

Structures and Constructions Analysis

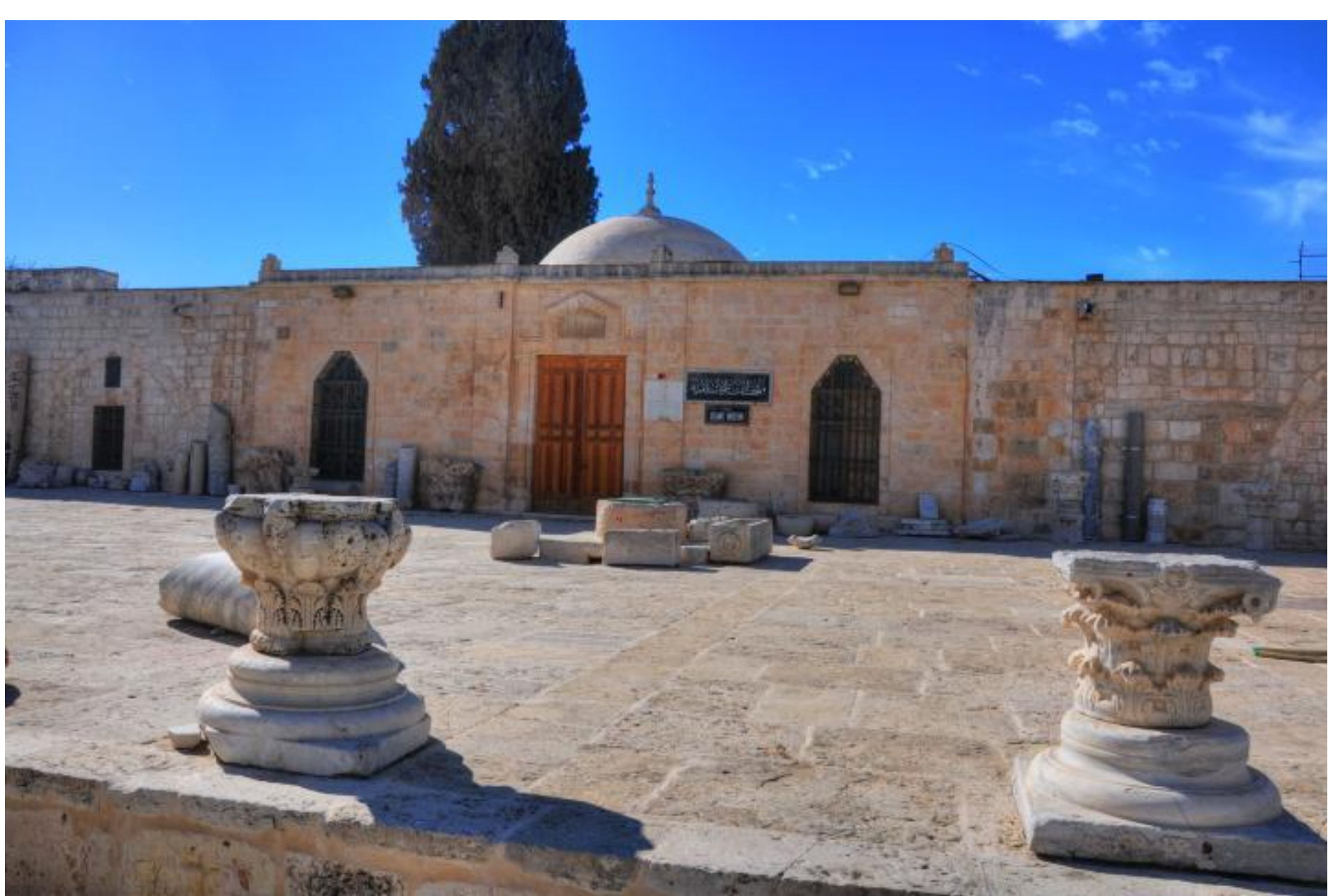
MASJID AL AQSA
Jerusalem, Palestine

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OVERVIEW

Al-Aqsa ("the farthest") Mosque is located on the southern side of the temple mount, and is the 3rd most holiest site in Islam. Initially built in 705 AD, the present silver-dome structure dates to 1035AD. It is named after the Muslim's account of the night travel of prophet Muhammad, who according to their tradition was transported from Mecca to Jerusalem.



LOCATION

Location:

Old City of Jerusalem

Coordinates:

31.77617°N 35.23583°E

Established:

705 CE

The mosque is located on the southern edge of the Temple mount. It is accessed from the temple mount for Muslims, or through the nearby Mugrabi gate for other faiths during regulated hours between the prayers.





HISTORICAL

After the mosque was destroyed in the great earthquake of 749, it was repaired by 780. Following another devastating earthquake (1033) it was rebuilt (1035), which is the present day structure.

ORNAMENTS



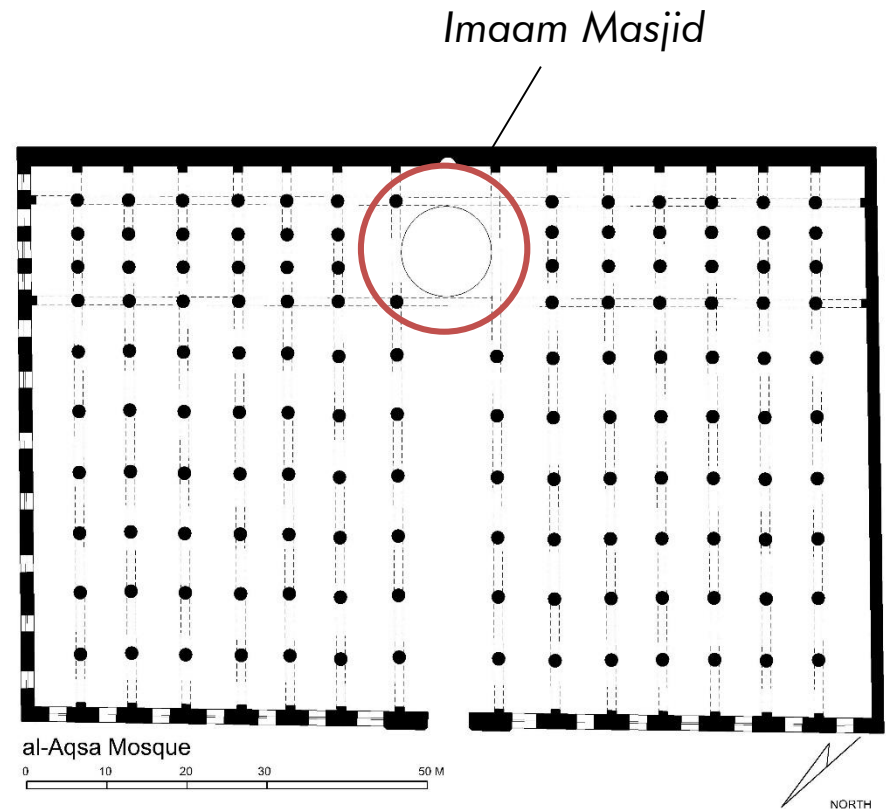
MINARET/TOWER



FLOOR PLAN

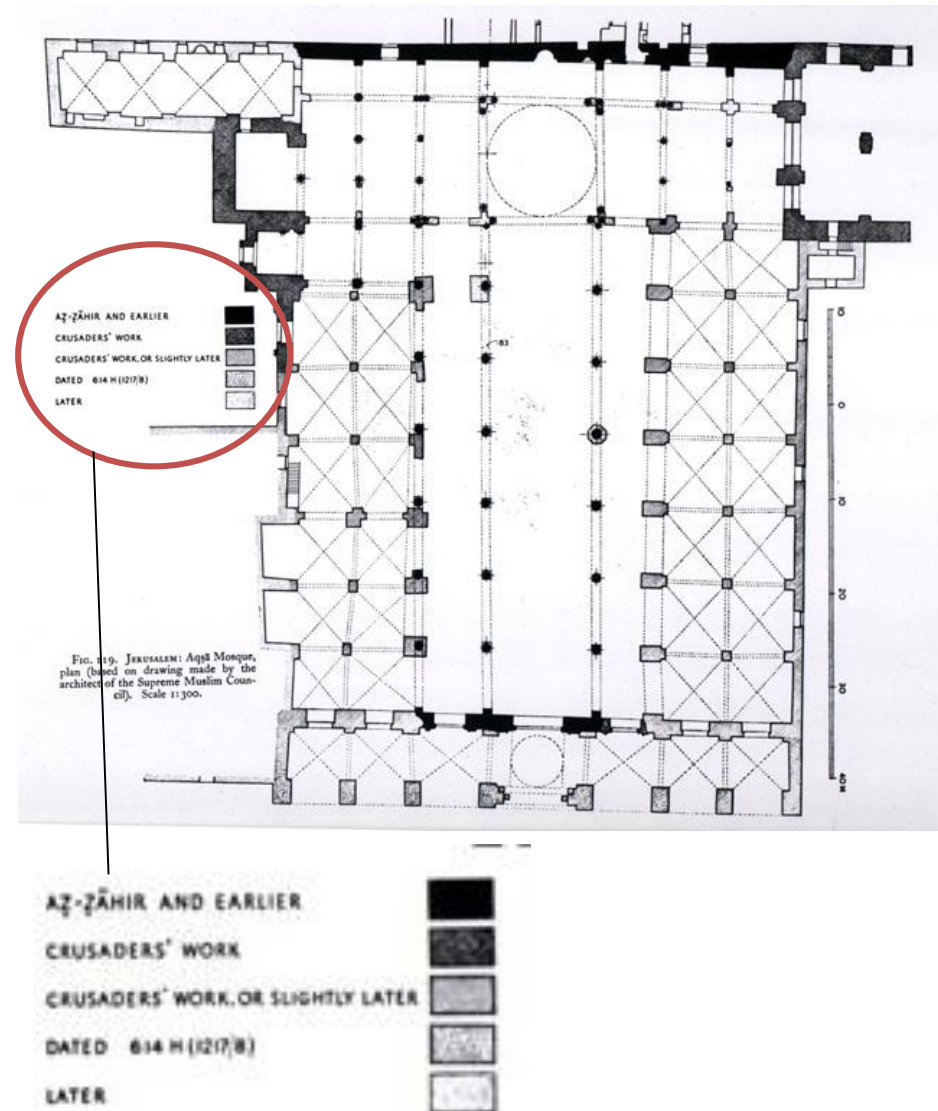
Generally the floor plan is about an arrangement of some columns in a constant sequences and symmetrical style.

The center of this building is in the place where the leader of prayer (*imaam*) take place.



FLOOR PLAN

Based on the floor plan that was drawn by an architect from *Supreme Muslim Council*, at this mosque there are 5 types of columns. these columns were classified based on the time when each was built.



WALLS



WALLS

The walls were built in the classic style. It was constructed by the formations of white limestone blocks. The formation is similar with the nowadays brick formation. But the limestone blocks used by this kind of building are rather be thicker.

It could be about 30cm-45cm thick. Compared by red bricks that is only 15cm thick, this building can stand stronger.



DOORS AND WINDOWS

Like mostly byzantine style, this building using the themes of Arc-forms. The windows, the doors also the other kinds of openings were constructed by the *archer's bow style*. It gives stronger force restrainer.



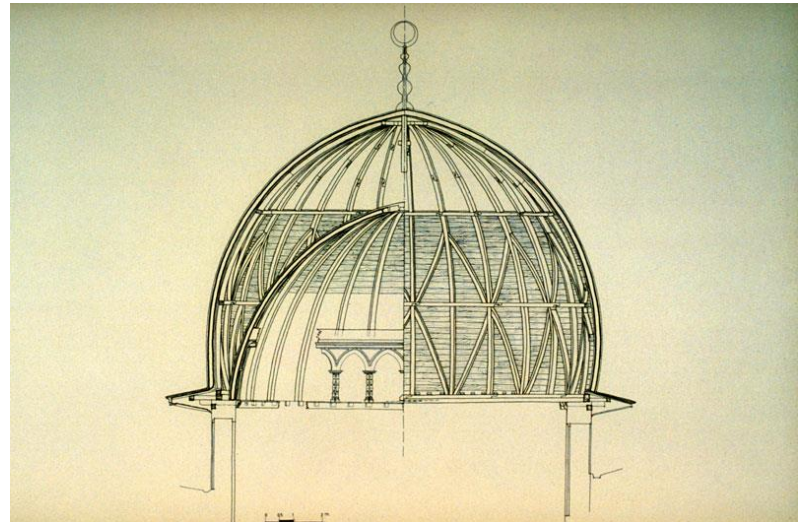
The windows and doors were constructed mostly in the same dimensions.

DOME

There is only one main dome in the Al Aqsa Mosque. This dome is rather built in a medium radius. The radius is almost smaller than the height of the dome so that this dome looks skinny, longer or higher.



the construction of the dome were composed by the sequences of triangles structures. The domes of the towers are smaller but still using the similar system of structures.



COLUMNS

The columns in this mosque are shattered around with the same dimension of sequences. These columns are having the same radius and height.

