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GRAND MOSQUE PROJECT

CONCEPT AND DESIGN: Jan Wenzel and Lars Tuxen

The Grand Mosque of Copenhagen is not merely the first Grand Mosque in Denmark; by completion, it'll be the largest Mosque in Scandinavia and one of the five largest Mosques' in Europe. It'll host almost 3,000 people indoors and on special occasions, it'll open up its glass doors on the Ground Level towards the inner Central Courtyard, allowing for another 1,500 people.

It'll also be the most contemporary Mosque in Europe, in fact one of the most contemporary in the world. A modern sculpture with a daunting and dynamic shape, dressed in titanium, glass and polished concrete, The Grand Mosque of Copenhagen will be the most advanced Mosque in the world in regards to the science of engineering and architecture, clean solar-energy, audio/video/it-technology and security.

The Grand Mosque of Copenhagen will be a showcase of the Muslim World Community's capability, it'll bridge between the various cultures of the world and it'll embrace the 21st Century's demands for tolerance, understanding and high visibility.

The ellipsis of The Grand Mosque symbolizes a dynamic progression towards eternity and a symbolic ritual rotation around the Kaaba. The ellipses interact in various angles and are all pointed in one direction only: the direction of Mecca.

The water surrounding The Grand Mosque provides calmness and cleansing.

The dynamics of the ellipses are kept in place by 13 columns, and the columns are structurally locked in place by concrete anchors and the structural embracing of the concrete floors around the inner Central Courtyard.

The outside solid titanium walls provide protection and solace whilst keeping a glimpse of purity and calmness from the water in the reflecting pool through the narrow solid glass chink above the Ground level in the entire Main Prayer Hall. At night, the illumination from the glass chink will make the Mosque float on a stream of light whilst illuminating the skies with the contours of a Grand Half Moon.

The narrow angled vertical glass section in the elliptic titanium wall will lead the way towards Mecca. The angle of the vertical is 21 degrees – as the 21 degrees in a system of co-ordinates that connects the three most holy cities of Islam: Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem.

The inside glass walls towards the inner Central Courtyard provide a generous light and openness.

All apartments and lecture halls are placed around the inner courtyard allowing for tranquility and ample light. The apartments have a southwest exposure and the lecture halls have a northeast exposure.

Underneath the Ground Floor of The Grand Mosque, a spacious restaurant and gallery will welcome the visitors. There'll be various auditoriums, multi-purpose halls, advanced audio/video and it-departments, library, offices and high-security sections.

This entire Sub Level will have exterior glass walls, which will be an extension of the glass chink above the Ground Level.

The water in the reflecting pool will cascade down into the open outdoor space between the Sub Level and the Mosque-base and re-circulate back up into the reflecting pool.

The exterior glass wall and the cascading water will enhance the natural light, cleanse the air and ease the heat on a hot summer day.

The Multi-Cultural Center is placed on the top of a grand staircase overlooking The Mosque and the huge surrounding reflecting pool. The staircase will be a meeting place, a joyous spot for relaxation and communication.

The Center will welcome its visitors with a visitor's center, a huge gallery and a restaurant. It will further accommodate the needs for flexible auditoriums, library and an advanced Mediateque.

A beautiful tranquil bath and spa facility allows the visitor to relax, reflect and rejuvenate.

There will be direct access to the Multi-Cultural Center from the underground Parking.

The Grand Canal and its pathway will connect The Harbor, The Park, The Mosque, The Multi-Cultural Center and The University of Copenhagen.

The direction of the canal and the pathway will be: Mecca.