

# Mosque Architecture: A Transdisciplinary Debate





## **Advances in Science, Technology & Innovation**

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ASTI series has now been accepted for Scopus (September 2020). All content published in this series will start appearing on the Scopus site in early 2021.

Mohammed Fekry • Mady A. A. Mohamed • Anna Visvizi • Asmaa Ibrahim • Lamiaa F. Ghamri Editors

## Mosque Architecture: A Transdisciplinary Debate



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#### **Preface**

The **Annual Memaryat International Conference** (**MIC**) is an academic event organized annually by the Effat College of Architecture and Design, Effat University. The objective of the MIC conference series is to encourage inter- and multi-disciplinary reflection on topics relating to architecture and design in the modern world. Considering the cultural, environmental, and societal specificity of the region, the MIC conference series aims at placing this uniqueness of experiences and needs in a broader international perspective to foster constructive dialogue. Against this backdrop the objective of the 5th Annual Memaryat International Conference (MIC 2021), titled *Masjid Architecture: Form and Meaning*, held online on February 23–24, 2021, was to encourage research and reflection on the past, the present, and the future of the Mosque architecture.

The Mosque (Masjid) is the center of spiritual, moral, and cultural life in Muslim societies. Though maintaining its overarching spatial, visual, and physical characteristics over the centuries, the mosque design has undergone various transformations that underline its centrality and adaptability to the evolution of the Muslim society. In this view, the Mosque, and so the Mosque architecture, serves as the evidence of resilience and sustainability inherent in Muslim culture and heritage. The Mosque has been and continues to represent the defining and unifying pillar of the Muslim communities locally and around the globe.

The 5th Annual Memaryat International Conference (MIC 2021) organized in collaboration with the *Abdullatif Al Fozan Award for Mosque Architecture*, served as a venue to present and discuss research as well as to exchange experiences and visions relating to the Mosque architecture and development. In this way, MIC 2021 fostered constructive dialogues on Mosque design philosophy, spatial characteristics, visual dimensions, communal locational choices, and building technologies. MIC 2021 served as a place of dialogue and critical reflection for architects, designers, engineers, academics, scholars, and theorists from all around the world. What brought them together was the need to discuss and potentially develop contemporary design solutions and future visions for the Mosque, the most deeply rooted, and an enduring, institution of Islam.

The 5th Annual Memaryat International Conference (MIC 2021) sought to encourage research and debate related, but not limited, to the following topics:

- Experience and Research on Masjid Architecture
- Experience and Research on Planning and Urban Design for Masjid
- Technology in Designing and Constructing the Masjid
- Environmental Design of the Masjid
- Operation and Maintenance for the Masjid
- Practical insights and lessons to be shared.

The quality of the academic discussion during MIC 2021 was supervised by the MIC 2021 Steering and Academic Committees, whereas the delivery of the conference was supervised by the Organizing Committee. A great number of papers were submitted to the initial call for papers. Of these, based on the submissions' quality, only a fraction was selected to be

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presented at the conference. Of these papers, following an arduous review process, 16 have been included in this book. These papers, i.e., the chapters included in this book, serve as a proof that there is a great need to reflect on the Mosque architecture as it offers invaluable insights into, on the one hand, the Muslim society and its evolution, and on the other hand, on cutting-edge solutions pertaining to architecture and design. As the Mosque architecture mirrors the specificity of the region, of the culture, and of the society, it offers invaluable lessons on how issues and challenges were addressed in the past, and how these experiences can be utilized today and in the future. The Organizers of the Conference, including the Chair, the Steering Committee, the Program Committee, and the Academic Committee, remain grateful to the broader community of academics and practitioners who responded to the initial call for papers, who joined the conference, and who published in this book. A special "thank you" is extended to Dr. Haifa Jamal Al-Lail, the President of the Effat University for her continuous encouragement and support throughout the organization of MIC 2021, as well as for the inspiration she shares. The organizers would also like to thank the entire ASTI team for their guidance and assistance throughout the process.

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Fekry Mady A. A. Mohamed Anna Visvizi Asmaa Ibrahim Lamiaa F. Ghamri

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## About this paper



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