

Islamic Interior and Exterior

Third & Fourth Lectures

Supervised by
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Regional Variations in Masjid Design

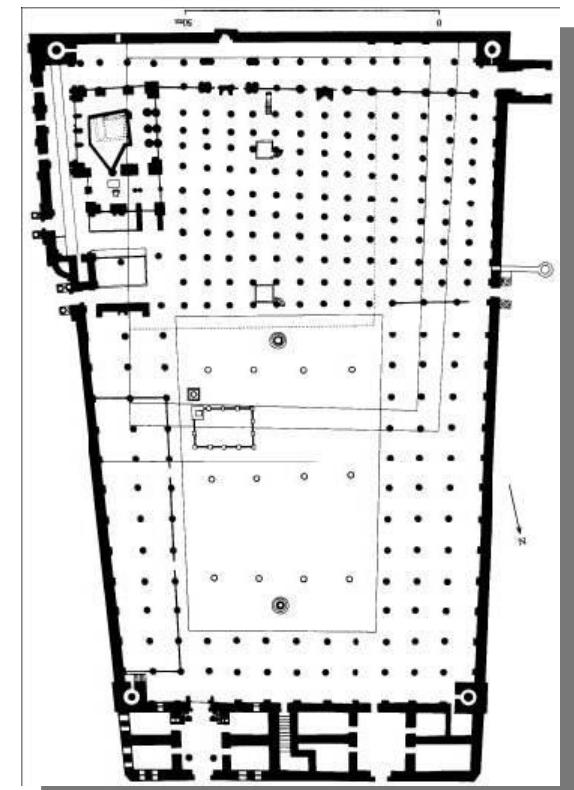
Masjids are divided according to the type of design ,functional elements and construction methods to several types: -

1-COLUMNAR HALL DESIGN

A- THE HYPOSTYLE MASJID DESIGN

Main Characters:-

Horizontal rectangle plan or closer to the square , and an open courtyard surrounded by four corridors, the largest is qiblah gallery , each of the aisles are parallel to the qiblah wall and has multiple entrances on all sides except the qiblah wall Have one minarets or more.



The Masjid of the Prophet, Medina; with tomb of Muhammad in upper right-hand corner



Keel Arch



Masjid al – Aqmar , Cairo

The Masjid is located on the main artery of Cairo city, the Masjid elaborate ornamentation and design are seminal for Cairo's architecture, especially for the way its plan shifts to accommodate both the qiblah orientation and the existing street pattern.

In plan it is a regular, rectangular hypostyle Masjid with a square courtyard, consist of point arch decorated with calligraphy .

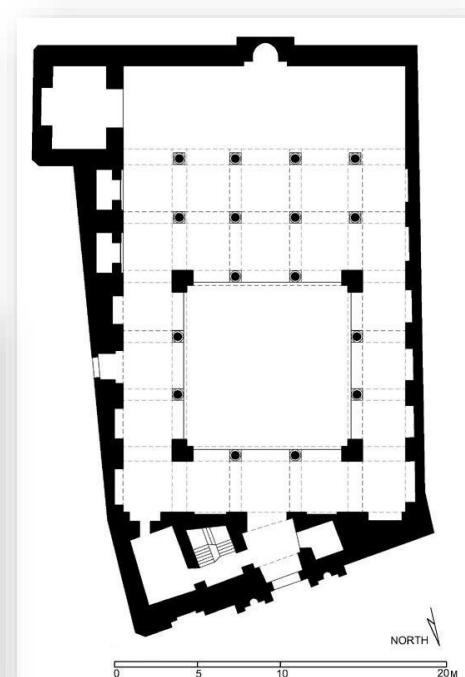
Constructed of brick with stone facing, the façade is highly decorated with stalactites and blind arch decoration.

The entrance portal is set within an arch with keel-shaped niche.

The masjid have one minaret.



Cairo , Aqmar Masjid , 1125 , façade, court yard



Masjid al – Aqmar , Cairo
[Fatimid Era]

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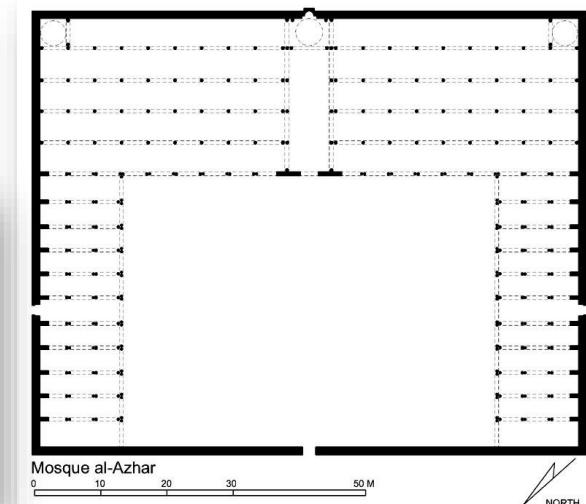
1-COLUMNAR HALL DESIGN

B- TRANSEPT MASJID DESIGN (Umayyad Masjid , North Africa Masjid of Kairouan, Masjid of Cordoba, Andalusia) form like the **hypostyle Masjid** but the **qiblah gallery** is crossed by an aisle (**transept in the middle**) which is **wider** and **higher** than the other aisles

Masjid al – Azhar , Cairo

The original structure was **rectangular** in shape , and comprised **three arcades** situated around a **courtyard** . To the southeast of the courtyard, the original **prayer hall** was built as a **transept hall**, the **qiblah wall** was slightly **off** the **correct angle**.

The masjid have **three minarets** built in **different period**.



Masjid al – Azhar , Cairo

The **marble columns** supporting the **four arcades** that made up the **prayer hall** and the courtyard were **reused** from sites extant at **different times** in **Egyptian history**, from **Pharaonic** times through **Roman** rule to **Coptic** dominance . The **different heights** of the columns were made level by using **bases of varying thickness**.

The **main entrance** to the Masjid is the **Bab al-Muzayinīn**, which opens into the **white marble courtyard** at the opposite end of the main **prayer hall**.



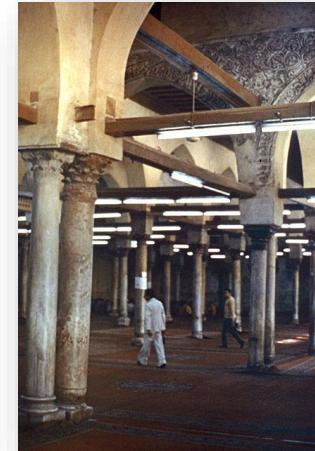
Main portal consist of double semi circle Keel arch



The courtyard consist of point arch with marble column and stucco ornamentation



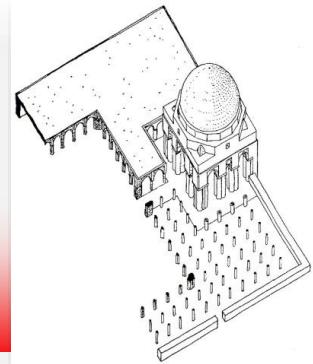
Serrated balconies



Prayer hall



The niche was semi circle arch with plain marble facing with gold patterns.



Regional Variations in Masjid Design

2- IWAN DESIGNS

Masjid designs developed initially from multi- columned halls, familiar in the region from Persian audience hall.

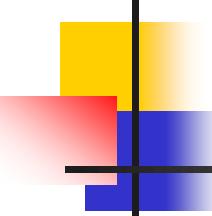
Friday Masjid , Isfahan

The original form seems to have been a **rectangular** multi **columned** hall, with **colonnades** on all four sides, soon **changed** into **court** and **prayer hall** surrounded by **arcades** .

A **dome** was introduced at the **south end** of the existing building, probably to serve as **maqsura**.

It **differed** significantly in **scale**, rather than **covering one bay** of the columnar hall, the southern **dome covered twenty bays**.



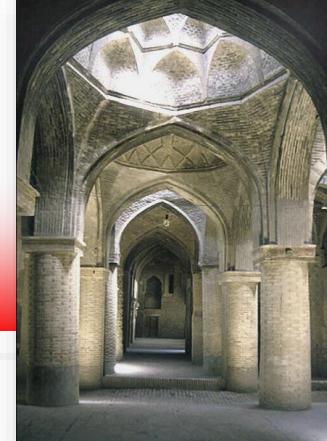


Friday Masjid , Isfahan

Isfahan's Friday Masjid was modified again to include **four Iwan** set in the center of each **side of the courtyard**.

Courtyards of this design were known from **palaces** built in **Persian** in the **3rd century** .

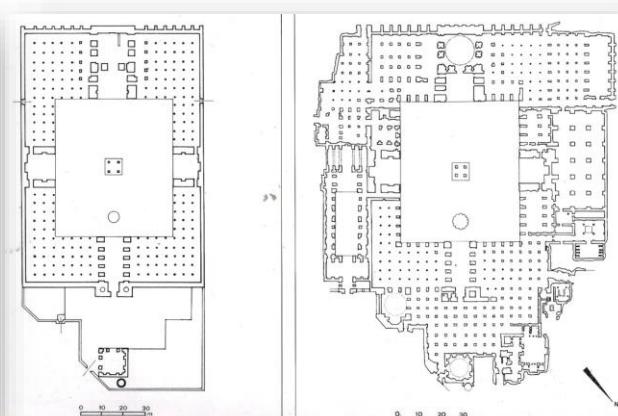
While **two Iwan** at **right angles** to the **qiblah** wall could help **define** the **focus** on **Makka**.The **four iwans** are not of **equal importance** and this fact is reflected in their **different dimensions, structure, and decorative motifs**. The southwest iwan, preceding the **domed chamber** with the **mihrab**, is the **most prominent** among the other iwans.



Prayer hall



Prayer hall



Friday Masjid , Isfahan

A boldly scaled **arched**[four center arch] opening that provided builders with an opportunity to exercise their **skills** in **geometric ornament** interrupts the **regular rhythm** of the arcades.

This included the application of **glazed tiles** in shades of **blue, turquoise, white, and yellow**.

The Masjid also **renowned** for its **complicated brickwork** patterns in the **domes**.

A **pool** at the center of the **courtyard** reflects the **blue background** painted tile work covering the **iwans** and the great **dome** of the Masjid.



Regional Variations in Masjid Design

3- COURTYARD DESIGNS

Hindu Buddhist **temples** were replaced with **Masjids** initially based on multi columned hall designs.

Akbar the third Moghul emperor was responsible for construction a new capital Friday Masjid at Fatehpur Sikri a site abandoned after his death and **preserved now as a national monument** in India .

The magnificent Jama Masjid, is placed on a **platform** that is **elevated**. The Masjid has **five main entrances** to the praying area.

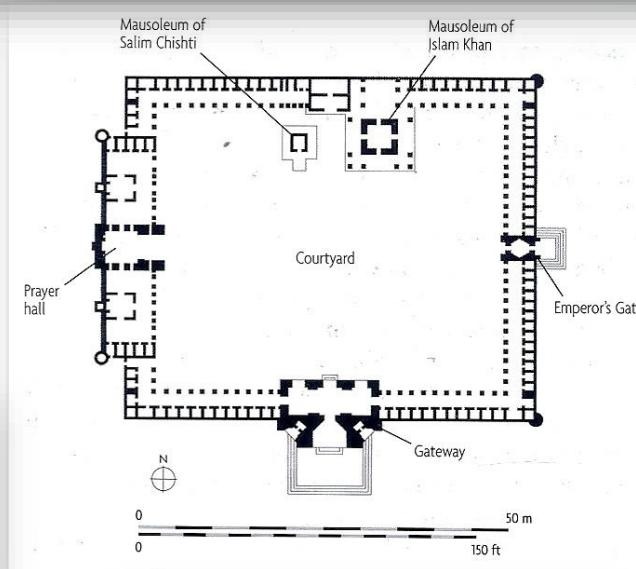
The walls comprise of **intricate** carvings and **inscription** taken from the Holy Quran.



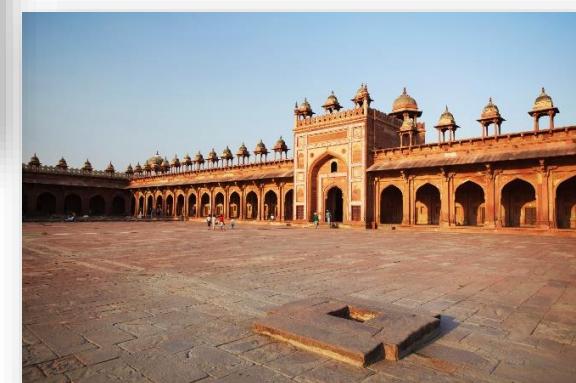
Jama Masjid



To the right is the Jammat Khana hall and next to it is the tomb of the royal ladies of the court.



The main attraction is the tomb of the sacred Sufi saint **Sheikh Salim Chisti**, who prophesied that Akbar will have a son who will succeed him.



The Masjid has a huge courtyard, from the south through a monumental gate.

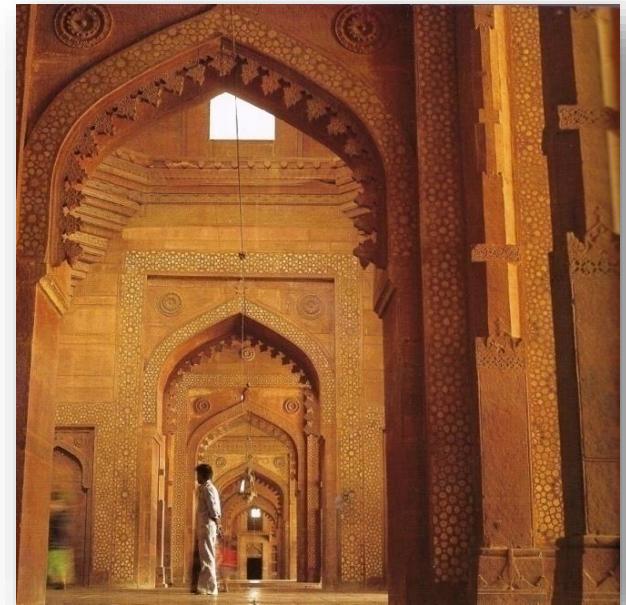
Jama Masjid, Agra

The exterior is built with attractive **red sandstone** and **white marble** with **detailed finishing**. The center **courtyard** is wide and open, and can **accommodate** almost 25,000 people at a time.

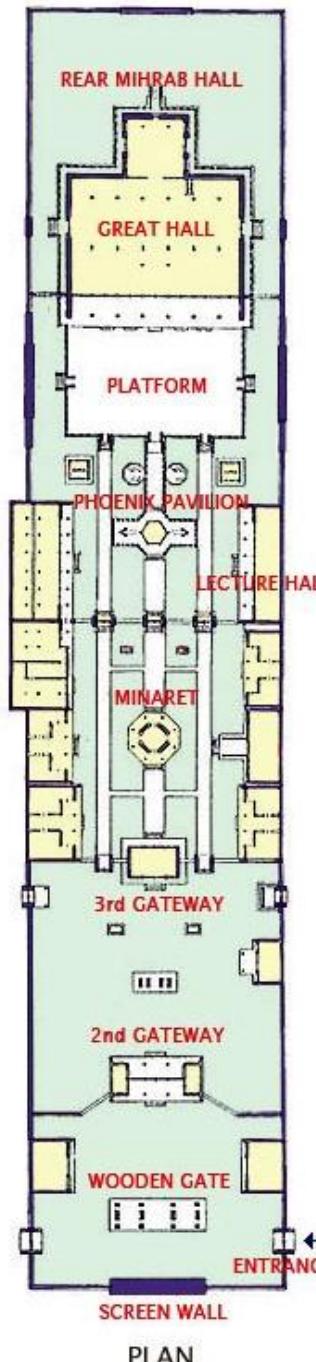
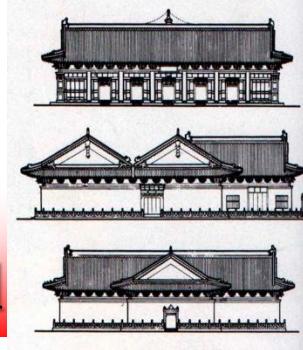
This view shows the **distinctive detail** developed by Akbars architects as they used **Islamic forms (pointed arch)** ,with elements from **Hindu** and **Buddhist** traditions.

The interiors are designed **artistically** and **adorned** with **paintings** and **floral** designs.

The **attractive three majestic sandstone domes** are add beauty to the structure. The **domes** comprise **colored tiles** with **inscription** on it.



Regional Variations in Masjid



4- PAVILION DESIGNS

Islam was introduced to **China** in the mid-seventh century through contacts in **port cities**. Another source of Muslim influence came over **land** through the **armies of Genghis Khan**.

The Great Masjid in Xian organized like **Buddhist temples** in China with a **series of wooden pavilions** and **courtyards** arranged along a **central axis** running from **east to west**.

After passing the **entrance gate**, there are **four portal pavilions** defining the entry to the **successive courtyards** before one reaches the substantial **timber**-framed **prayer hall**, raised on a **granite platform**.



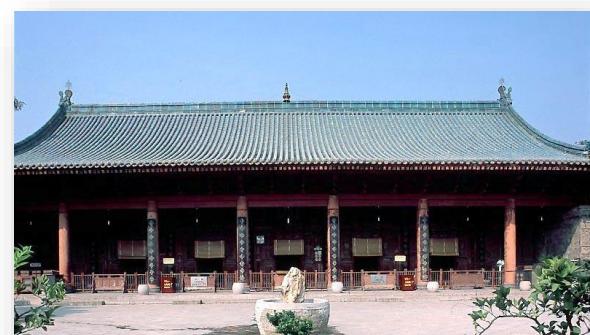
Xian Masjid , China



The **prayer hall**, is comprised of a **portico** and a **great hall** with a **projecting qiblah bay**. These three sections covered by a **single roof**.

The **portico**, hall and iwan are **differentiated by separate roofs**. The open portico, carried on **six columns**, is covered by **rolled roof**, which dips down to join the roof of the great hall.

The **rounded timber columns** supporting these roofs are marvelously **decorated with low relief woodwork**.

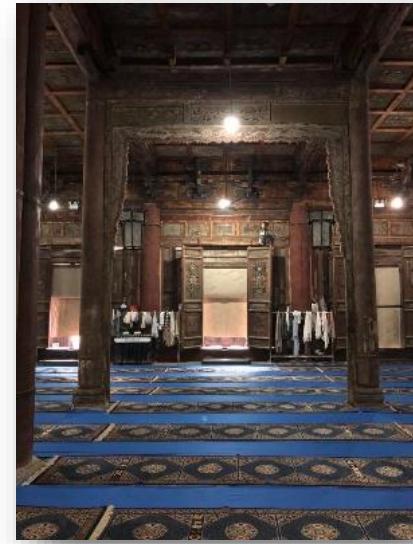


Xian Masjid , China

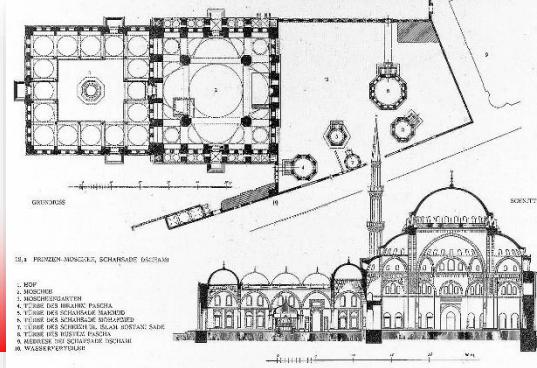
Six hundred **polychrome panels** with **floral motifs** **decorate** of the ceiling. Heavy **cylindrical** columns, **painted** **deep red** like the walls, divide the first two spaces into **seven** bays.

The **two meter** tall **pointed** arch of the **niche** is decorated with carved **arabesques** and **calligraphy** and painted with in darker hues of **red**, **brown** than the central space.

Four bands of **Quranic** inscriptions **encircling** the niche reveal the influence of **Chinese calligraphy** on **Arabic lettering**.



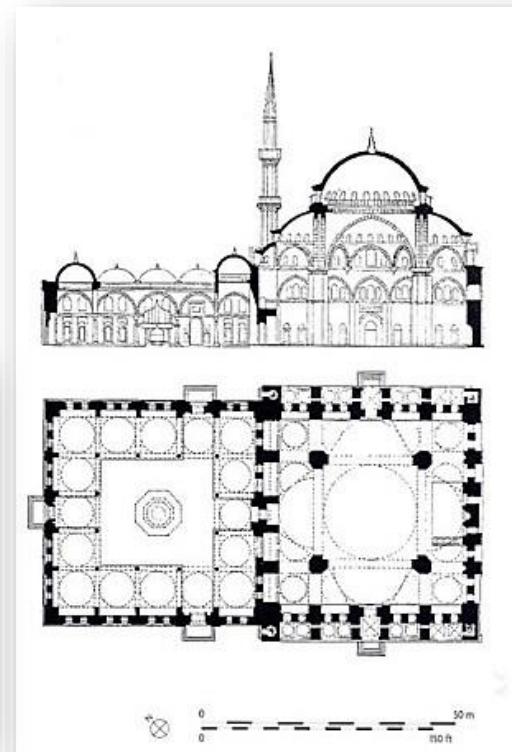
Regional Variations in Masjid Design



5- DOMED PRAYER HALL DESIGNS (Form of single massive internal space)

In **Anatolia**, Islam spread on by the **Ottoman Turks**, under the leadership of Sultan **Mohamed II**, who thus completed the Islamic conquest of the **Balkans**.

The **Shahzade** Masjid complex commissioned by **Sultan Suleiman** in memory of his son, who had died as a young man. One square comprises the **courtyard** which has a **central fountain** and is surrounded by **domed bays** behind **arcades**, while the **second** defines the **domed prayer hall**



Shahzade Masjid ,Istanbul



the **domed prayer hall** where the **central dome** is complemented by **four semi domes** set at the **sides**, with **smaller domes** and **semi domes** filling the **remaining spaces**.

Minarets are incorporated into the **corners** where the **squares** join the **two squares** adjoin.

