Penzberg Islamic Forum

Bichlerstrasse 18 Penzberg, Germany

Architects Jasarevic Architekten Augsburg, Germany Clients Penzberg Islamic Community Penzberg, Germany Commission 2001 2001 Design 2003 - 2005 Construction 2005 Occupancy Site $1,450 \text{ m}^2$ Ground floor 535 m^2 1,725 m² Total floor 3,209,500 USD Costs Programme

In building this forum, a small Muslim community in Bavaria has used contemporary architecture to foster integration. Providing a prayer room and communal and administrative areas in a simple L-shaped envelope, the building makes extensive use of glass, particularly a full-length blue glass eastern window, to create a sense of openness and transparency. Muslim tradition is maintained in the decoration of the prayer room with the 99 Names of God, but the centre's move away from typical mosque architecture signals to the wider community a desire for mutual understanding. Regular tours are provided for non-Muslim visitors and German lessons for the Muslim community.













ISLAMIC FORUM PENZBERG

South of Munich, where the Alps rise beyond Lake Starnberg, one is in deepest Bavaria, a region known for its conservative Catholicism. Here of all places, a small Muslim community has built itself a forum with a prayer room in a contemporary architectural style a courageous undertaking based on the wish for integration. The aim is to overstretch neither the neighbouring residents nor the members of the community in their willingness to tolerate and approach one another. Admittedly, the building is not right next to the church in the centre of the village, but it is within walking distance on the well-groomed periphery, a residential area on one side of the street, a DIY store on the other. With its distinctive but in no way provocative or confrontational appearance, the building and its delicate tower fit into the surroundings, where the traditional village structure has already been broken with in the form of different rooflines and ornaments between rusticality and post-war monotony.

The architects from Augsburg arranged the prayer room, the communal and administrative rooms, and an apartment under a single roof on an L-shaped ground plan. But the facades, that are clad in pale stone, clearly indicate the different functions of the rooms to the east above all the slightly recessed full-length blue glass ornamented window. The entrance features two concrete slabs that swing out of the wall like open gates, inviting visitors into the house in German and Arabic script; the actual door, made of stainless steel, is open to all. Inside, one is greeted by a classical open-plan staircase with a great deal of daylight. To the right, the view opens up into the beautiful prayer room. Shoes must be removed, but anyone is allowed in, women even without a headscarf. From the side, daylight enters between curved concrete slabs, on the front wall the light enters through the blue glass without dazzling. The atmosphere in this space is unusually friendly. The way the light falls draws attention to the ceiling and wall panels, where ornaments are applied to the unclad concrete that can be read as expressions of divine boundlessness. The abstracted star motifs contain The 99 Names of God such as "The Most Merciful" and "The Utterly Just" in calligraphy. This design was developed jointly by the artists Lutzenberger + Lutzenberger from Bad Wörishofen and Mohammed Mandi from Abu Dhabi. The forum's other rooms can be compared with a parish community centre: they offer German lessons, discussion and prayer meetings, the usual.

The architect is familiar with the religion, culture, customs and mentality of Islam, and such a knowledge is essential in the development of modern religious architecture. Here in Penzberg, contemporary architecture is contributing with wise restraint to the gradual integration of different beliefs into village structures. Where places of worship cautiously distance themselves from traditional, dogmatic structures and offer comparatively free spatial interpretations of the spiritual, they genuinely promote mutual understanding between believers. What succeeded in the design of modern churches can, as here in Penzberg, be equally fascinating in contemporary Islamic architecture.



ARCHITECT'S RECORD

2010 AWARD CYCLE

1	IDENTIFICATION	Ī
1.	IDENTIFICATION	۱

Project Title : Islamic Forum Penzberg Street Address : Bichler Street 18

City: 82377 Penzberg Country: Germany

II. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

A. Architect/Planner

Name : jasarevic architects Mailing address : Fuggerstreet 9

City : Augsburg Postal code : 86150

 Country : Germany
 Telephone : +49 821 3434 832

 Facsimile : +49 821 3434 833
 E-mail : augsburg@b-au.com

Principal Designer. Dipl.Ing. Alen Jasarevic, Architect

B. Client

Name: Islamic Community Gemeinde Penzerg e.V.

Mailing address : Bichler Street 18

City: Penzberg Postal code: 82377

 $\begin{tabular}{lll} Country: Germany & Telephone: +49 8856 932332 \\ Facsimile: +49 8856 908993 & E-mail: islam-penzberg@gmx.de \\ \end{tabular}$

C. Project Affiliates/Consultants

Please list those involved in the project and indicate their roles and areas of responsibility (e.g. engineers, contractors, economists, master craftsmen, other architects, clients, etc.). Please cite addresses and telephone numbers separately.

Name	Role
Dipl. Ing. Saban Fazlic, Pfaffenhofen - Germany	Structural Engineer
Dipl. Ing. Adem Mengü, Hamm – Germany	Mechanical Engineer
Dipl. Ing. Bernd König, Munich - Germany	Lightning Engineer
Susanna & Bernhard Lutzenberger, Bad Wörishofen - Germany	Artist
Mohammed Mandi, Abu Dhabi - UAE	Calligrapher

III.	יודי	MF	TA	DI	\mathbf{T}
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(Please specify year and month)

A. Commission October 2001

В.	Design 2001	Commencement October 2001	Completion	December
C.	Construction 2005	Commencement December 2003	Completion	September
D.	Occupancy September 2005			
Reı	marks:			

IV. AREAS AND SURFACES

(Please specify in square metres)

- A. Total size area 1.450 qm (total usable floor area)
- B. Ground floor area 535 qm (gros groundfloor area)
- C. Total combined floor area 1.725 qm (total gros area)
 (Including basement(s), ground floor(s) and all upper floors)

Remarks:			

V. ECONOMICS

(Please specify the amounts in local currency and provide the equivalent in US dollars. Specify the date and the rate of exchange in US dollars at the time.)

Date		Amount in	Amount in US dollars	Exchange rate
		Local Currency		
A.	Total initial budget (without land) 1,31 \$ 08.04.2009	2.500.000 €	3.275.000 \$	1 €=
В.	Cost of land	325.000 €	425.750 \$	
C.	Analysis of actual costs			
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	4. Landscaping	100.000 €	131.000 \$	
	5. Professional fees	140.000 €	183.400 \$	
	6. Other(Art)	185.000 €	242.350 \$	
D.	Total actual costs	2.450.000 €	3.209.500 \$	

(without land)

E. Actual cost 1.420 € 1.860 \$

(Per square metre)

Remarks: total combined floor area

VI. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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Dr. Ursula Baus, Stuttgart

VII. MATERIALS, STRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

See above.

German Low Energy Standard with Solar Heating.

VIII. PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

Almost whenever there's a plan to build a mosque in Germany, it often leads to a heated debate, even before the project has got off the ground, as, for example, in the major cities of Munich and Cologne.

Opposition often arises from the fact that many non-Muslim citizens feel that their daily life will be affected by the construction of a large house of prayer in their vicinity. On the other hand, many people also consider the small backyard mosques, hidden from public view, to be objects of suspicion. They are concerned that they could encourage the development of "parallel societies" in Germany.

These are problems which the people in the Upper Bavarian town of Penzberg have not had to deal with. The Muslims there have succeeded in integrating into the wider community. And the town's Muslim leaders believe that the process of building the new mosque has contributed to that state of affairs.

Transparency and modernity

On a first approach, the large glass facade of the new mosque reflects the cars driving past on the main road. If one walks up closer to the glass, one can see the backs of some dozen men who are prostrating themselves towards the south-east, towards Mecca. Here, at the edge of the town, from which one can see the distant Alps, Muslims from Penzberg and the surrounding region have their meeting place. The community has some 600 members.

Not a typical mosque

The young deputy director of the Islam Forum, Gönül Yerli, a woman, guides the guests on to the blue carpet in the hall. They are members of a local Munich branch of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian sister-party of the national Christian Democrats.

Almost every day, Günül Yerli guides groups of visitors through the Islam Forum. Understanding between the religions is an explicit aim of her community.

"It's particularly important for us that this mosque," she says, "should be modern in design. And transparency is part of that modernity. That means that certain prejudices and many fears among the people should be laid to rest by the architecture itself. That's why it was a major issue for us that, for example, sixty percent of the building is covered in glass."

The mosque as a place for learning about Germany

One floor below, there's an integration course for women taking place, provided by a state adult education institute together with the Islam Forum. The children of the mostly young women are being looked after in a neighbouring room. Social worker Nermina Idriz finds it important that the two provisions are linked.

"It's above all a good preparation for kindergarten," she says, "since the children have already become used to quite a lot of things, like the rules, like the most important terms which are used, and so on. We said at the start that this provision for children is important, otherwise the mothers won't come. And if the children are here, we might as well use the opportunity to improve their language skills."

In the afternoons there is regular remedial teaching for children, and at the weekends, Gönül Yerli teaches Muslim religion in German, Turkish and Bosnian.

Opening up to non-Muslims

The Islam Forum, which has members from several countries, including Turkey, Bosnia and Albania, places particular emphasis on a European Islam. The imam, Benjamin Idriz, says this means separating themselves from the Islam as they knew it in their home countries, and opening themselves up to non-Muslims. But the young imam is aware that this policy is not always welcomed among his own members. "What we are doing in Penzberg is new, at least for Bavaria," he says, "and so some of the communities and individual Muslims are sceptical about it. But we know that this is the only way for Europe. As time goes on, I am beginning to hear positive opinions from Muslims. What we are doing here is important and right, and it's the only alternative. In future, most Muslims will go in this direction." The town's head of cultural activities, Thomas Sendl, confirms that the Muslim community's efforts at integration have been effective. "From the point of view of the town, we view what the Muslim community is doing very positively," he says. "The dialogue with the catholic and protestant churches has led to the acceptance of the Muslim community, and it is now seen as well anchored in the local social structures."

Already, around a third of the 16,000 residents of Penzberg are said to have visited the Penzberg mosque at least once. But why does the relationship between the religions work so well here? Social worker Nermina Idriz thinks it is because the members of the community see Germany as their home. In addition, the fact that the members come from different countries has led them to adopt German as their common language, and that has made it much easier for the community to open itself to the wider world.

Francisca Zecher

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Jame (please print) Alen Jasarevic
ignature Date

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	Magazine: `A10 – new European architecture'	
2		
	Magazine : `betonprisma – Glaube´	
3		
	Office brochure : `jasarevic architekten´	
4		
	Magazine: `Professional Lighting Design´	
5		
	Flyers : lecture in munich - german werkbund, lecture in	
6	augsburg - town hall, exibition in berlin - galery aedes,	
	exibition in augsburg – museum for architecture	
	Book: `Euro Islam Architecture – New Mosques in the West'	
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	View from mainstreet	Angelika Bardehle	05.2007
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	The Islamic Forum within its context	Angelika Bardehle	05.2007
3			
	The Mosque view towards Quibla	Angelika Bardehle	05.2007
4	•		
	The Mosque view towards the Womens-Galery	Angelika Bardehle	05.2007
5	•		
	The Mosque view towards Mihrab	Alen Jasarevic	10.2006
6	•		
	The Mosque a man praying	Alen Jasarevic	10.2006
7	1 1 2		
	The Mosque view from Quibla to entrance	Alen Jasarevic	10.2006
8			
	Atmosphere inside the Mosque	Alen Jasarevic	10.2006
9	1		
	Main entrance (from main street)	Nürsen Özlükurt	08.2006
10	(copyright by the fotographer)		
	The Minaret	Nürsen Özlükurt	08.2006
11	(copyright by the fotographer)		
	View towards Quibla at night	Nürsen Özlükurt	08.2006
12	(copyright by the fotographer)		
	View from main entrance inside the foyer	Nürsen Özlükurt	08.2006
13	(copyright by the fotographer)		
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A.	Architect/Planner	
	Name : jasarevic architects	
	Mailing address : Fuggerstreet 9	
	City : Augsburg	Postal code: 86150
	Country: Germany	Telephone: +49 821 3434 832
	Facsimile: +49 821 3434 833	E-mail: augsburg@b-au.com
	Principal Designer. Dipl.Ing. Alen Jasarevic, Architect	
В.	Client	,
	Name : Islamic Community Gemeinde Penzerg e.V.	
	Mailing address : Bichler Street 18	
	City : Penzberg	Postal code: 82377
	Country : Germany	Telephone: + 49 8856 932332
	Facsimile: + 49 8856 908993	E-mail : islam-penzberg@gmx.de
C.	Project Affiliates/Consultants	
	Please list those involved in the project and indicate their roles craftsmen, other architects, clients, etc.). Please cite addresses a	and areas of responsibility (e.g. engineers, contractors, economists, master and telephone numbers separately.
	Name	Role
	Dipl. Ing. Saban Fazlic, Pfaffenhofen - Germany	Structural Engineer
	Dipl. lng. Adem Mengü, Hamm – Germany	Mechanical Engineer
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Mohammed Mandi, Abu Dhabi - UAE

Artist

Calligrapher

	METABLE ease specify year and month)					
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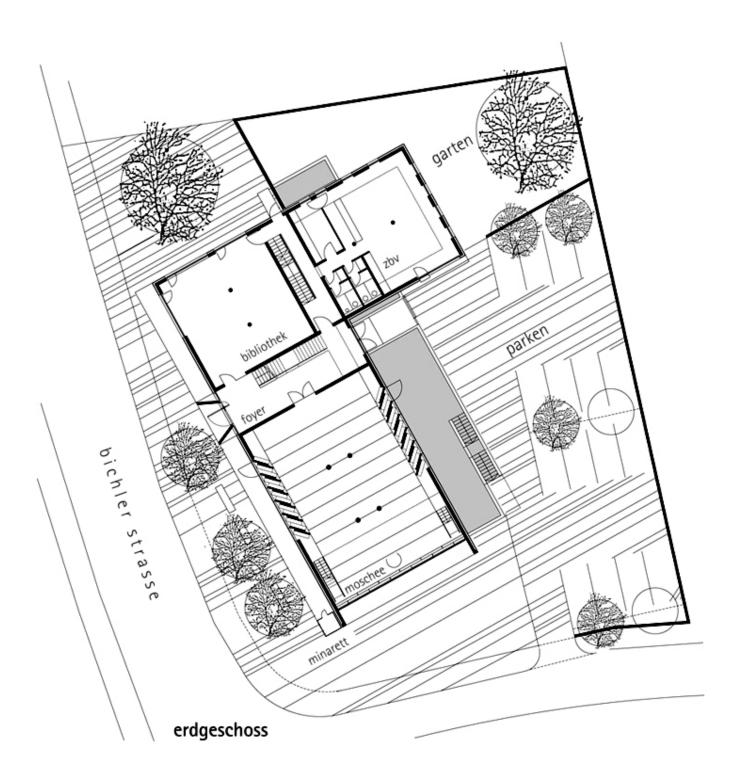
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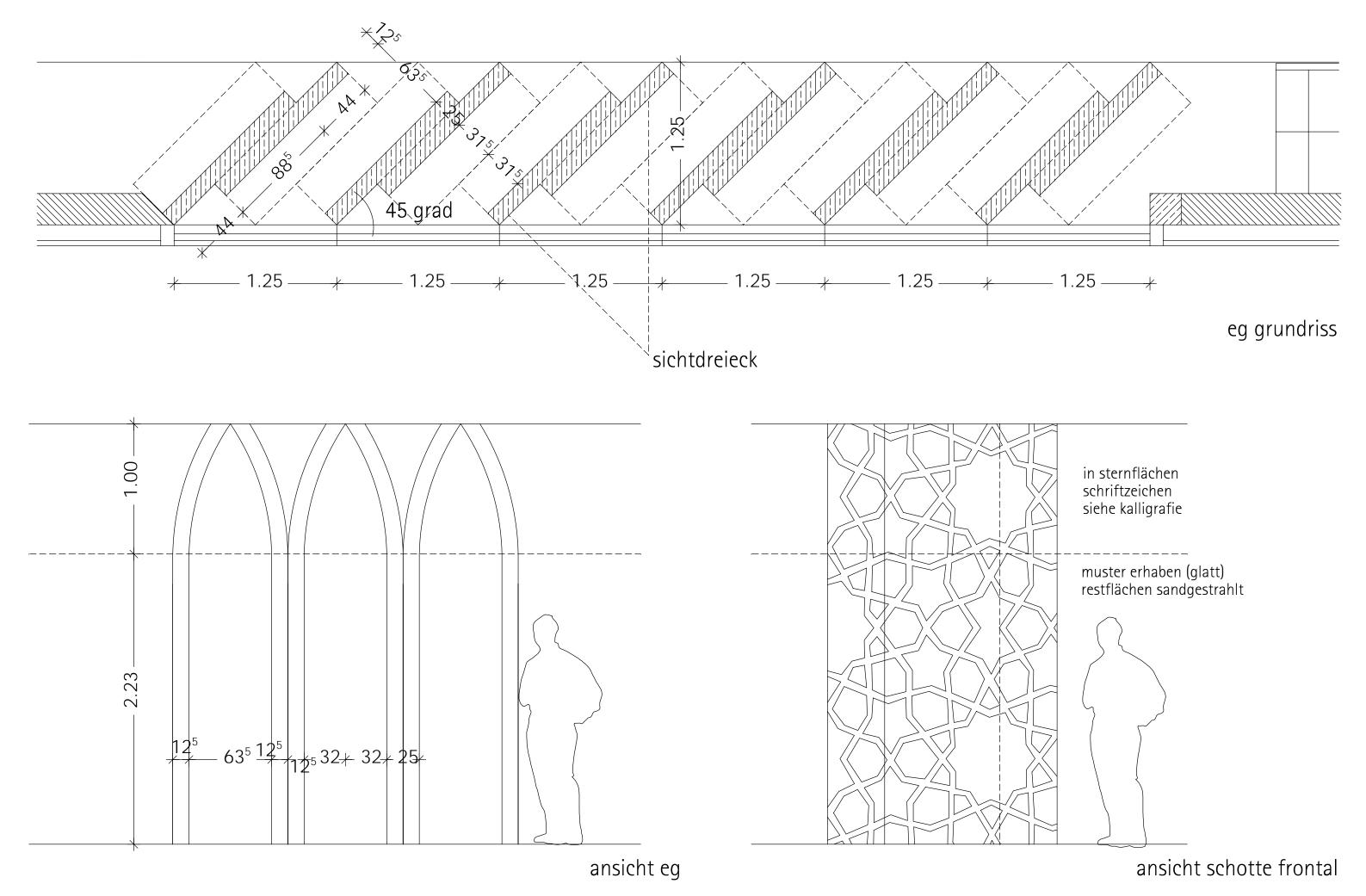
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Signature

Date

Date





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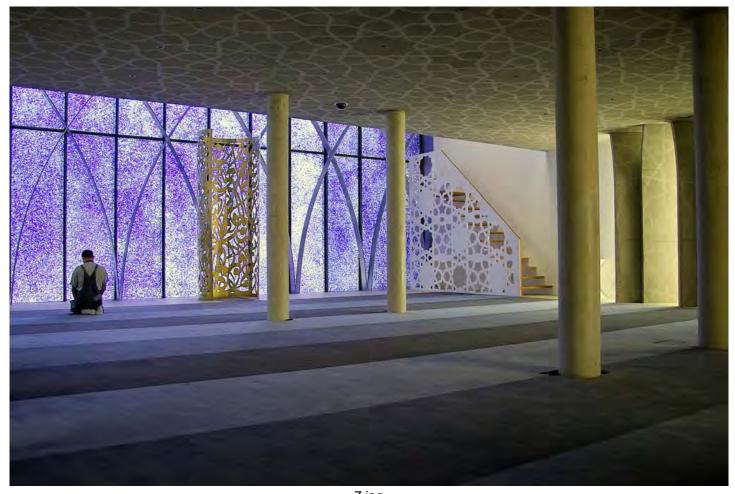






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~	Office brochure : `jasarevic architekten'	
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	Magazine : `Professional Lighting Design'	
5		
	Flyers : lecture in munich – german werkbund, lecture in augsburg	
6	- town hall, exibition in berlin – galery aedes, exibition in augsburg	
•	– museum for architecture	
	Book : `Euro Islam Architecture – New Mosques in the West'	
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	The Mosque view towards the Womens-Galery	Angelika Bardehle	05.2007
5			
	The Mosque view towards Mihrab	Alen Jasarevic	10.2006
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	The Mosque a man praying	Alen Jasarevic	10.2006
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] _	The Mosque view from Quibla to entrance	Alen Jasarevic	10.2006
8		AI I	10 2000
	Atmosphere inside the Mosque	Alen Jasarevic	10.2006
9	Main entrance (from main street)	Nürsen Özlükurt	08.2006
10	(copyright by the fotographer)	NUISCII OZIUKUIT	00.2000
10	The Minaret	Nürsen Özlükurt	08.2006
11	(copyright by the fotographer)	14013CH OZIUKUT	00.2000
11	View towards Quibla at night	Nürsen Özlükurt	08.2006
12	(copyright by the fotographer)	14013CH OZIAKATE	00.2000
12	View from main entrance inside the foyer	Nürsen Özlükurt	08.2006
13	(copyright by the fotographer)		
	(copyright by the total graph by		
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