



**WOOLF**  
INSTITUTE

Improving relations  
between religion & society  
through education

# ISLAM IN EUROPE

A Photo Exhibition by  
Ahmed Krausen

**01 The Umar Ibn Al Khattab Mosque, Berlin, Germany.**

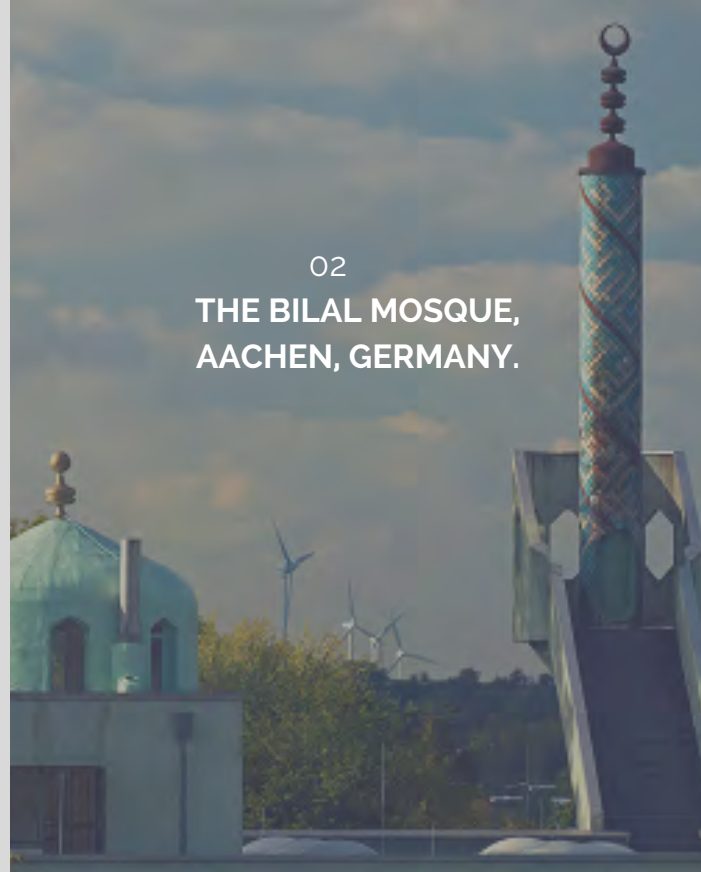
The Umar Ibn Al Khattab Mosque, (Turkish Ömer İbnu'l Hattâb Camii) in Berlin-Kreuzberg, was built by the Islamic Association for Pleasant Projects (IVWP) and opened in 2010. It is located at the subway station Görlitzer Bahnhof and is named after the early Islamic caliph Umar ibn al-Chattab.

The construction, begun in June 2004, cost around ten million euros and has a small dome and four unobtrusive, seven-meter high minarets on the roof, crowned by gilded half-moons. The prayer room has a capacity of more than 1,000 people with a two-storey gallery. The Maschari Center houses on seven floors festivals for celebrations, a Quran school, as well as boutiques, cafés and a supermarket.

The Islamic Association for Charitable Project (IVWP) is part of the Association of Islamic Charitable Projects (AICP). The Maschari Center is the German center of the AICP (al-Habash), an Islamic denomination from Lebanon.



01  
**UMAR IBN KHATTAB  
MOSQUE, BERLIN, GERMANY**



02  
**THE BILAL MOSQUE,  
AACHEN, GERMANY.**

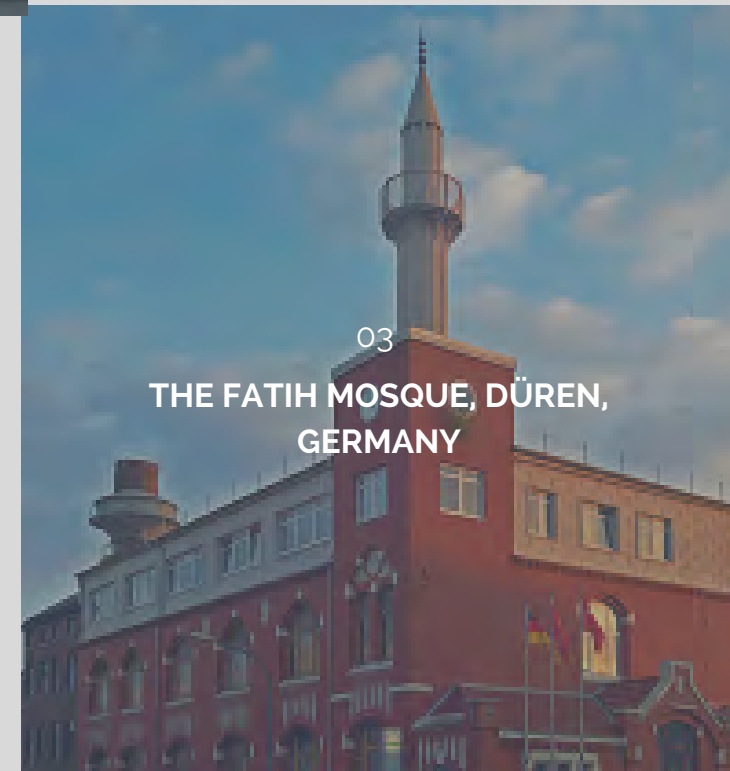
**02 The Bilal Mosque, Aachen, Germany.**

The foundation stone for the Bilal Mosque was laid on 13 May 1964. Originally conceived without a minaret, this was added later. The mosque was designed by Professor Steinbach and the minaret by Gernot Kramer of the Technical University of Aachen. The plans for the mosque date back to 1958. The construction costs amounted to 800,000 DM. 14 Islamic countries participated in the financing, including Mali, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Shah of Iran and other Arab states. As the only German financiers, the city of Aachen donated 10,000 German Marks. The carpets were donated by the Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs. The builder was the International Muslim Student Union.

**03 The Fatih Mosque, Düren, Germany.**

The Fatih Mosque is the largest mosque in Düren, a small town in the former German industrial area "Ruhrgebiet".

The minaret, built in 1992, is the only one in Düren, although there are several other smaller mosques. The Adhân (prayer call) may take place publicly three times a day. The mosque was built in the area of the former factory "Metallwerke" in the 1980s. The building is under monument protection.



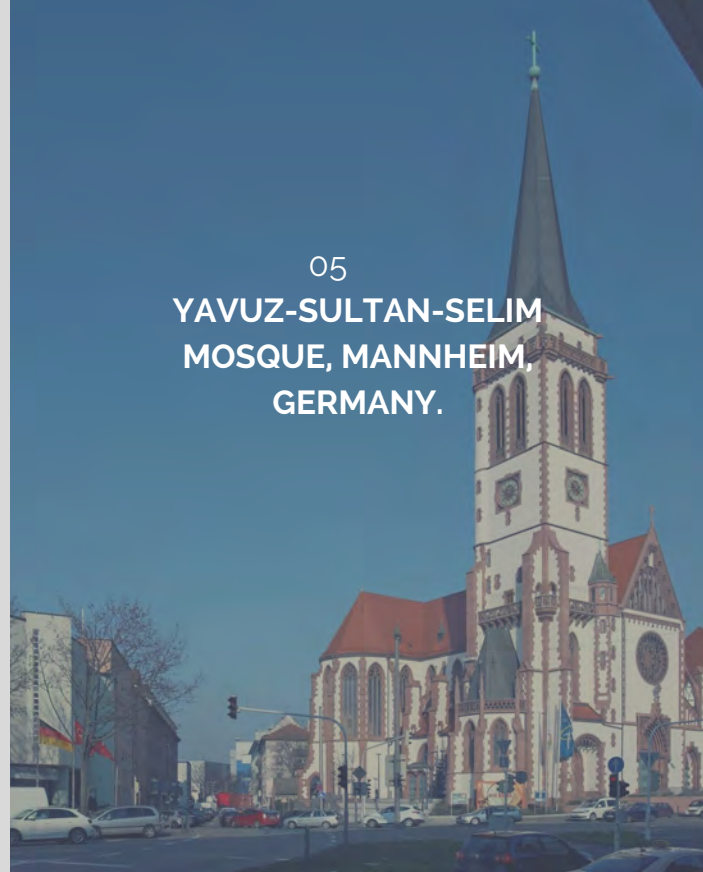
03  
**THE FATIH MOSQUE, DÜREN,  
GERMANY**



**04 Penzberg, Germany.**

The mosque is located in a small town in South Germany close to the Alps and was opened in 2005. The architect is Alen Jasarevic from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the architect was to design a mosque that added to the typical South German environment.

In Germany it is normally not allowed to broadcast the call to prayer, therefore the Azan is "written" as calligraphy on the minaret. It is best seen in the evening, when the light illuminates the calligraphy.



05  
**YAVUZ-SULTAN-SELIM  
MOSQUE, MANNHEIM,  
GERMANY.**

**05 The Yavuz-Sultan-Selim mosque, Mannheim,  
Germany.**

The Yavuz-Sultan-Selim mosque was built in 1995. Named after Selim I, until 2008 it was the biggest mosque in Germany, and attracts up to 3,000 Muslims every weekend. It stands beside the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady. Today it is one of the three churches of the pastoral care unit Mannheim-City and symbolises the Christian-Muslim dialogue through the neighborhood to the Yavuz-Sultan-Selim Mosque.

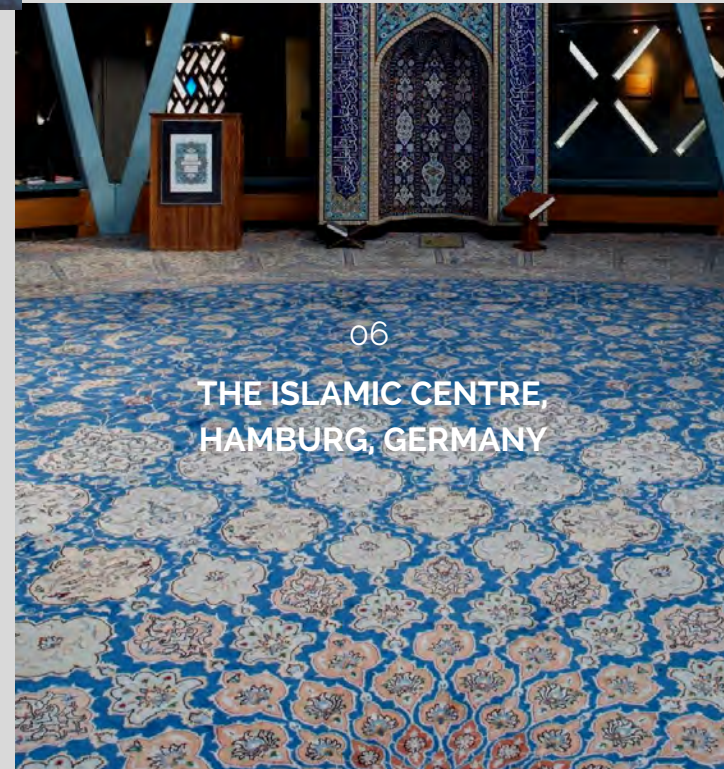
**06 The Islamic Centre, Hamburg, Germany.**

Imam Ali Moschee is one of the oldest mosques in Germany. Established in Hamburg in the late 1950s by a group of Iranian emigrants and business people, it rapidly developed into one of the leading Shia centers in the Western world. The architects were Schramm, Eligius and Zargarpoor.



04

**MOSQUE, PENZBERG,  
SOUTH GERMANY**



06

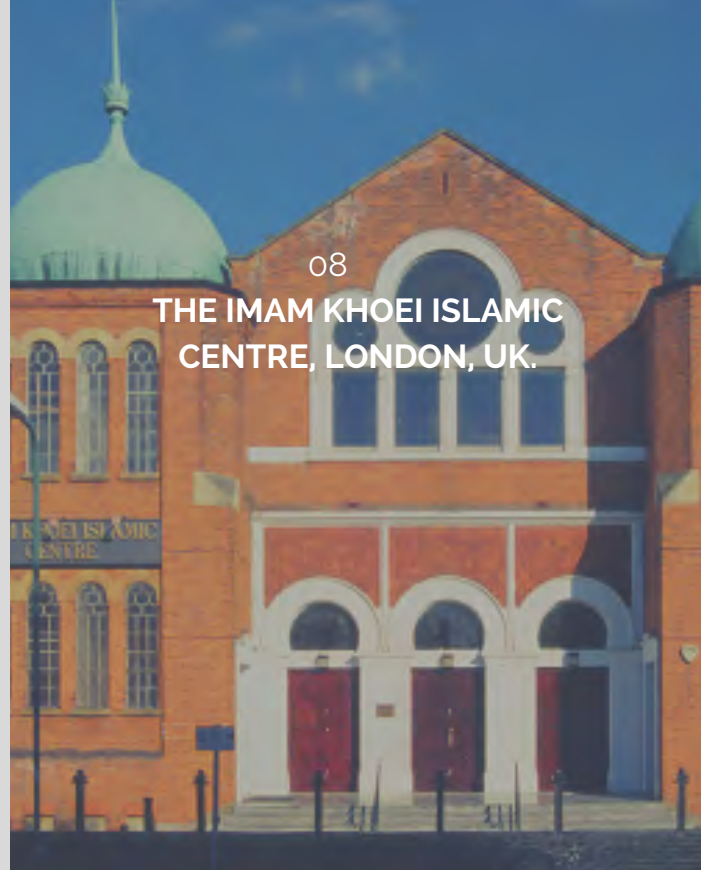
**THE ISLAMIC CENTRE,  
HAMBURG, GERMANY**

**07 Hamad Bin Khalifa Civilization Center,  
Copenhagen.**

This mosque and Islamic culture centre is located on the outer Nørrebro in Copenhagen. The mosque was opened on the 19th June 2014 and is the first of its kind in Denmark with an associated minaret.

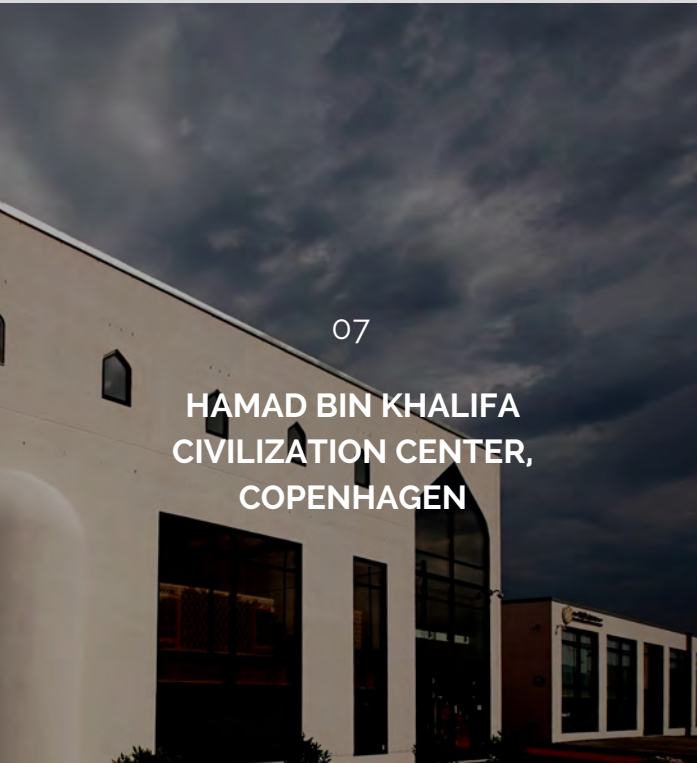
The project manager was the Copenhagen "store fond", established under the Danish Islamic Council in 2008. The mosque was designed by Metin Aydin. In addition to a mosque, the centre contains a day centre for the elderly and a knowledge centre and activities for young people.

The building of the mosque was funded by Qatar's father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, which, in connection with the opening of the mosque, led to some criticism of the mosque and its foundations. At the inauguration, Qatar's minister of religious affairs, Ghait Al Karaw, participated.



**09 The Makkah Mosque, Leeds, UK.**

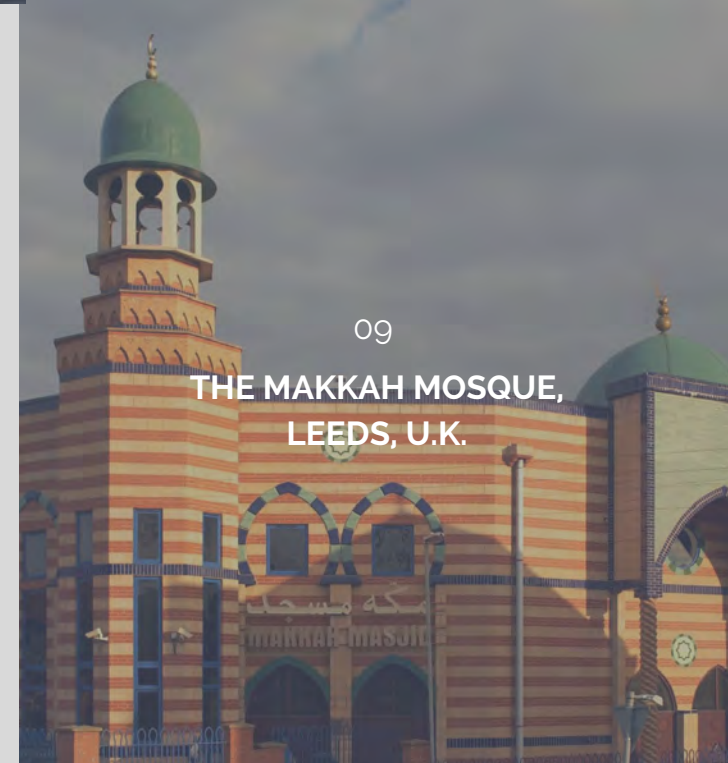
Completed in 2003, the Makkah Mosque serves Muslims in Leeds and beyond, in areas such as Headingley, Hyde Park, Universities and more.



**08 The Imam Khomeini Islamic Centre, London, U.K.**

Located in the former Brondesbury Synagogue, the Imam Khomeini Islamic Centre was a constituent synagogue of the United Synagogue from 1905 until 1974.

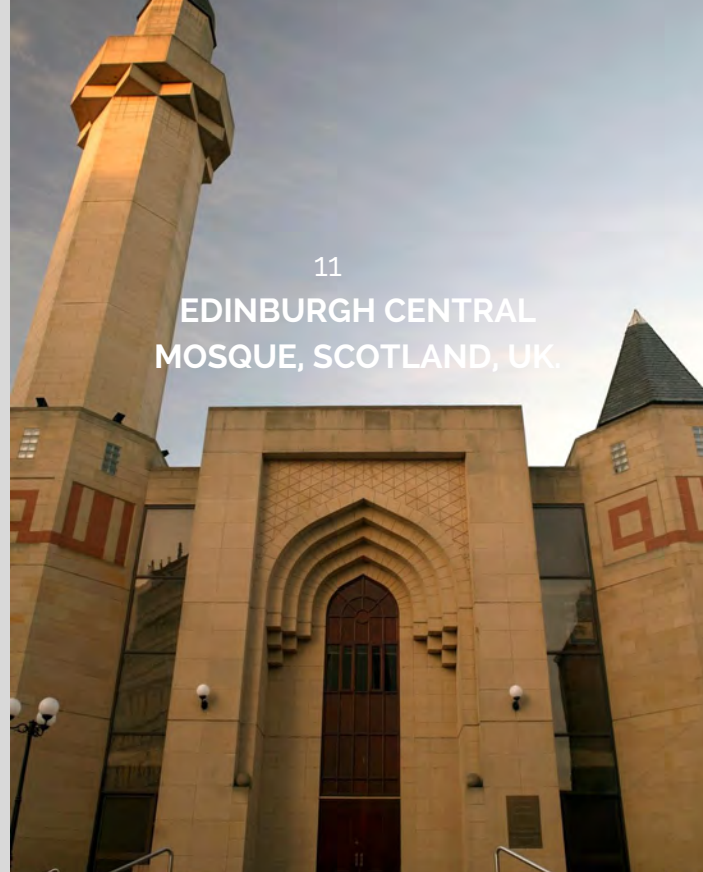
Built in 1904-05, destroyed by arson in 1965, the building was then re-built and sold to the Imam Al-Khomeini Foundation in 1974.





## 10 Sheffield skyline, England.

The Madina Mosque or Madina Masjid, also known as the "Wolseley Road Mosque", is the first purpose-built mosque in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England. After some problems with funding, the project was completed in October 2006. Users of the mosque raised several million pounds to pay for the new mosque and Islamic centre which includes 19 rooms and two large halls, a library and a day centre. The project is estimated to have cost £5 million. The mosque was built on Glover Road, Sheffield, and intended to serve the Muslim populations of Nether Edge and Sharrow. The mosque has a capacity of 2,300 (including women).



11  
**EDINBURGH CENTRAL  
MOSQUE, SCOTLAND, UK.**

## 12 Stockholm Mosque, Sweden.

The dome and minaret of the Stockholm Mosque on the right, and the spire of the Katarina Church on the left, are symbols of communal harmony in spirit and architecture.

"God has made the Orient!  
God has made the Occident!  
North and South his hands are holding,  
All the lands in peace enfolding."  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe,  
West-Eastern Divan  
[Translated by John Whaley]

"To Allah belongs the East  
And the West: withersoever  
Ye turn, there is Allah's Face.  
For Allah is Embracing, All-knowing."  
Quran, Verse (2:115)

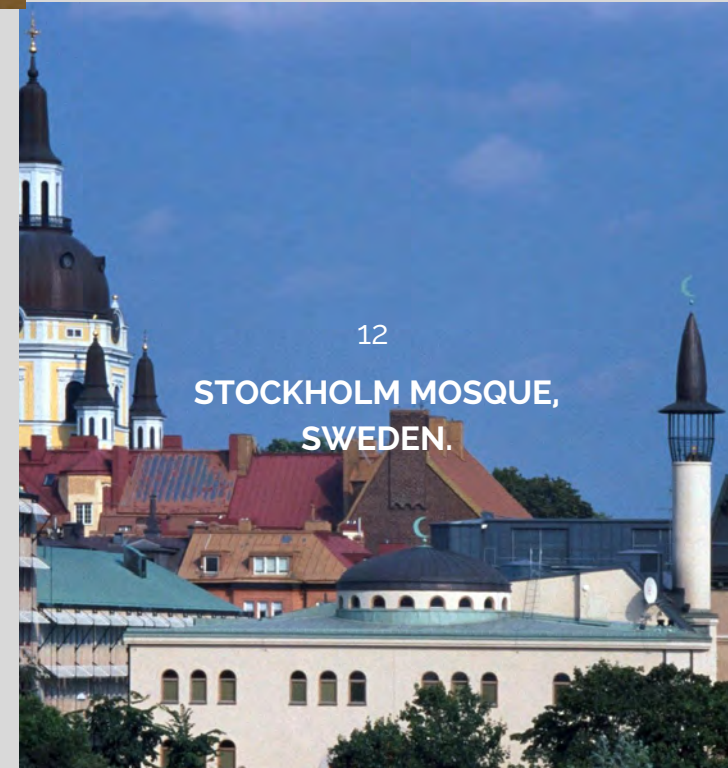


10  
**SHEFFIELD SKYLINE, U.K.**

## 11 Edinburgh Central Mosque, Scotland, U.K.

Completed in 1989. The Edinburgh Central Mosque (officially known as the King Fahd Mosque and Islamic Centre of Edinburgh) is located on Potterrow near the University of Edinburgh and the National Museum of Scotland.

The mosque and Islamic center was designed by Dr Basil Al Bayati, and took more than six years to complete, at a cost of £3.5m. The main hall can hold over one thousand worshippers, with women praying on a balcony overlooking the space below. The mosque holds chandeliers and a vast carpet, with very little furniture. The architecture combines traditional Islamic features with some Scots baronial style.



12  
**STOCKHOLM MOSQUE,  
SWEDEN.**



### 13 Malmö Mosque, Sweden

The mosque in Malmö, Sweden was completed in 1984, but later expanded in 2002 to include a school and two minarets. Fire broke out in the night of April the 28th 2003. According to the Swedish police, this was arson. Nonetheless, just two years later the Islamic centre was rebuilt.



MALMÖ MOSQUE, SWEDEN



FATIH MOSQUE,  
AMSTERDAM

### 14 Fatih Mosque, Amsterdam

The Fatih mosque is located in the former Saint Ignatius Church in Amsterdam. Built in the 1920s, the site was used as a Catholic church until 1971. After ten years of vacancy, the church was converted into a mosque in 1981.

### 15 Grande Mosquée de Lyon, France

The minaret of la Grande Mosquée de Lyon, France. This is France's sixth largest mosque and was officially inaugurated on 30 September 1994.

Victor Hugo (26.02 1802 – 22.05 1885) was a French poet, novelist, and dramatist of the Romantic Movement. He is considered one of the greatest and best known French writers and wrote of the Prophet Muhammad:

“Muhammad was a pious and the last prophet, an excellent spiritual leader, a wise legislator. A just king a mighty conqueror, the most just and forbearing ruler, the most loving and kindest father, the most beloved husband, a person with greatest patience and compassion, known in his youth as the witness of truth and most trustworthy. That is why Muslims love, adore and esteem Prophet Muhammad more than anything in the world.”



GRANDE MOSQUÉE DE  
LYON, FRANCE.

**16 Necropole Nationale, Strasbourgh-Cronenbourg, France**

Graves at the military cemetery in Strasbourgh-Cronenbourg, France.

Muslims, Christians and Jews fought together in the First and Second World Wars. Thousands lost their lives.

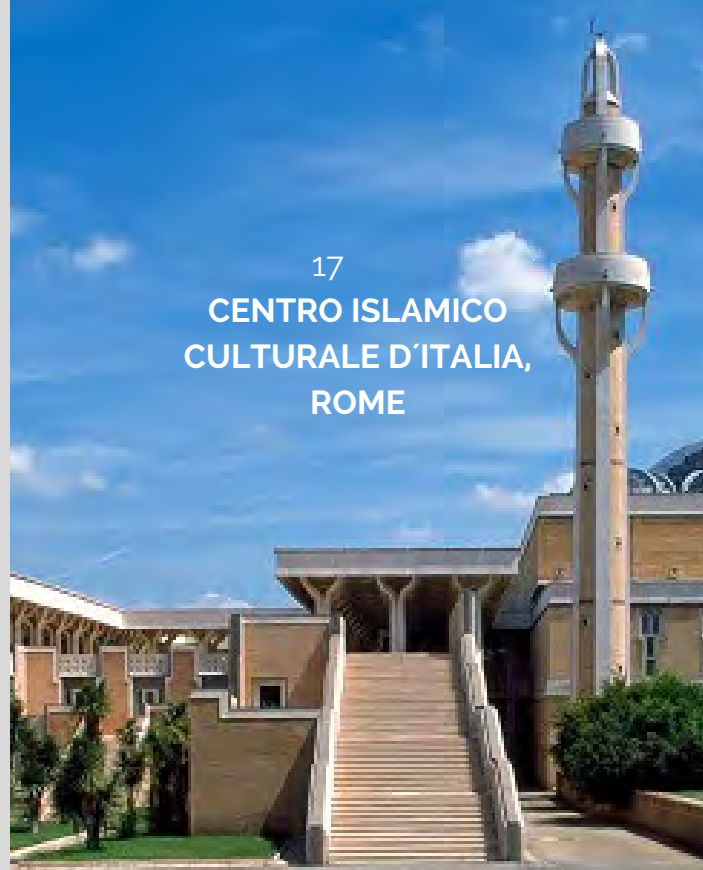
**THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS**

To the end that wars may cease on this old planet,  
The suffering peoples of the world have  
founded a new institution.

So far as I see it amounts to this:

A number of undertakers have formed a  
company to allot the graves.

Sir Muhammad Iqbal 1877 – 1938, Message from the East



17  
**CENTRO ISLAMICO  
CULTURALE D'ITALIA,  
ROME**

**17 Centro Islamico Culturale D'Italia, Rome**

The Centro Islamico Culturale D'Italia, in Rome is one of the largest in Europe. It has an area of 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> and can accommodate more than 12,000 people. The mosque is a mixture of a modern architecture and Islamic tradition.

**18 The Mosque of Segrate, Italy**

The Mosque of Segrate, also known as Masjid al-Rahmàn or Mosque of the Merciful, is a mosque in Segrate, Italy, located on the border to the Milano Due suburb. It was the first mosque with a dome and minaret to be built in Italy after the demolition of the last mosques in Lucera in 1300.

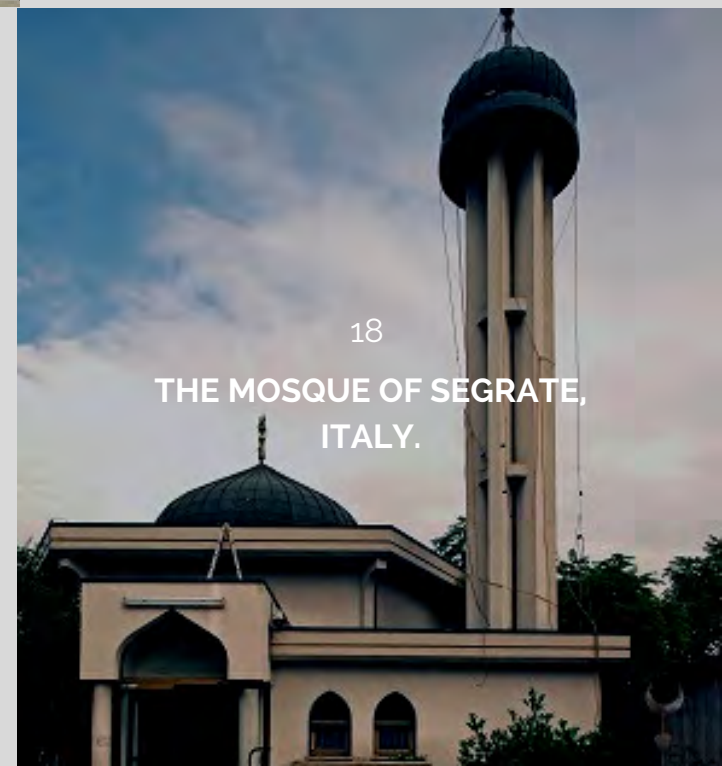
The mosque opened on 28 May 1988, and it has remained Milan's most important mosque and the second-most important mosque in Italy after the Mosque of Rome.

The mosque also homes the cultural association "Muslim Centre for Milan and Lombardy", which publishes one of the most important Muslim magazines in Italian, *Il messaggero dell'Islam* ("The Messenger of Islam").



16

**NECROPOLE NATIONALE,  
STRASBOURGH-  
CRONENBOURG,  
FRANCE**



18

**THE MOSQUE OF SEGRATE,  
ITALY.**



### 19 The New Mosque, Ravenna, Italy

The new mosque in Ravenna, Italy, established in 2013.

For local Muslims it is also an answer to the "Divine Comedy" by Dante, whose tomb is located in the city. Dante's Divine Comedy represented Islam as a heresy and Mohammed as a schismatic.



19

### THE NEW MOSQUE IN RAVENNA, ITALY



20

### MOSQUE, PALERMO

### 20 Mosque, Palermo

Palermo, a one-time Arab emirate, was described in 973 as "the city of the 300 mosques" by the eminent Arab traveller and explorer Ibn Hawqal.

The mosque today is located in the former Catholic Church San Paolino dei Giardinieri.

### 21 Palermo Cathedral

The cathedral of Palermo from the 12th century has an eventful history: it began its life as a church, then became a mosque and later a church again.



21

### PALERMO CATHEDRAL



## 22 Pillar detail, Palermo Cathedral, Italy

This detail of a pillar of Palermo cathedral dates back to its Muslim period.

"Indeed, your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and earth in six days and then established Himself above the Throne. He covers the night with the day, [another night] chasing it rapidly; and [He created] the sun, the moon, and the stars, subjected by His command. Unquestionably, His is the creation and the command; blessed is Allah, Lord of the worlds."  
Surat Al-'A`rāf (The Heights) 7:54



22

## DETAIL, PALERMO CATHEDRAL



## ZISA CASTLE, PALERMO

## 23 Zisa Castle, Palermo

Zisa Castle is clearly inspired by Moorish architecture. The name Zisa itself derives from the Arab term al-Azīz, meaning "noble", "glorious", "magnificent". The same word, in Naskh script, is impressed in the entrance, according to the usual habit for Islamic edifices of the time.

## 24 Catania Mosque, Sicily

The mosque in Catania, Sicily was established in 2012. Housed in an old former theatre, it is located in the city centre.



24

## CATANIA MOSQUE, SICILY

## 25 The Alhambra, Spain

View of the Alhambra from the Mirador de San Nicolás in the Albaycín of Granada, Spain.

A 14th century palace and fortress complex, Alhambra literally means "the red one" in Arabic.



25

THE ALHAMBRA, SPAIN



26

PILLAR, ALHAMBRA

## 26 Pillar, Alhambra

Example of the many embellished pillars in the Alhambra, Granada, Spain.

## 27 Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba, Spain

Part of interior architecture of the Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba, a Roman Catholic cathedral originally built as a mosque.

Construction of the building began in the year 785 by Emir Abdel Rahman I. By 1009, it had been extended to make it the world's third largest mosque. In 1236, it was consecrated as a cathedral during the Christian Reconquista.



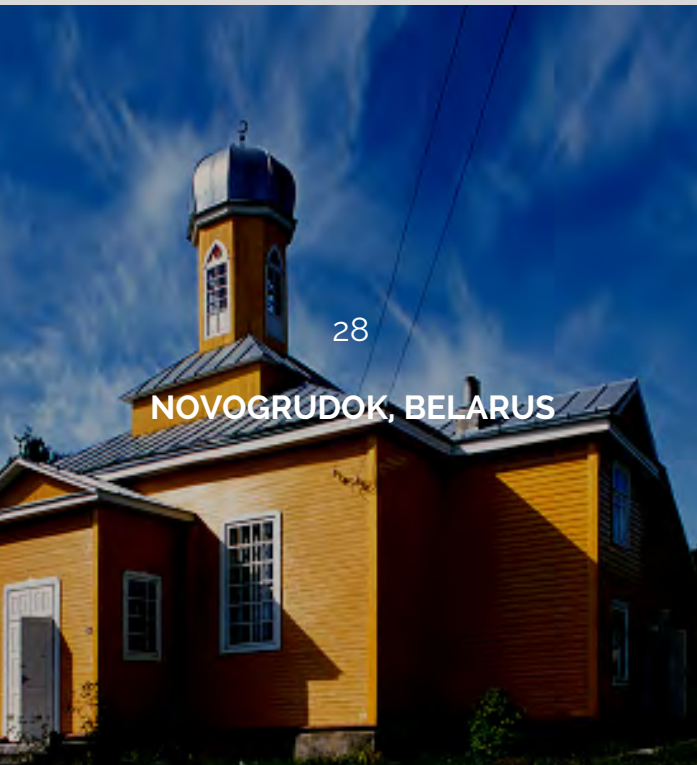
27

MOSQUE-CATHEDRAL OF  
CÓRDOBA, SPAIN



### 28 Novogrudo Mosque, Belarus

Most of the mosques in Belarus are built out of wood, owing to a regulation that only permitted churches to be built out of stone, as a demonstration of Christian superiority over Islam. The wooden mosques, however, have evolved into a symbol and identifying attribute of the Tatars.



28

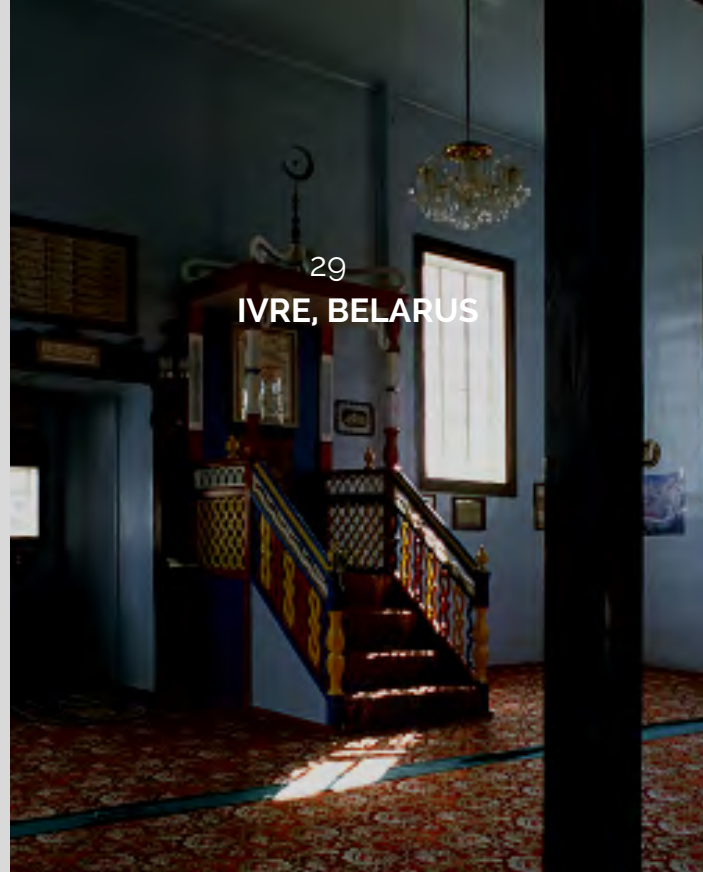
**NOVOGRUDOK, BELARUS**

### 29 Ivre Mosque, Belarus

The prayer room of the mosque in Ivre, Belarus.

While Muslims in Western Europe still represent a very recent phenomenon, Muslims have been settling in Eastern Europe for several centuries.

Here, they are an integral part of the population. At the beginning of the 14th century a group of Tatars settled on territory encompassing the former Arch Duchy of Lithuania who were, in a name derived from the old Crimean Tatar word "Lipka" for Lithuania, called "Lipka Tatars".



29

**IVRE, BELARUS**

### 30 Oslo, Norway

When the First Central Jam-e-Mosque in Åkebergveien opened in 1995, it was the first purpose-built mosque in Norway. The mosque now has one of the biggest Muslim congregations in the country, with room for about 700 people. It is also acts as the headquarters of the World Islamic Mission.

The walls of the mosque are decorated with tiles from Iran and Spain, both inside and out. Many tiles have calligraphic inscriptions from the Quran. The interior of the mosque has Persian carpets and a Turkish chandelier in the main hall. Architect: Veli (Norway).



30

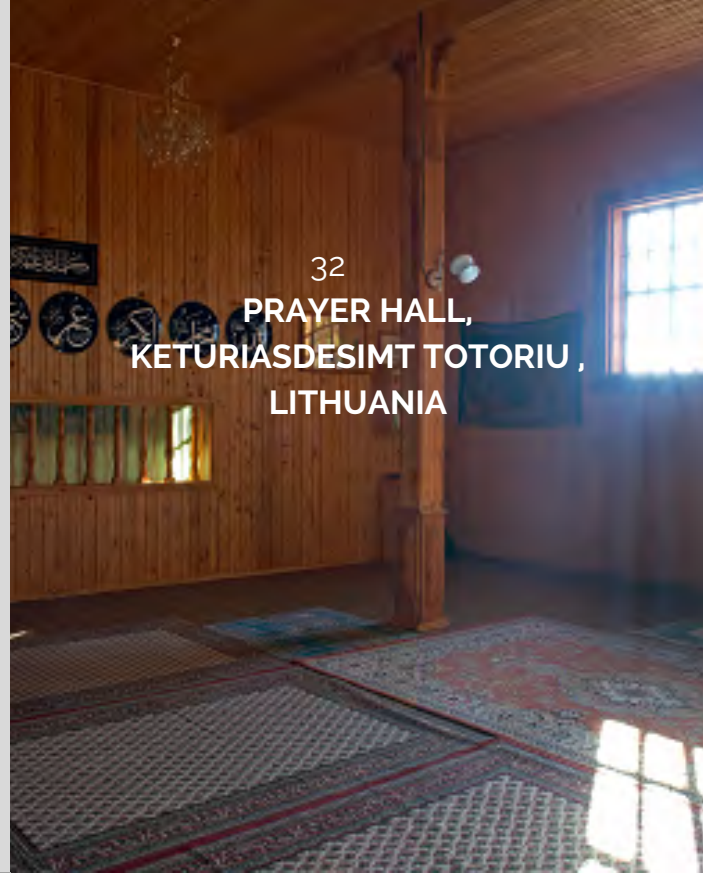
**OSLO, NORWAY**

### 31 Keturiasdesimt Totoriu , Lithuania

The minaret of the mosque of Keturiasdesimt Totoriu village (meaning the "Town of the 40 Tatars"), located just outside Vilnius city, was mentioned for the first time in 1558. It is the oldest mosque in Lithuania available for believers.

The inhabitants of this area were descendants of the Tatars from the Crimea, who had been brought over 600 hundred years ago as the officers and bodyguards of a Lithuanian prince.

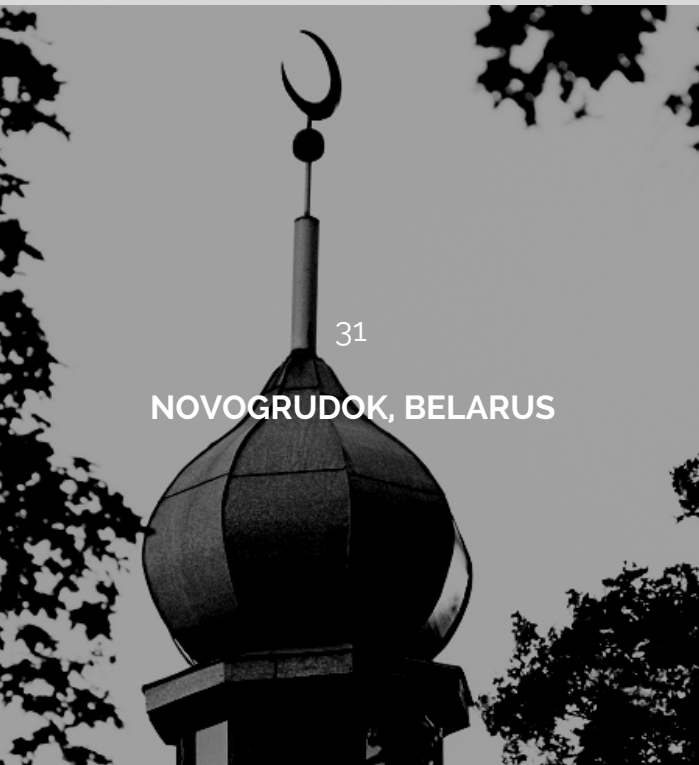
Today there are at least 6,000 Tatars in Lithuania, they have their own representatives in the Parliament, and the Tatar language of their ancestors has survived until this day.



32  
**PRAYER HALL,  
KETURIASDESIMT TOTORIU ,  
LITHUANIA**

### 33 Bohoniki, Poland

Bohoniki has been one of the Tatar villages in Poland since the 17th century, when King Jan Sobieski III allowed Tatars to settle there as a reward for their loyal service.



31  
**NOVOGRUDOK, BELARUS**

### 32 Prayer Hall, Keturiasdesimt Totoriu , Lithuania

View of the prayer hall of Keturiasdesimt Totoriu Village Mosque, Lithuania.



33  
**BOHONIKI, POLAND**



### 34 Kruszniany Mosque, Poland

The wooden mosque in Kruszniany was built in 1871 and is the oldest mosque in Poland.

Although the language survives, most Turk-Tatar immigrants were linguistically adapted to their Slavic environment from early on in their history. Today's descendants largely speak Polish, Lithuanian, or a Belarusian dialect.



34

### KRUSZNIANY MOSQUE, POLAND



35

### NEW MOSQUE, WARSAW, POLAND

### 35 New Mosque, Warsaw, Poland

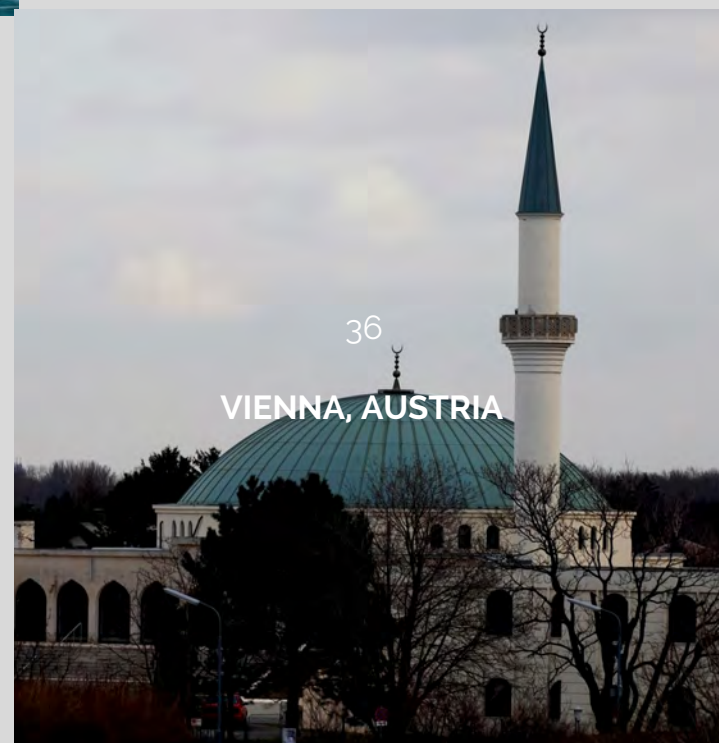
The prayer hall of the new Mosque in Warsaw, Poland. This is the first mosque to be built in Poland in the twenty first century.

The builder is the Muslim World League, which is known as umbrella organization for Muslim Brotherhood organisations across the Europe and has caused great controversy in the Polish media.

### 36 Mosque in Vienna. Austria

The mosque in Vienna, Austria was built in 1979 by the architect Richard Siegfried Lugner.

An Austrian "Islam law" was approved in 1912 in the course of the annexation of Bosnia, when 1,000,000 Muslim citizens became a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Since this point Islam has been a legally recognised faith and the Islamic Faith Community an official institution under the Austrian State.



36

### VIENNA, AUSTRIA

### 37 Pécs, Hungary

Now known as the Downtown Candlemas Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mosque of Pasha Qasim is a Roman Catholic church in Pécs, Hungary, which was a mosque in the 16-17th century due to the Ottoman conquest. It has become one of the symbols of the city.



37

PÉCS, HUNGARY

38

OLTEN, SWITZERLAND



### 38 Olten, Switzerland

The Turkish Mosque in Olten, Switzerland stands in close proximity to the town's St. Gallus Church. Incidentally, it is provisionally the last minaret in Switzerland. The 2009 referendum banned the construction of any further minarets in Switzerland.

### 39 Pasha Cammii, Tetovo, Macedonia

The Pasha Cammii, in Tetovo, Macedonia was built by the end of the 15th century and is a representative example and unique artistic achievement of Ottoman religious building in Macedonia. For centuries this mosque has continuously preserved its religious and educational function with social and cultural significance.

Today's architectural form and decoration were created after the second half of the 19th century (1833/34), when the renowned Abdurrahman Pasha of Tetovo ordered the reconstruction of the mosque following its destruction by the great fire that engulfed the city at the end of 17th century.



39

PASHA CAMMII, MACEDONIA



#### 40 Interior, Pasha Cammii, Tetovo, Macedonia

The prayer hall of the Pasha Cammii Mosque, Tetovo, Macedonia, with decoration.

# AHMED KRAUSEN



Born and raised in the formerly industrial Ruhr Area in Germany, Ahmed Eckhard Krausen is a freelance photographer based in Copenhagen, Denmark and a Muslim since 1992. He began his comprehensive travels in 1997 photographing Islam in Europe.

From the very beginning of Ahmed's extensive travels, he was committed to documenting the presence of Islam in Europe wherever he found it. His journeys took him to most countries in Europe, with his collection of photographs growing to several thousand. Through his photos, he aims to show "the unity in the diversity". As he puts it: "From the very beginning I wanted to make the diversity of Islam visible through these pictures in order to find the unity beyond."

Ahmed Krausen's award-winning photographs demonstrate the influence of European architecture on mosque design and are an example of religions' intrinsic ability to digest and adopt customs and styles from the environment in which they are located.

[WWW.AHMEDKRAUSEN.COM](http://WWW.AHMEDKRAUSEN.COM)



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INTERIOR, PASHA CAMMII,  
MACEDONIA

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