The History and Architecture of Al-Masjid Al-Haram

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The History and Architecture of
AL-MASJID AL-HARAM

This book deals with the themes of the history and architecture of al-Masjid al-Haram. The time-frame covered in the book is one commencing with Prophet Adam and ending with the first half of the era of the Ottoman Turks. The importance of the book lies in the fact that the history of al-Masjid al-Haram in many ways embodied the history and development of Islamic civilisation. Moreover, on account of al-Masjid al-Haram phenomenon being an institutional marvel, a structure and an architectural space, it likewise embodied and reflected, to a large extent, the history and evolution of the identity of Islamic architecture. Concurrently with the development of al-Masjid al-Haram, Islamic art and architecture were also acquiring their trademark identities, breaking through and ultimately dominating the world’s cultural and civilisational scenes. It thus can be deduced that the three: al-Masjid al-Haram, Islamic civilisation and Islamic architecture, were advancing together, one influencing and being influenced by the others. Studying thoroughly any one of them connotes studying a great deal of the other two as well. So integral and inter-reliant were they that irrespective of which one could be the cause and which one the effect, they – and indeed the whole Muslim community (ummah) with them – are bound to rise and wane together. The book, it follows, offers some essential lessons on the theory, history and philosophy of Islamic architecture – as well as civilisation – based on the colourful history and development of al-Masjid al-Haram.