but in mosques they still fanatically continue to use almost the same materials as: stone, wood, stained glass, brick, and recently even concrete with steel are what appear in most cases of XX. century and XXI century.

What else has influenced the art and architecture of mosques, comparing them with each other is that climate and natural conditions are what have influenced the selection of materials as well as colors, although today there are many choices

mosques continue the traditions of them also influencing religion directly in architecture.

Also the appearance of water (presenting purity), the appearance of minarets in almost every case (invoking prayers to God), geometric shapes and writings (based on what the Islamic religion forbids human-portraiture) are what they have withstood the centuries and have hardly changed at all.

What is worth mentioning is the domes and minarets which in the last century or in modernism when everything goes towards simplicity and pure forms, these last fight to break records in the size of minarets by stylizing them with different writings as well as extremely large spaces or halls covered with domes overloaded with floral designs that represent the basic order and unity of nature.

What is very promising are the mosques planned for the last century, although many of them are not allowed to be built nor are they allowed to appear, the idea of building such a completely modern concept is what promises for them. So the creation of new mosques that get rid of the shapes of centuries and repetitive geometric shapes.

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