

Islamic Interior and Exterior

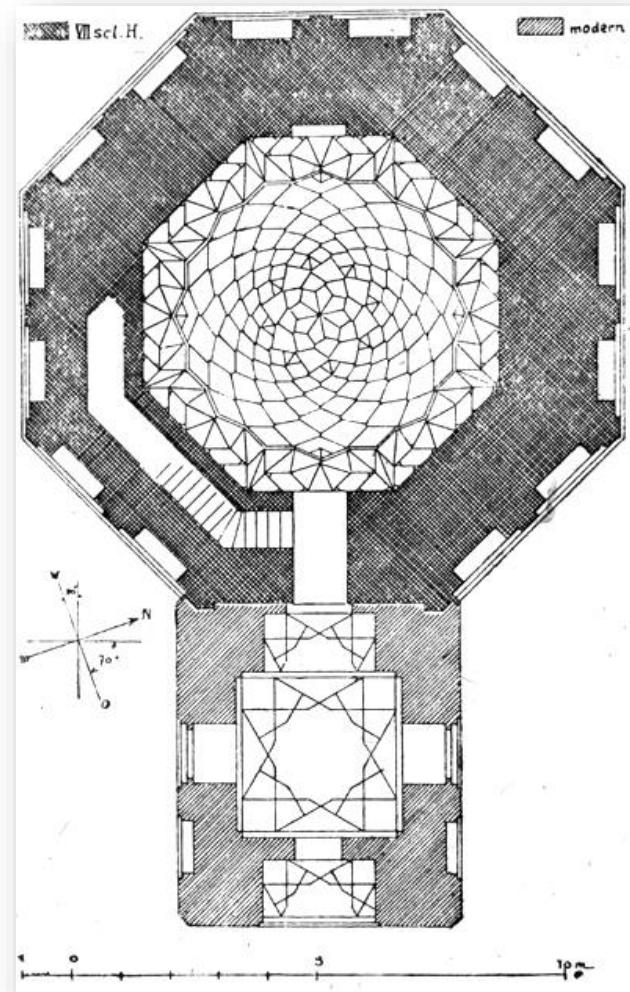
Tenth Lecture

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The Tomb of Zomorda Khatun in Baghdad

This famous mausoleum was constructed by the Abbasid caliph **al-Nasir** for his mother, **Sitta Zubaydah**, the wife of **Harun ar-Rashid**.

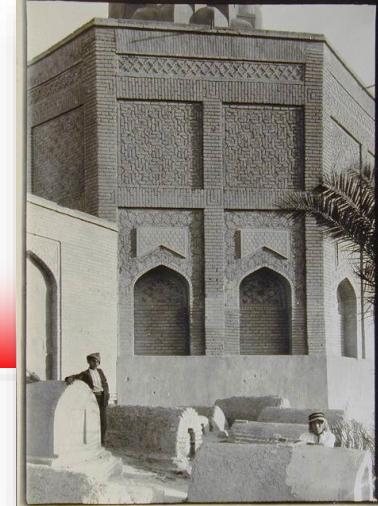
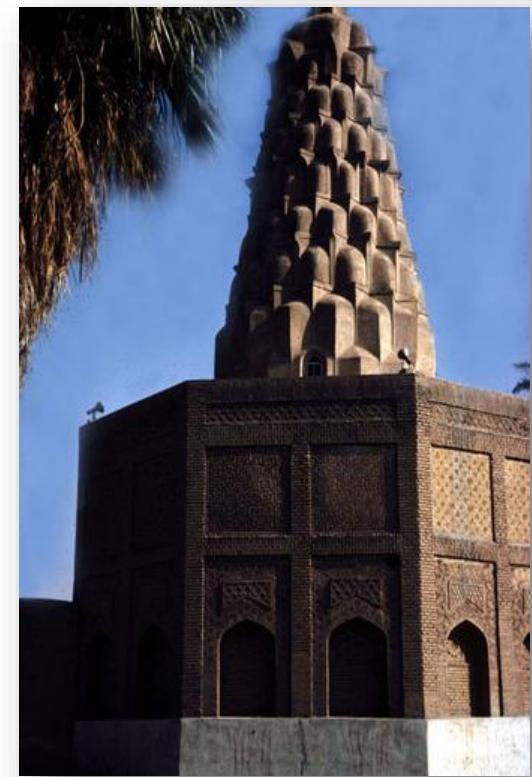
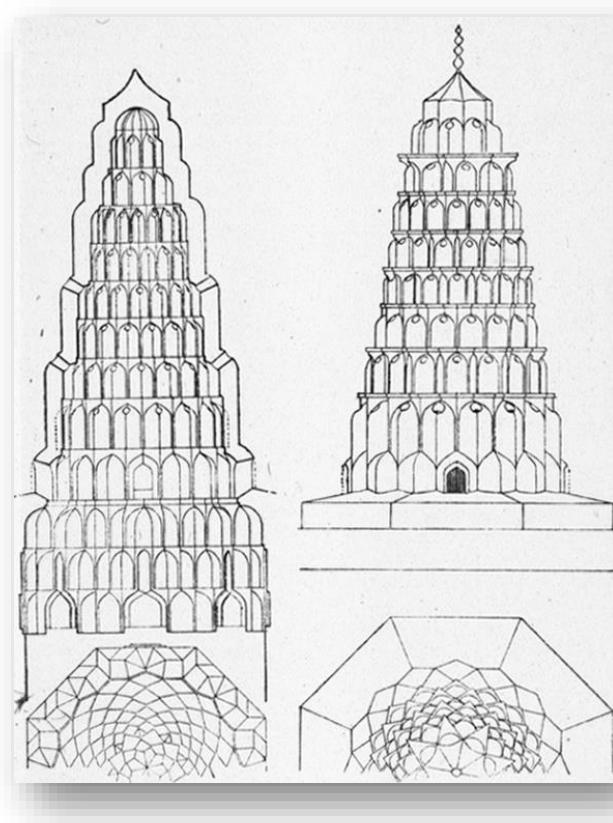
Located in an expansive cemetery, this brick tomb exhibits a **nine-layered, cone-shaped muqarnas** (stalactites) dome (13 m) is covered inside and out with plaster, cover capped by a small **cupola** that **rises** to great height from an **octagonal base**, similar to the **Imam Dur** in Samarra.



The Tomb of Zomorda Khatun in Baghdad

Floral and geometric decoration covers the exterior of the base while each façade is partitioned into four sunken square panels, two on the bottom and two on the top, themselves featuring decorative brickwork.

Today, the tomb is entered from a square-planned, domed structure that was built to replace an earlier one.

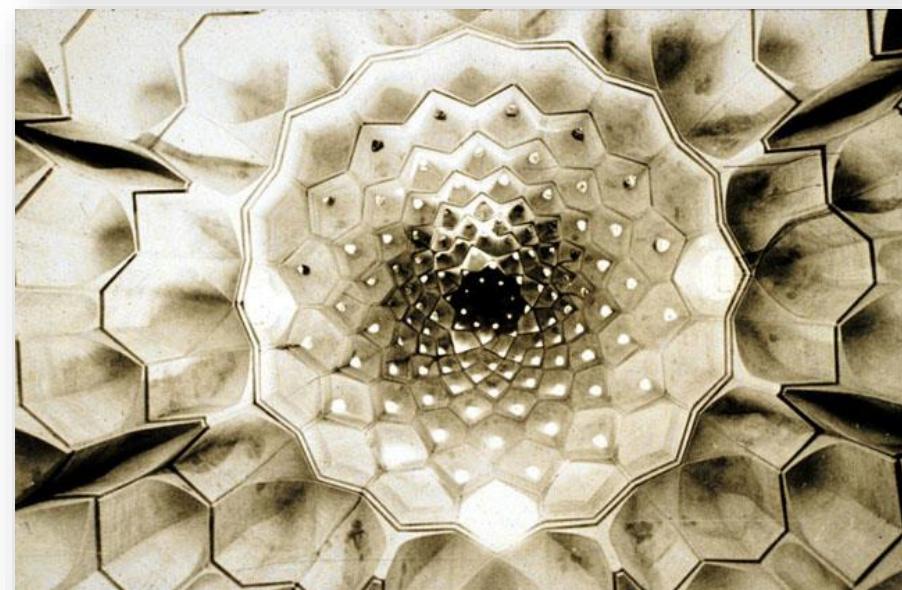


The Tomb of Zomorda Khatun

From this area, a staircase rises up to the base of the muqarnas dome while a tight corridor just over one meter large leads to the octagonal burial chamber.

The light inside the vault emanates from small holes cut in the muqarnas dome producing a glowing effect.

The mausoleum has been restored periodically throughout its lifespan.



The Erbil Minaret [Choly] in Erbil

The Choli Minaret is one of Erbil city's most **famous landmarks**. Built in 1128-1138 A.D., during the rule of **Sultan Mudhaffar al-Din**, it is also known as **al-Mudhafariah Minaret**.

Local inhabitants refer to it as
'Choli' because it was
far from the city.



The Erbil Minaret [Choly] in Erbil

It is a Seljuk (Atabegs style) minaret on an **octagonal base** with a **cylindrical brick** minaret in the lower city.

It is **situated to the East of the Great Masjid** which was completely **destroyed**.

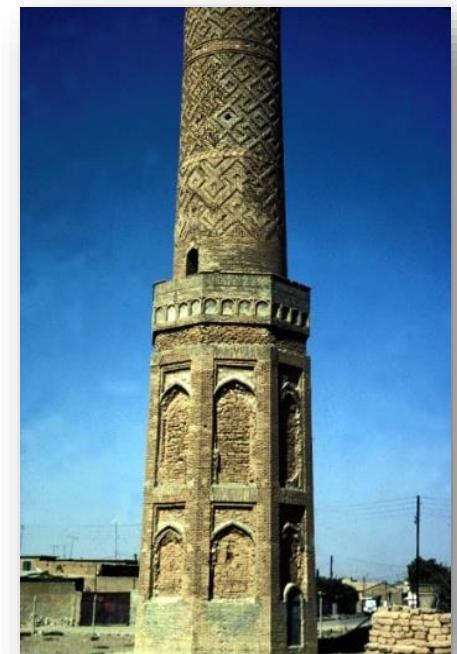
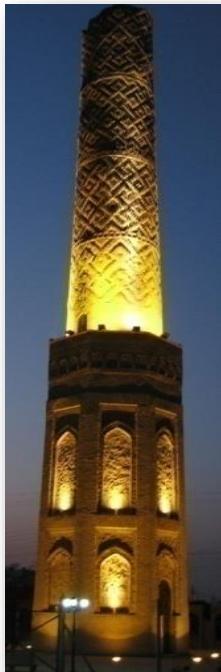
There are **two separate entrances** for the **two balconies** through **two stairs**.



The Erbil Minaret [Choly] in Erbil

The **base** is decorated with **two tiers of niches** with **pointed arches**, two on each of the eight faces that are inscribed in **rectangular frames**.

The **balcony parapet** is carved with **twenty-four small niches**. There are **glazed tile mosaic** decorations in the **niches with point arches**.



The Erbil Minaret [Choly] in Erbil

It is built of **baked bricks**. The **access door** to the **minaret steps** is on the **eastern side** of the octagonal base and leads top the **balcony**.

From there a **small door** gives access to steps inside the **cylindrical shaft** that led to the **second balcony** now **collapsed**.

The shaft **tapers inward** and is decorated with **several bands** of **interlocking diagonal motifs** that are separated with **thin bands**.

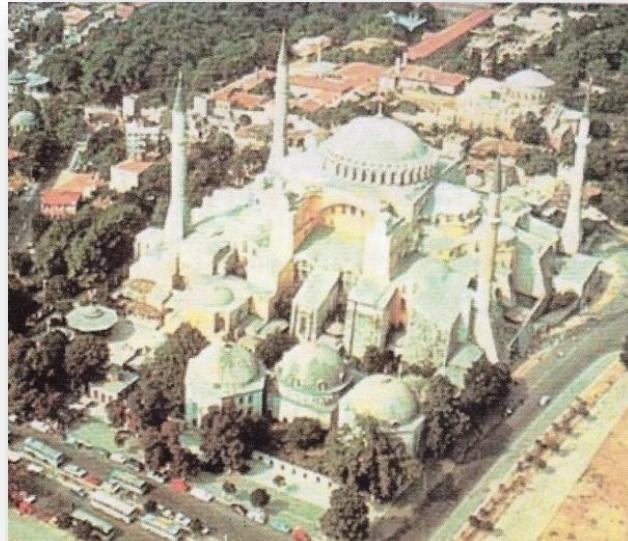


Selimiya Masjid , Edirne [Ottoman style]

Sinan's final major work was the Selimiya Masjid in Edirne, built in 1568-75 for Selim II.

The complex contains the usual madrasa (Islamic schools), a covered market, outer courtyard and cemetery, but it is the **domed prayer hall** that commands particular attention.

Sinan boasted that here he had built a **dome both wider and taller than Hagia Sophia**.



Hagia Sophia Church , Istanbul

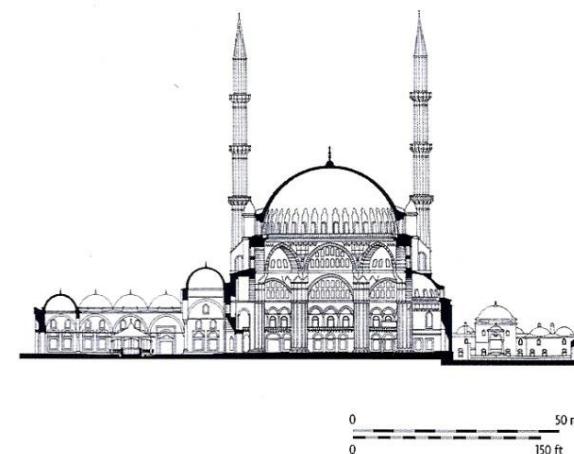
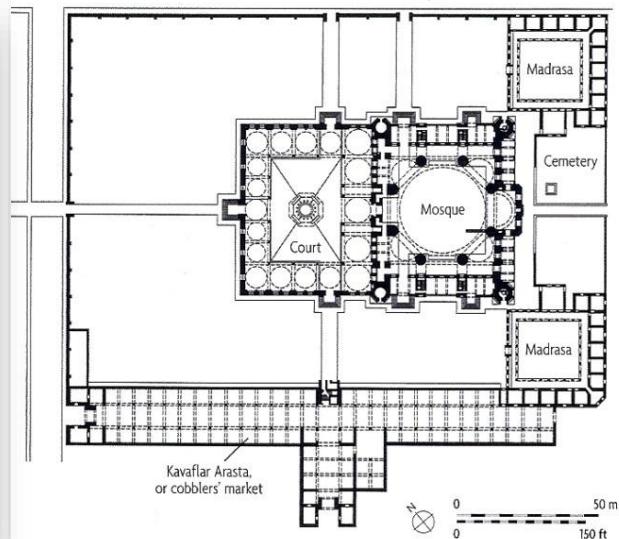
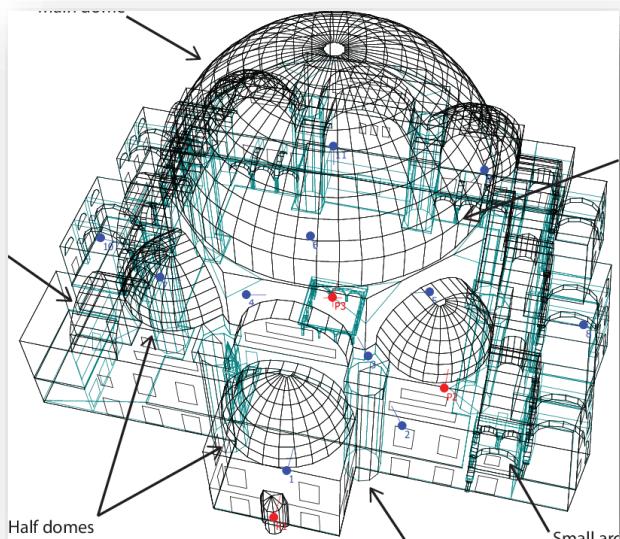


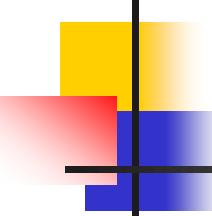
Selimiya Masjid , Edirne

Selimiya Masjid , Edirne



The single great dome has a diameter of 31.5 over a prayer space of 45mx36m, There are **no semi domes** the dome is set directly on **eight piers, six freestanding and two engaged in the qibla wall.**





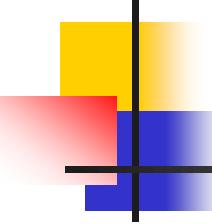
Selimiya Masjid , Edirne



Arches connecting these piers support the dome, which rises above ranks of windows pierced in the exterior wall.

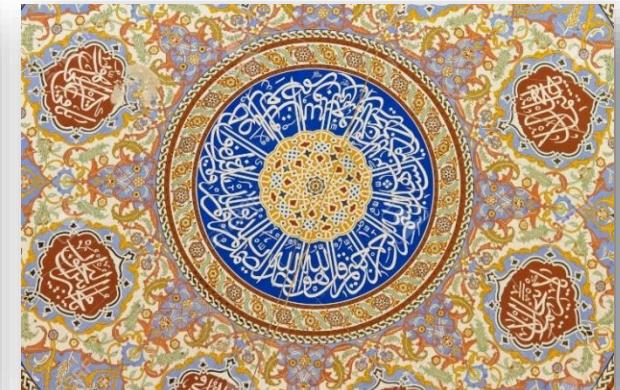
The innovative structural design allowed numerous windows creating an extraordinary illuminated interior.





Selimiya Masjid , Edirne

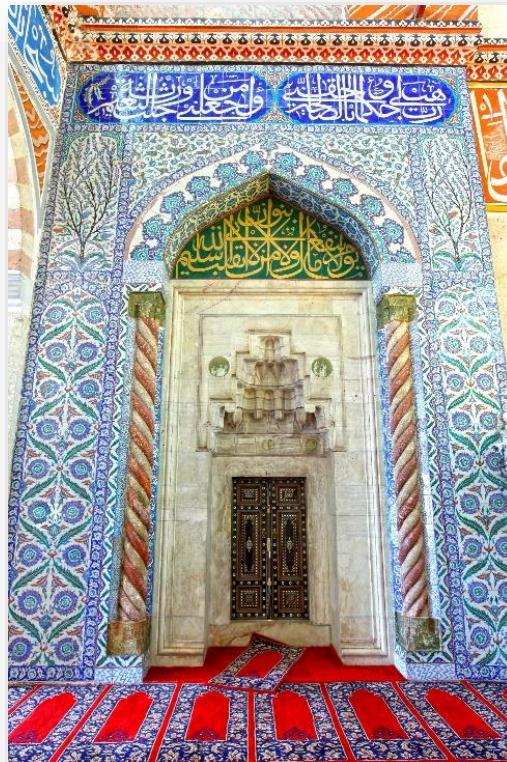
The plain symmetrical interiors reminded the sultans should always provide a **humble** and **faithful heart** in order to connect and communicate **with God**.



Selimiya Masjid , Edirne



Selimiya Masjid , pulpit

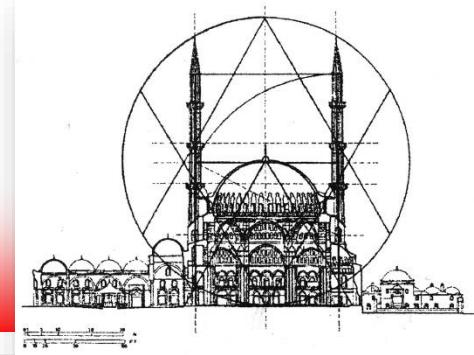


Selimiya Masjid , niche



Selimiya Masjid , decorative tiles

Selimiya Masjid , Edirne



Four slender minarets (70 m-height), were mark the corners of the prayer hall.

Inside two of the minarets are separate staircases leading to each of the three balconies.

