



The Aga Khan Award for Architecture

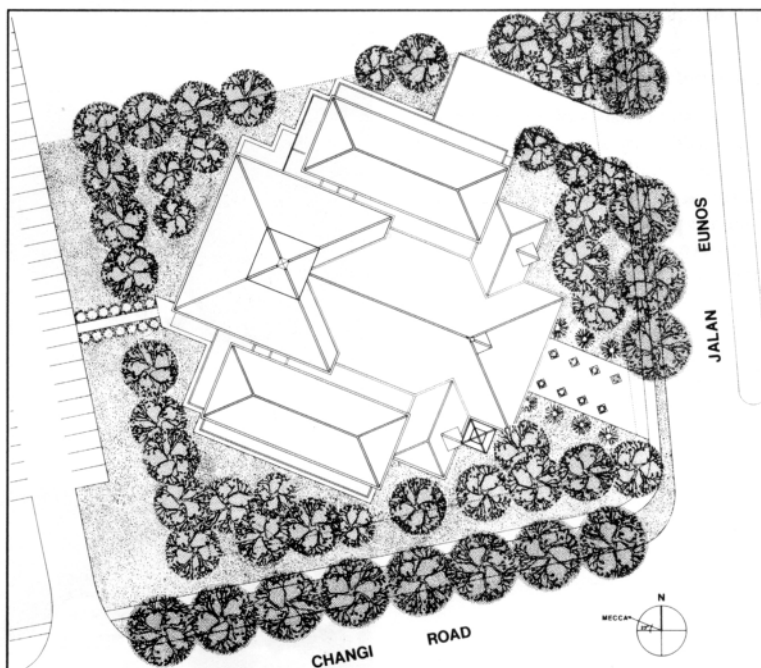
Darul Aman Mosque

Singapore, Singapore

<i>Architect</i>	Housing & Development Board (HDB) Singapore, Singapore
<i>Client</i>	Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura Singapore, Singapore
<i>Contractor</i>	M/s Guan Hong Construction Co. Pte. Ltd. Singapore, Singapore
<i>Completed</i>	July 1986
<i>Site area</i>	3'561 square metres
<i>Ground floor</i>	1'783 square metres
<i>Total floor</i>	2'276 square metres
<i>Costs</i>	SD 2'310'037 (US\$ 1'051'000) SD 922 per square metre (US\$ 420)



1



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Building type 611
1989 Award Cycle 0979.SIN

1. Darul Aman mosque seen from the major road junction, with the public housing in the background
2. Layout plan

Darul Aman Mosque

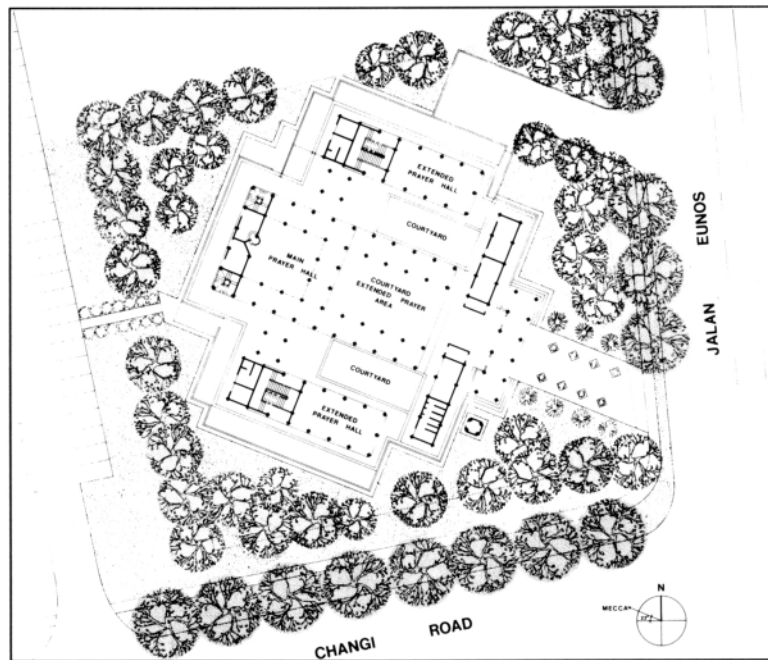
Completed in 1986, Darul Aman Mosque is one of nine new mosques designed and built by the Housing and Development Board (HDB) to cater for the religious needs of the island's muslim community. These mosques are not intended as prayer houses only, but also accommodate other activities ranging from religious classes to welfare programmes set up for the benefit of the *umma*. The project was financed by the Mosque Building Fund Scheme, a body established in 1975, which manages money contributed by Muslims (each working Muslim donates a minimum of S\$ 1 - US\$ 0.46 - per month).

Site

The mosque is located in an urban setting, bounded by two major roads and adjoins a high-rise, public housing estate. The site was allocated by the government at a concessionary rate.

Functional Requirements

The mosque consists of a main prayer hall preceded by a courtyard, flanked by two smaller courtyards. Two additional prayer halls with a class-room are placed on either side of this main core. The larger courtyard can serve as prayer space.



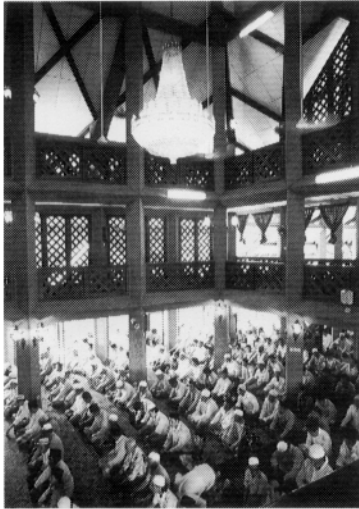
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3. Ground floor plan

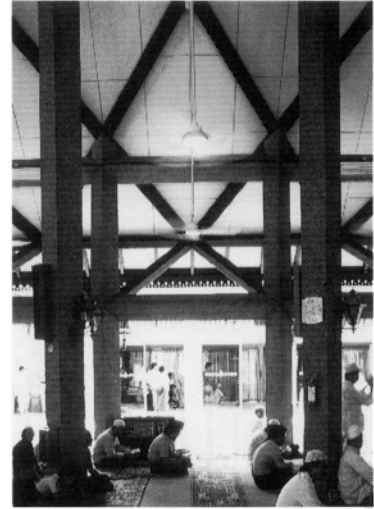
4. The scale & geometric layout of the mosque are reminiscent of palace architecture



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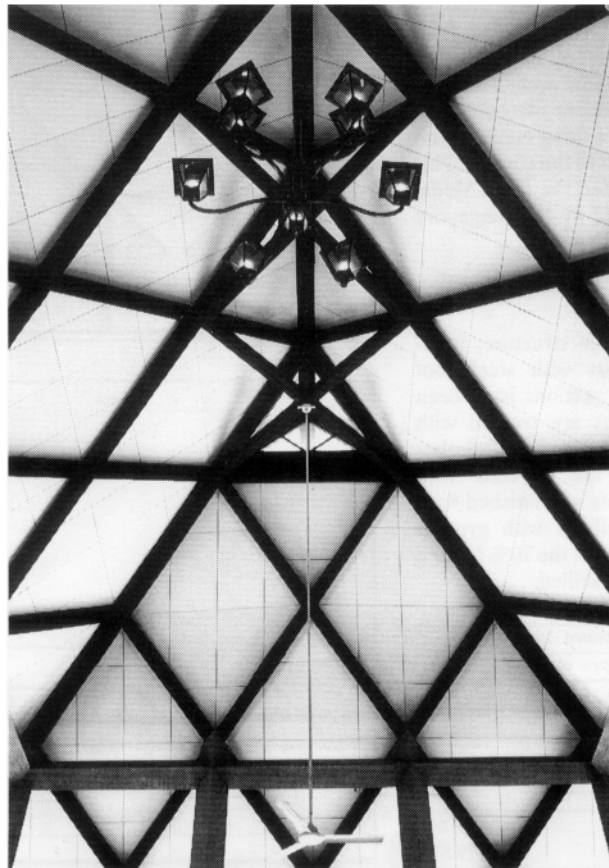


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Description

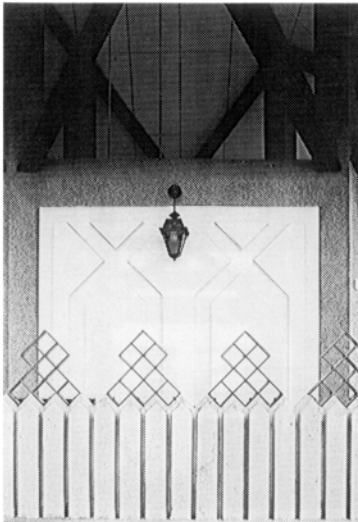
The mosque is laid out symmetrically along an axis determined by the entrance and the *qibla* wall. The two smaller courtyards are used to separate the main prayer hall from the ancillary facilities (i.e. the classrooms, offices, etc.) and also allow for natural ventilation throughout the building. The overall design is based on local Malay architectural forms, and features traditional pitched roofs and timber construction; in the present instance, however, these forms are executed with modern materials and current construction techniques.

From the structural elements to the lattice screens, a simple rhombic motif is applied throughout the building and conveys a visual unity to the entire mosque.



8

- 5. High extended prayer hall with deep roof overhang creating a cool, ventilated space
- 6. Extended prayer hall
- 7. Interior showing 3-level main prayer hall with women's gallery on the upper level
- 8. Detail of ceiling & traditional rhombic pattern



9

Project Significance

This mosque represents an attempt at re-creating traditional architecture by using modern building materials and techniques, the resulting construction being well adapted to the climate. This project was awarded the Gold Medal for design in 1987 by the Singapore Institute for Architects.

Construction

Reinforced concrete structure, foundations and floors with steel roof trusses of hollow sections have been used. The façades are treated with granolithic plastering and timber screens. Floors are covered with ceramic tiles, roofs are finished with clay tiles and ceilings with gypsum board. One quarter of the 70% foreign labour force was skilled.

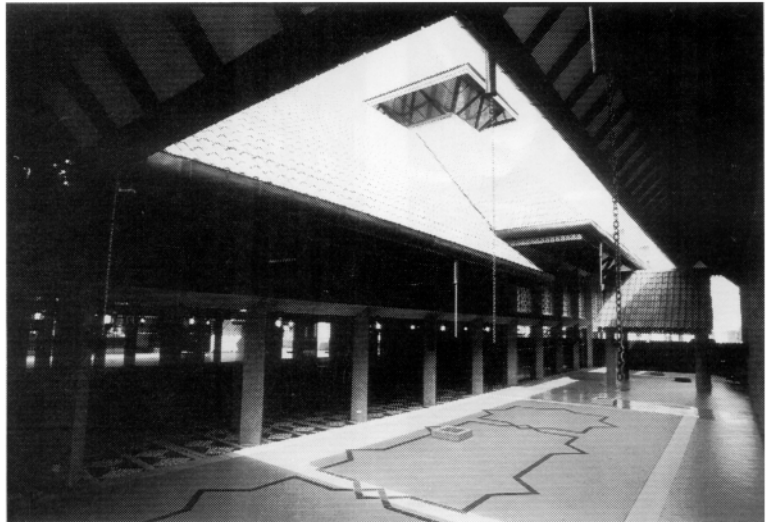
9. Detail of the decorated boundary fence

10. One of the two open courtyards

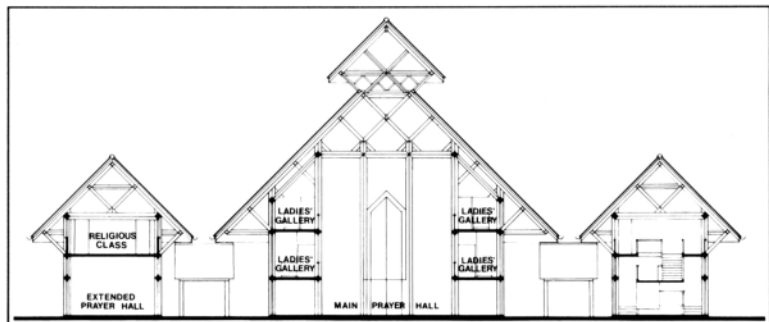
11. Section

12. South-west elevation

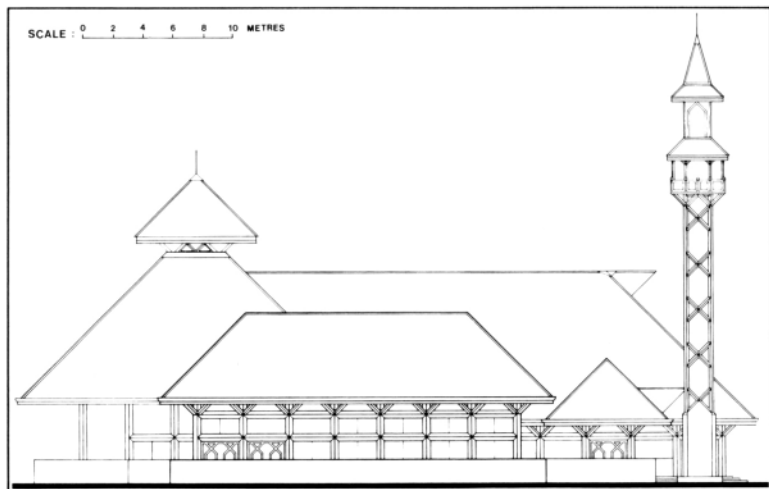
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12