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Sustainability in Islamic architecture (Article)

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Abstract

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This paper discusses a conceptual framework for sustainability in Islamic architecture. Some major segments of the framework are elucidated along theoretical or philosophical, rather than empirical, lines. Firstly, the need for sustainable architecture is outlined. That is followed by discussing the concepts of man and the natural environment in Islam and how central those concepts are to the Islamic message and Islamic civilisation; the latter serving as a physical manifestation and evidence of the former. Then, some main conceptual implications of the two concepts for sustainability in Islamic architecture are explained. The paper concludes that sustainable architecture needs to address not only environmental and economic, but also social educational and spiritual concerns of people. It represents the identity, as well as a microcosm, of Islamic culture and civilisation.

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