The Adaptation of Islamic Culture in a Western Society

“Building a Contemporary Mosque in Auckland”
Building a Contemporary Mosque in Auckland as an antidote to Islamophobia
Islam in the West
“… most poorly understood and most feared religion in the Western World.”

- Syed Mohiuddin, American Institute of Islamic Studies

http://www.islamophobiabook.com/
What is Mosque Architecture?
“The World is the Mosque”

Prophet Mohammed (P.B.U.H)
All is needed is a clean place to pray and the direction of Qibla
Artist Render of the Prophets Mosque
Al-Nabawi (Prophet) Mosque, Medina

Shah Faisal Mosque, Islamabad, Pakistan

Blue Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey

Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
What are the problems of Western Mosques?
The lack of formal definition of Mosque architecture in scriptures
Often it is built to mimic the great precedents from the place of origin. Therefore there is lack of connection and relevance to the context where the community may find it exotic and the apparent visual language too great to comprehend.
The Mosque Crisis!
Eternal IDEA

Artist Render of the Prophets Mosque
The Mosque as a space and place of worship

The Mosque as a place of education

The Mosque as a community centre
The Mosque as a Centre for the Development of the Community

Diagram of the Mosque as a synergic space
Reinvention!
Assyfaah Mosque, in Singapore

Mosque in Cologne, Germany

Conceptual design in Copenhagen, Denmark
What should a Auckland Mosque be?
An Auckland mosque should **not be merely a prayer hall** for Muslims only, but should be an Islamic centre to **promote cultural exchange and interaction between Muslims and non-Muslims** to encourage mutual understanding to achieve a greater assimilation within the New Zealand multicultural society…
How to create a new Mosque language?
"I believe that architecture is a pragmatic art. To become art it must be built on a foundation of necessity."
— I.M. Pei, 1983
Essence and principles of Islam

Humility & Harmony
Islamic Art

Beauty expressed in the Quran:

*Ahsam al-`amala* (Beautiful deeds)

*Asma’ al-husna* (Beautiful names)
Dhikr – “Remembrance [of God]”

Alhambra Palace, Granada, Spain
Beyond, surface decoration we can find a **new language** to express the symbolic geometrical shapes - manipulating 2D fundamental geometrical shapes into 3D volumes, creating inhabitable spaces.

Eastern Sun – Sahand Hesamiyan 2007
Where should the Auckland Mosque be built?
Proposed Site

Manukau City
View into Site through Botany Junction Intersection (North East)
View into site (From East)
View towards Botany Junction (From North)
Program Layout
The proposed programs are arranged in a radial pattern, connected to a central courtyard space.
Design Strategy
Beauty expressed in geometry as remembrance of God (dhikr)

Islamic art extraction: abstract language of belief
- Compass, symmetry, repetition

Proposed program distribution: radiating from a central space

Prayer Hall: Cubical form - a subliminal reminder of the ka'aba (symbol of unity)

Intervention Central space as public space - blurring boundaries

Site
Site Arrangement and Layout
Central Circulation Space
Materiality
Glass reinforced concrete

Heat blocking glass