



Congregational Mosques

Medina & Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Architect Abdel Wahed El Wakil
London, United Kingdom

QUBBA MOSQUE Medina

Client Ministry of Hajj & Awqaf
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Project manager Erdogan Uslu
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Site architect Mahmoud Sami
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Completed 1986

Site area 40'780 square metres

Ground floor 13'730 square metres

Total floor 13'730 square metres

Cost SR 110'000'000
(US\$ 29'700'000)
SR 8'011 per m² (US\$ 2'163)

KING SAUD MOSQUE Jeddah

Client Ministry of Hajj & Awqaf
with Municipality of Jeddah
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Project manager Khalid Wahid
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Site engineer Javid Iqbal Gill
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Completed December 1987

Site area 9'700 square metres

Ground floor 6'207 square metres

Total floor 7'642 square metres

Cost SR 60'000 000
(US\$ 16'200'000)
SR 7'851 per m² (US\$ 2'120)

QIBLATAIN MOSQUE Medina

Client Ministry of Hajj & Awqaf
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Project manager Jaffar Tayar
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Completed October 1987

Site area 3'920 square metres

Ground floor 3'069 square metres

Total floor 4'203 square metres

Cost SR 30'000'000
(US\$ 8'100'000)
SR 7'138 per m² (US\$ 1'928)

Building type 612
1989 Award Cycle 0836.0876.0877.SAU



This project consists of three congregational/great mosques, two of which are built in Medina (the Qubba and Qiblatain Mosques) and the third one (King Saud Mosque) is in Jeddah. These three structures form part of a more comprehensive scheme, including four "small mosques" and four "community mosques", initiated by the Ministry of Hajj and Awqaf with a view to re-instating Islamic architecture within the context of modern Saudi Arabia.

Site

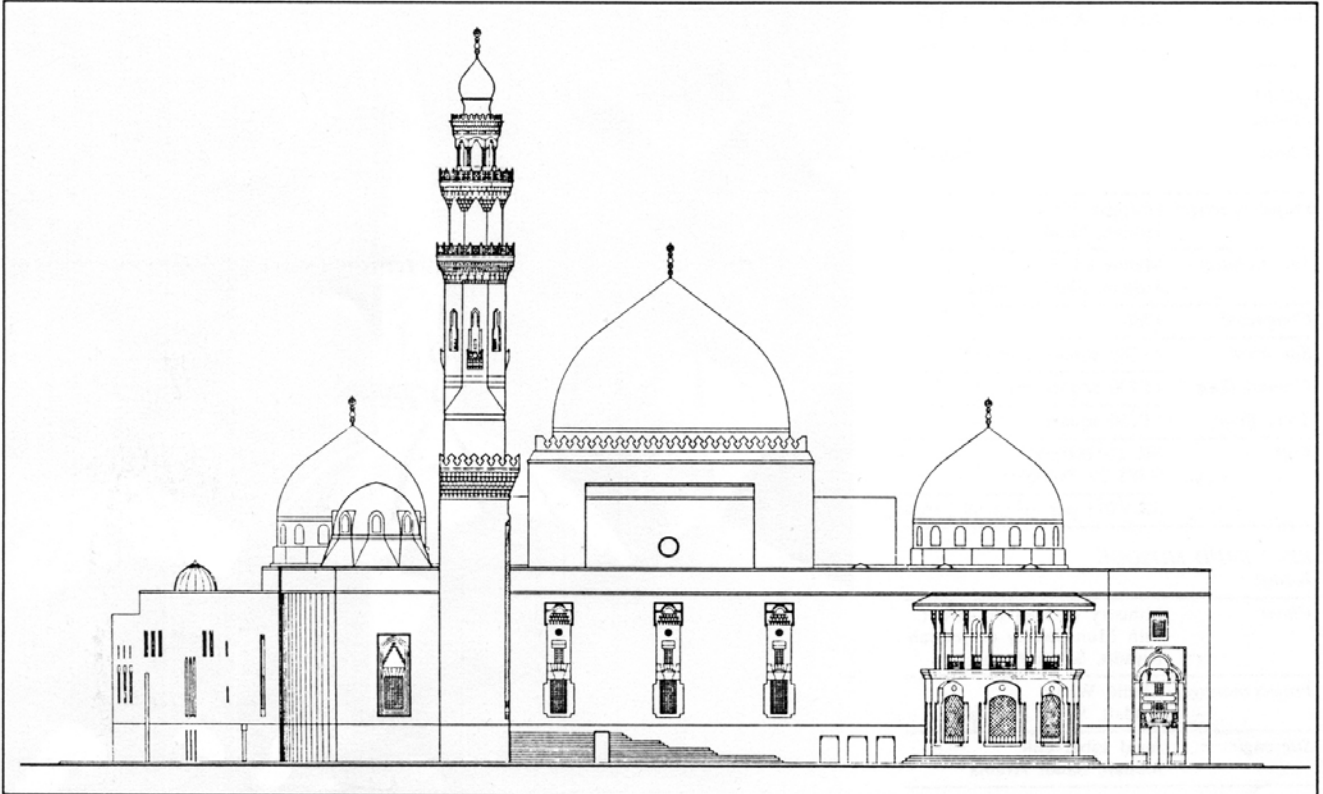
The Qubba Mosque is built on the historic site where the Prophet Mohammad is said to have erected the first mosque of Islam following the Hijra to Medina. The King Saud Mosque is located in modern Jeddah, in the Alsharafiyyah district; the almost rectangular site of 9'700sq m is bounded on all sides by roads, the largest being the Medina Road to the

west. The al-Qiblatain (the two *qibla*) Mosque is built in a site commemorating the change of direction for prayer from the old Qibla in Jerusalem to the new Qibla of Mekka in early Islamic times. This historic site of 3'920sq m lies to the west of Medina.

Functional Requirements

All three mosques are primarily intended as monuments as well as places for prayer. The Qubba Mosque can accommodate up to 10'000 worshippers and is expected to be used in its full capacity only during the Pilgrimage season. The King Saud Mosque can take some 5'000 people and al-Qiblatain Mosque has been designed for a congregation of about 2'000.

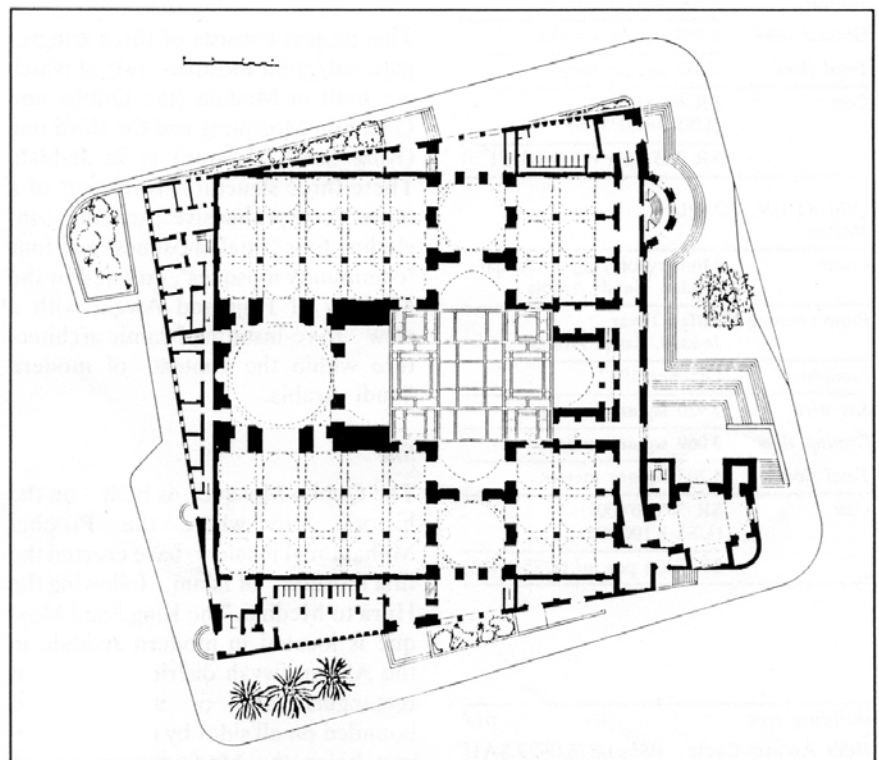
1. Qubba Mosque: domes & minaret



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Description

1) Nothing has remained of the early Medina Mosque and the structure existing up to the early 1980's dated to the mid-18th century; the latter had undergone minor alterations until as late as 1967, but showed serious signs of disrepair. It was decided to pull it down and replace it with a new mosque preserving the character of the old building as well as the style prevailing in Medina. The resulting building consists of a rectangular prayer hall covered by six large domes, that in front of the *mihrab* being slightly raised over the other five domes. A rectangular, open courtyard precedes the prayer hall and is lined by arcades covered with smaller domes on the three remaining sides.



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2. King Saud Mosque: west elevation

3. King Saud Mosque: ground plan

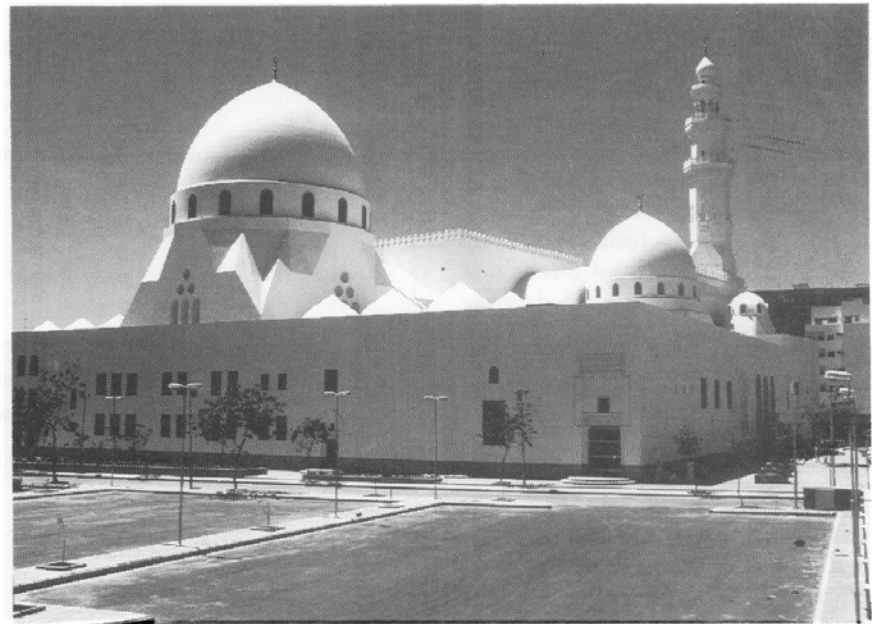
The courtyard can be covered by means of a light-weight, retractable tent operated by electric motors. This allows the extension of the prayer space according to the size of the congregation. The mosque includes a women's prayer mezzanine, and the amenities have been grouped in a complex to the north-east of the plot; these comprise of the ablutions area, library, offices, shops, etc. The four three-tier corner minarets have balconies supported on rows of *muqamas*.

2) The King Saud Mosque was built to replace the original collapsing structure dating from 30 years ago. It is not exactly street-aligned, but its surrounding external walls correct the alignment with the street frontages. The rectangular prayer hall features a large dome (40m high and 20m in diameter) in front of the *mihrab*, flanked on both sides by hypostyle areas covered by smaller domes (these are reserved for women). Four *iwans* give access to the rectangular courtyard and the remaining isles are covered by domes. The monumental entrance portal with its *muqamas* hood echoes that of Sultan Hasan in Cairo and the external treatment of the main dome recalls Cairene Mamluk monuments. The three-tier, 60m high minaret, surmounted by a slightly bulbous dome, is in keeping with the same style.

3) The pre-existing mosque, of no architectural significance and badly rebuilt in reinforced concrete some 30 years ago, was pulled down. The rectangular prayer hall of the new mosque is divided by a series of arches resting on piers and supporting five barrel-vaults, which run parallel to the *qibla* wall. The axis of the *mihrab* is emphasized by a dome, whose drum is pierced by arched clerestories, placed in front of it. Another blind dome, symbolically representing the old *qibla*, is in the same axis, to the north of the main dome. Below it, a replica of



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the *mihrab* found in the lower chamber of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is to remind the onlookers of the oldest extant *mihrab* of Islam.

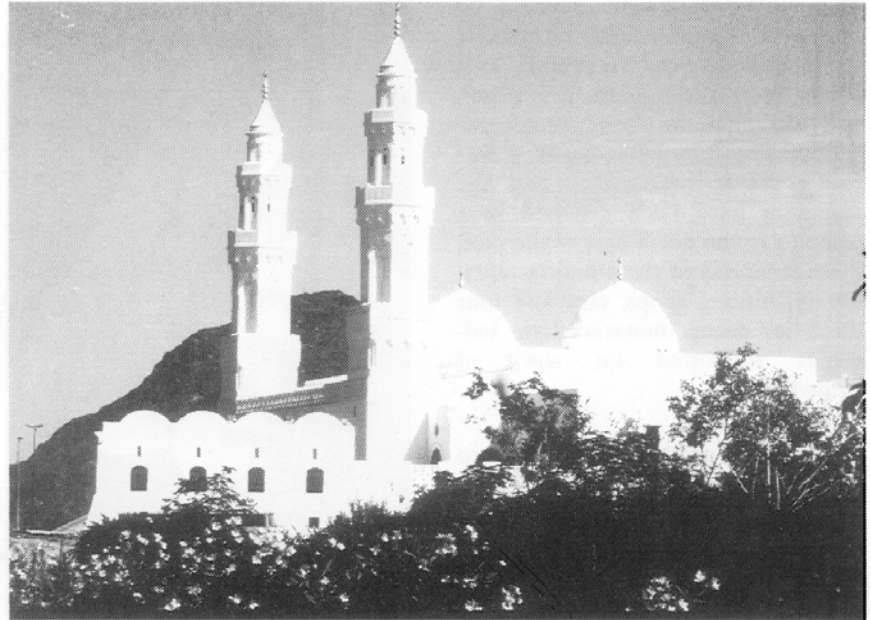
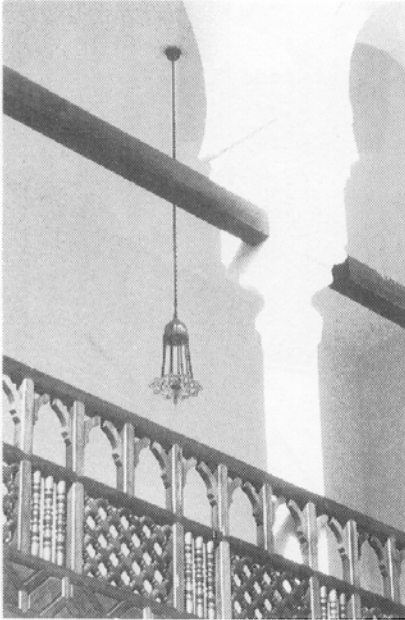
The mosque is arranged on two levels, the lower accommodating the ablutions area, service and storage facilities and an entrance courtyard planted with trees. The prayer hall is on the upper level and is overlooked by the

women's gallery and three classrooms. Two minarets are placed on the northern side. The site's south-west corner is occupied by living accommodations for the *imam*, *muezzin* and caretaker.

4. Qubba Mosque: motorized pulleys closing the tent over the courtyard

5. King Saud Mosque: street elevation looking east

Congregational Mosques

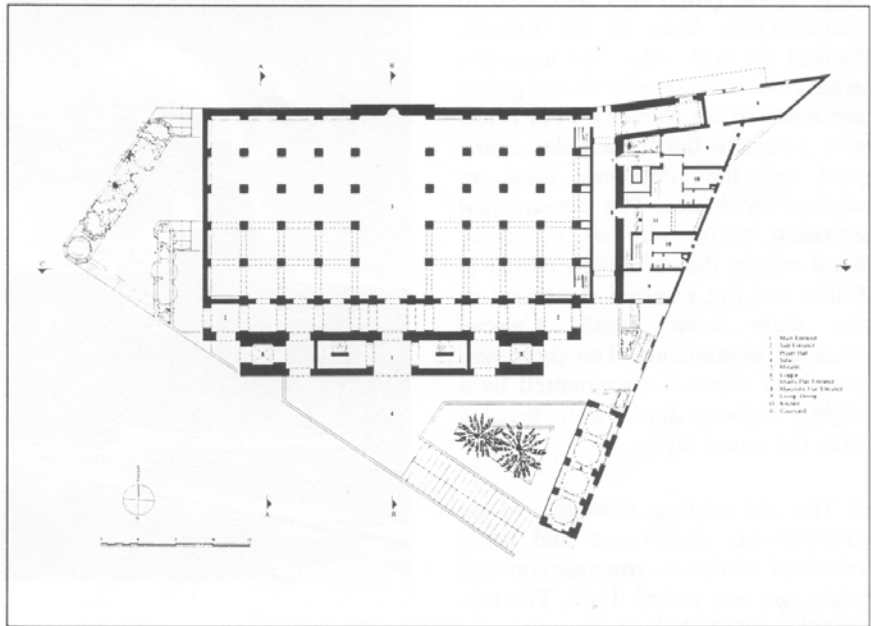


Project Significance

The construction of these monumental mosques has demonstrated the versatility of traditional models and construction techniques, with brick used as the main structural element. Training of professionals, technicians and craftsmen recruited from throughout the Muslim world was provided during the building period of each of these mosques - including the four "small mosques" and four "community mosques".

Construction

Load bearing brick has been used throughout, except for foundations, the raised slab of the al-Qiblatain prayer floors and the sub-basement of the Qubba Mosque, which are of reinforced concrete. The walls are plaster rendered, and marble and woodwork have been used for interior and exterior decoration.



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6. Qiblatain Mosque: teak woodwork railing on the loggia
7. Qiblatain Mosque: east view
8. Qiblatain Mosque: level 2