

## Mosque Architecture in Wad Medani Town -Sudan''

Maysa Osman Khider

*B.Sc.in architecture and urban planning, M.Sc. in Architecture Engineering Science from Sudan University of Science and Technologe,Sudan.*

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**ABSTRACT:** *The study discusses the mosque architecture in Wad Medani Town , through defining freedom and belief in the light of the sacred building architecture in particular mosques in a brief description, And presenting and analyzing local mosques models in Wad Medani town ,in order to confirm mosques architecture sacredness reduction at present as an architecture design method has been adopted for lack of Islamic architectural invariable beliefs defined how is architectural interior spaces formation of mosque should be, to come out with findings that define the basic restrictions to mosque architecture engineering and its applications and the necessary recommendations to conserve mosque architecture.*

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Over time, cities change and so its architecture , old houses and palaces fall and replaced by other buildings , but the mosques remain eternal immortal through the ages .Man always known that the house that refers to God(mosques) must be great to reflect the yearning of man himself to beauty and perfection,to be his quiet refuge when life reveals ugliness and severity in his face and when the world applies to him And narrowed by universe, finds in the mosque ( house of God) vast expanse , spacious , awe, magic and mystery that reminds him of divinity and it's immortality,therefore, religious buildings from ancient times glow with poetic pulse more than subject to functional purpose. Even the most secular people tend to recognize that religions have created an architectural masterpieces its complex beauty affects conscience.God has referred to mosques architecture in Quran through the following verse:( **In houses(mosques) Which Allah has ordered to raised (to be cleaned, and to be honored), in them His Name is remembered {i.e. Adhan, Iqamah, Salat (prayers), invocations, recitation of the Quran etc.}.Therein glorify Him (Allah) in the mornings and in the afternoons or the evenings**). So God made mosques Place of worship and recommended us to build it . And ,To us in the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, so as God made mosques Place of worship and recommended us to build it . And to us a great example about mosque architecture in the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him ,where the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him suggest to build the first mosque in history in his convoy halt area which he emigrated with it to Madina in KSA .Knowing that in this region there was instability in country ruling laws and religions because it was onset of Islam spreading, which led to absence of architecture styles in buildings at that time ,Which reflected on building the first mosque in history as a random primitive build style such follows:

{ mosque built with four corners of palm trees , a square roof made of a palm fronds and sand floor }

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, has build his house on the north-east of the first mosque in history that merchant above, hence was the beginning of an idea to build house to Imam inside the mosque, and next to it the Messenger of Allah ordered to design four rooms for his wife's, rest house in the south-east side of the mosque to receive travelers and passers, rest house in the south-east side of the mosque to receive travelers and passers. It was the best of prayers and peace. the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him was determined to develop mosque architecture as Allah ordered, for that he suggest to extend mosques building through many directions starting with

1- Building mosque pulpit

Until the imam could stand on it in order to guide worshippers.

2- Increasing mosque area, height and entrances number

This development in mosque architecture was made as a result of country expansion after winning conquests.

3- Emergence of Islamic architectural styles that defined mosque building

Islamic architecture styles contribute in mosques building development widely, and those architectural styles are mentioned on architecture history as follows:

A- Dawn of Islam style

The initial Islamic architecture style was Shown at Dawn Islam age in mosque architecture planning and design , as follows :

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- 1 - Place of prayer. 2 - Imam's house.
- 3 - Travelers Rest. 4 - pulpit



The Messenger of Allah Mosque in Dawn of Islam Photo(1)  
Source: [almnatiq 593993](#)

#### B- Umayyad style

After Dawn Of Islam age Alwaleed Bin Marwan erected The Umayyad Islamic architecture style in order to contribute developing mosque architecture. This Islamic architecture style shown as follows

- 1-Inner-Courtyard with ablution basin in the medial.
- 2-Roofed Passageways surrounding inner-courtyard as(movement corridors).
- 3- Main porch at the mosque east direction.

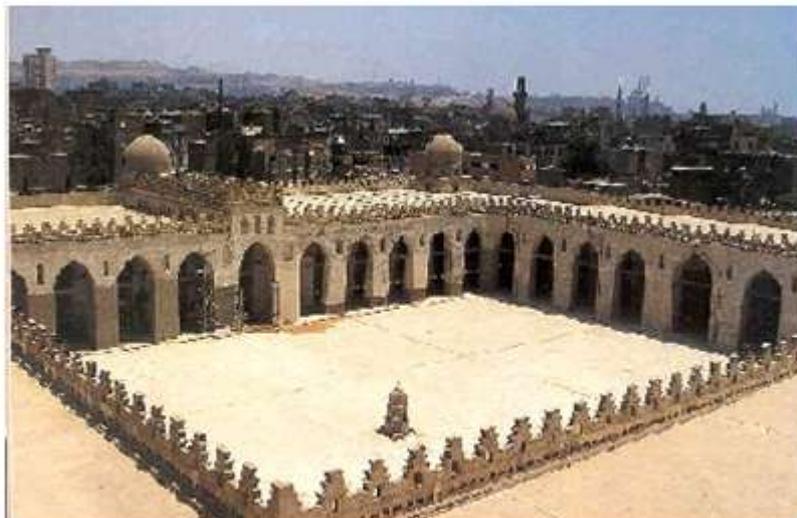


Photo (2) Umayyad style in (Al-Hakim in the order of god) Mosque -  
Egypt

Source: (Al-Hakim in the order of god) Mosque - Egypt

The Umayyad Islamic architecture style was the most important development in Islamic architecture . And Alwaleed bin Marwan designed different models of mosques with Umayyad style bear the above mentioned features to confirm the Umayyad style as a main base for mosque architecture,(e.g. Mosque of Al-Azhar and Mosque of Damascus) . Alwaleed Bin Marwan has taken over the Islamic region and re-build the Messenger of Allah mosque on Umayyad style which distinguished with ( truss ceiling - marble columns, minaret which Inspired from churches in the Romantic age and fancy decorations.

#### **A- Target of research**

- 1-Confirming mosque sacredness through interior architecture formation.
- 2-Confirming Prayers lines spaces as a main part of mosque building based on certain architecture design restrictions .
- 3 - To obtain satisfaction of God through developing mosque architecture, as Allah most high says(**The mosques of Allah are only to be maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day ...**).

#### **B - The research needs**

- 1-Absence of Islamic architecture styles that express sanctity of the place as optimally in the local mosques.
- 2-Fixing the architect mentality with mosque architecture main restrictions,mentioned as a research Findings .
- 3- Deny the Philosophy texts that request architecture designer to stay away from decoration splendor in mosques architecture under the domination of following concepts in mosques architecture  
A- ignoring decoration because is not desirable and bad for mosque function .  
B- the ideal beauty in mosque design is non-religious purpose. And confirming the obverse of that , through defined the presence of architectural decoration in splendor way on the mosque building surface as a main functional cause of Islamic worship function.

Mosque sanctity is a base architecture message, architect must shown it in his design ,and on the Doomsday the architect will be questioned by God about it so the mosque design must include different features expressing Islamic sanctity between its structural and architectural elements as a functional formations that influenced on worshiper psychology positively, in order to satisfy the worshiper desire need through this magnificent complex as optimally .

#### **C- The research problem**

Absence of doctrinal constants that explain architecture interior mosque design , which led to disappearance sanctity of Islamic temple( mosque) for individuals during Islamic worship approach journey from{ Prayer ,praise and Quran reading }.

#### **D- The expected results**

Identify mosque basic architecture design restrictions and application

## **II. THE RESEARCH METHOD**

The researcher has adopted the descriptive and analytical method for this research paper :

Through defining freedom and belief in the light of the sacred building architecture in particular mosques in a brief description, And presenting and analyzing local mosques models in Wad Medani town ,in order to confirm mosques architecture sacredness reduction at present as an architecture design method has been adopted for lack of Islamic architectural invariable beliefs defined how is architectural interior spaces formation of mosque should be, to come out with findings that define the basic restrictions to mosque architecture engineering and its applications and the necessary recommendations to conserve mosque architecture

## **III. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **3-1defining freedom and belief in the light of the sacred building architecture**

This paragraph shows the Necessary architectural features in mosque building , which identify religious tolerance degree in Islamic building with other religions in light of what Islamic religious recommended through the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him covenants and the verses of Allah Almighty. And these features were expressed by architects through three design directions as basic elements in mosque design makes the mosque reflect the unity of divine justice to all different religions as follows

- 1- Central direction: It is a long path from the mosque entrance to its tribune, and its presence very important in mosques to facilitate worshipers movement to reach the prayer lines and it is reflect the worshiper journey for Unification of God Almighty through the performance of worship ,also it designed as follows

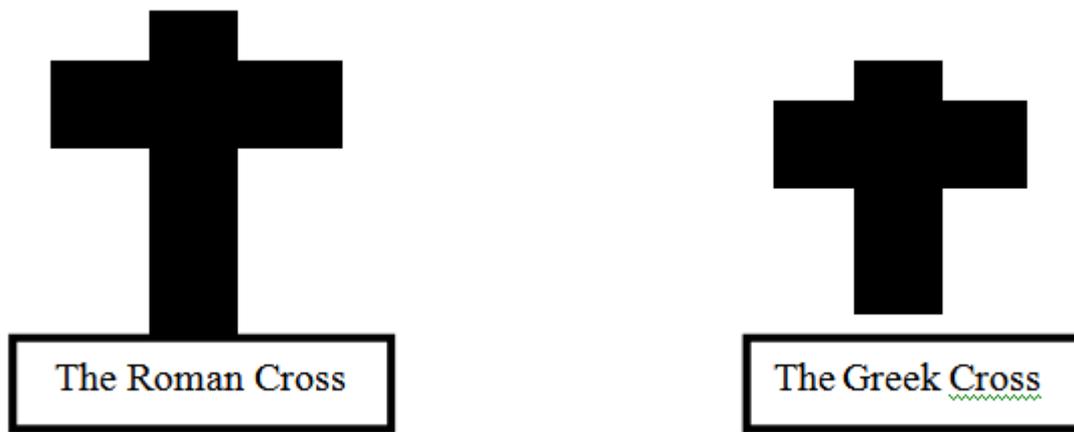


Figure (1) The approved forms of mosques central directions  
Source: add by other

It is also worth to mention that central directions forms mentioned above are used in mosques outside of field study location (Wad Madani town).

Horizontal direction: this direction explain Prayer lines in mosques as basilica in a church's, also it prefer to design it as a rectangle shape instead of square ,subjugation to religious belief ( whenever the number of worshipers increased in the first prayers line it was optimal for worshipers), and the following figure illustrates the general forms of horizontal direction in mosques

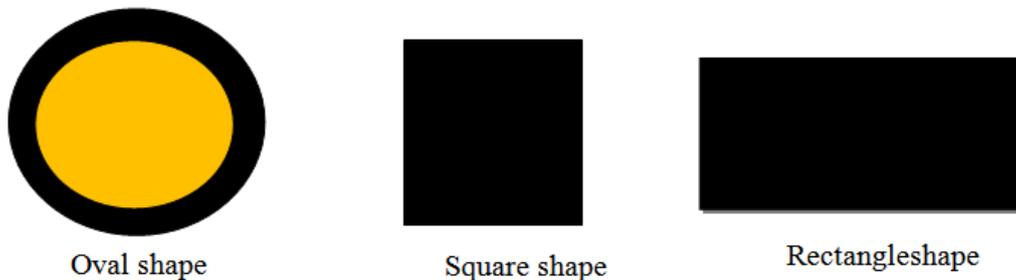


Figure (2) The general forms of horizontal direction in mosques  
Source: add by other

3-The vertical direction: this direction explained by domes and minarets that express mosque sanctity , through philosophy of direction towards God and rising to heaven. As following photo shows

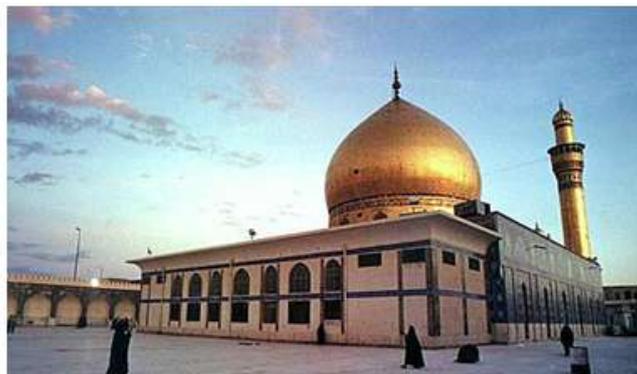


Photo No. (3) Dome and minaret in AL-Kufa mosque in Basra, Iraq  
Source:alchetron.com/Great-Mosque-of-Kufa

In following paragraph, analyzing to local mosque models in Wad Madani town in order to measure extent its sacred restriction application , which require existence of tolerance from mosque with other religions.

### 3 - Models to study local mosque architecture

In this paragraph presenting and studying to local mosque architecture models in Wad Madani town, in order to come out with theoretical findings that identify the basic mosque design restrictions and its applications, which contribute on developing local mosque architecture.

#### 3-1 Wad Madani ancient mosque

This mosque was built during the first twenty years of 1900, and it's one of the oldest mosques in Wad Madani town, also its distinguish by its Islamic ancient interior design Comparison with mosques at that are.



Photo(4) Wad Madani ancient mosque site plan  
Source : Google Earth



Photo(5) Wad Madani ancient mosque plan drawing  
by other Source :add



horizontal direction (represent prayer lines).



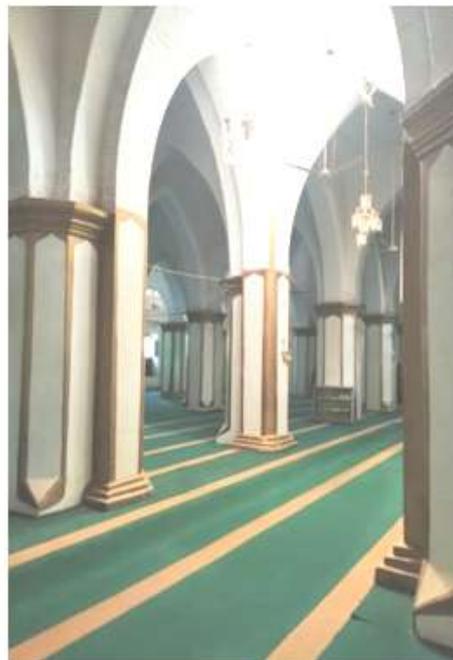
central direction (represent worshipers movement) .



Photo(6) Wad Madani ancient mosque front elevation, expressing vertical direction through dome and minaret  
by other Source :add



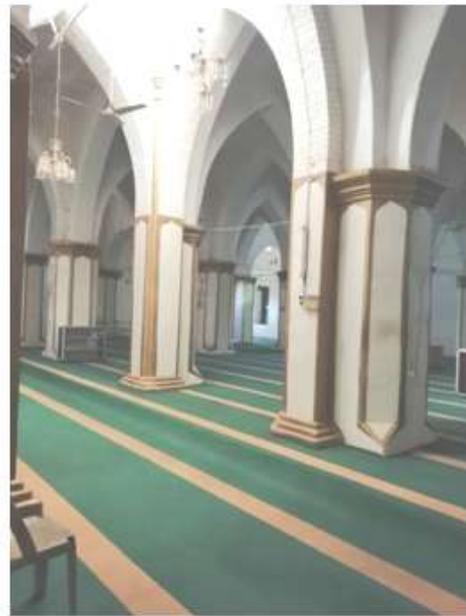
Photo(7) Wad Madani ancient mosque interior perspective (A)  
by other Source :add



Photo(8) Wad Madani ancient mosque interior perspective (B)  
by other Source :add



Photo(9) Wad Madani ancient mosque preacher tribune  
by other Source :add



Photo(10) Wad Madani ancient mosque interior perspective (A)  
by other Source :add

#### A-Positives of Wad Madani ancient mosque design

- 1- Adopting Ottoman style in mosques interior design.
- 2 - Existence of harmony between colors of mosque interior design as (adoption of white and green, which reflect divine meditation power .

#### B- Negatives of Wad Madani ancient mosque design

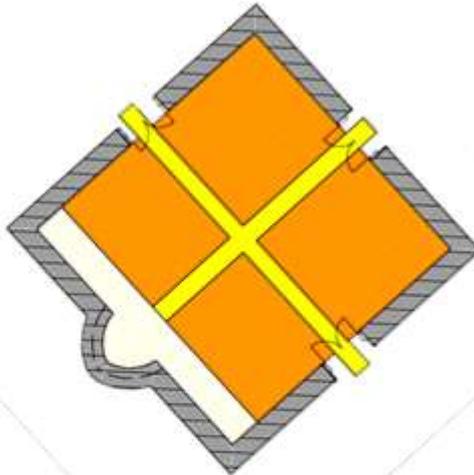
- 1 - lack of movement paths , which lead to congestion between worshipers.
- 2 -existence of large columns caused reduction in interior function.
- 3 - Non-similarity between the mosque ancient architecture styles and preacher building formation.
- 4 - The small size of minaret and dome compared to the mosque building area causing reduction in vertical direction of Wad Madani ancient mosque and undesirable vision to individuals doesn't reflect mosque sanctity .

#### 3-2Ishlag Mosque

The Ishlag mosque located in Ishlak quarter in Wad Madani town



Photo (11) Ishlag Mosque site plan  
Source: Google Earth



Photo(12) Ishlag Mosque plan drawing  
Source : add by other



horizontaldirection (represent prayer lines).



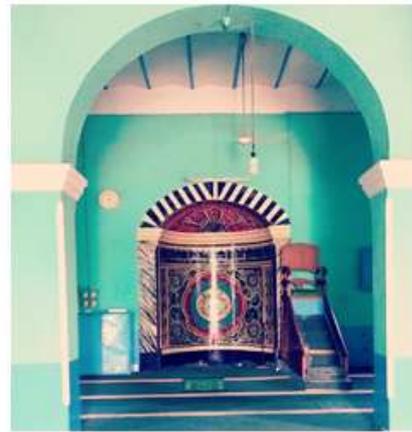
central direction (represent worshipers movement) .



Photo(13) Ishlag Mosque front elevation, expressing vertical direction through minaret by other Source :add



Photo(14) Ishlag Mosque interior perspective  
by other Source :add



Photo(15) Ishlag Mosque central direction  
from main entrance to tribune  
by other Source :add

#### A- Positives of Ishlag mosque

1-The mosque tribune advantage with ancient and beauty as optimally.

#### B- Negatives of Ishlag mosque

1-The mosque has no dome , therefore there is a relative reduction in perception aesthetic and sacred aspects of mosque elevations.

2-The mosque advantage with drab colors in inside and outside elevation doesn't reflect the beauty of sanctity.

### IV. FINDINGS

1 - Architect should adopt mosques basic design restrictions and care about its application perfectly, as follows

A -knowing about worshipers number and the space they need as a preliminary step of design.

B - The architect must adopt Islamic architectural approach . Where architectural designs based on Islamic historical and archaeological composition , such as Arabic styles as( Ottoman style, etc...) in mosques design as building restrictions , in order to keep mosques sacred aspects amidst domination of eastern styles as a modern architecture .

C- Architect must Apply mosques three main directions that mentioned above from (central direction, horizontal direction, vertical direction) to get an-optimal worship function.

D - Architect must create aesthetic formulas to express mosque Islamic sacred using (mosaics, decorations, Arabic calligraphy, expressive drawings....etc) handed with joyful colors that express Islamic belief in artistic style fit with society consciousness.

### V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Conduct educational and culture courses for architects and designers to explain

1 - The separation between architecture and religion under the domination of eastern architecture styles , and the realign identity that Islamic architecture will lose if this separation continue.

2 - Importance of enriching and supporting architect mentality of mosque architecture restrictions as an Islamic religion approach , and framing contemporary architecture styles with these Islamic restrictions .

4 - Mosque beauty features must express religious sense and divine sanctity as optimal.

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