

CAMBRIDGE NEW MOSQUE

NEWSLETTER

INCLUSIVITY, AUTHENTICITY, EXCELLENCE



Build on Track

IT HAS BEEN a hectic time but our mosque is now two-thirds complete! In March we bade farewell to our Swiss experts at Blumer-Lehmann, who assembled the complex timber elements of the mosque interior with the famous Swiss punctuality! For the first time we can step inside the mosque sanctuary and absorb the fullness of the design concept.

As well as the soaring treelike pillars of the prayer space, the rest of the building's interior is visibly taking shape. The underground carpark and ramp are complete; while the lift shaft, the two teaching/reception spaces, and the ablutions and accommodation areas, are all in place, just waiting for the electricians, plumb-

ers and decorators who will turn them into beautiful spaces to enhance the functionality of our complex.

The permanent roof has been installed, along with the glass skylights which will allow natural daylight to flood the building's interior, saving precious electricity and underlining the building's pro-nature and pro-sustainability ethos.

With more donations from our supporters in Cambridge and around the world, and particularly our valued Turkish partners at Yapı Merkezi and Diyanet, we are hoping and praying that the keys to Europe's newest mosque will be in our hands by the end of the year.

Over to you!



Going For Gold

WITH ITS SIGNATURE golden dome the new mosque has added an iconic feature to Cambridge's world-famous skyline.


Built to be a spiritual space for up to a thousand worshippers, the mosque is in fact rich in social as well as religious symbolism.

Modern Britain is both a secular and religious place. It is immensely complex and changeable. Whichever way society goes, it seems that the human quest for higher meaning will never be extinguished, and we are confident that all of the UK's religious traditions can look forward to the future with optimism. With our ambitious mosque we are casting a vote of confidence in the future of spirituality and the love of God in our nation.

But Cambridge is not just an English county town. It is a unique global hub. The city of Newton, Milton, and Hawking, it is a symbol of humanity's transition to a challenging new world in which old certainties are scrutinised, while new visions of reality are in constant and bewildering flux.

Cambridge attracts some of the world's greatest minds, and is a buzzing marketplace for the most recent and dynamic ideas. Many Muslim students, researchers, scientists and thinkers come to study or to make their homes here. With the significant presence of Microsoft, Apple, and AstraZeneca, Cambridge will always be a magnet keen to draw on a global pool of talent.

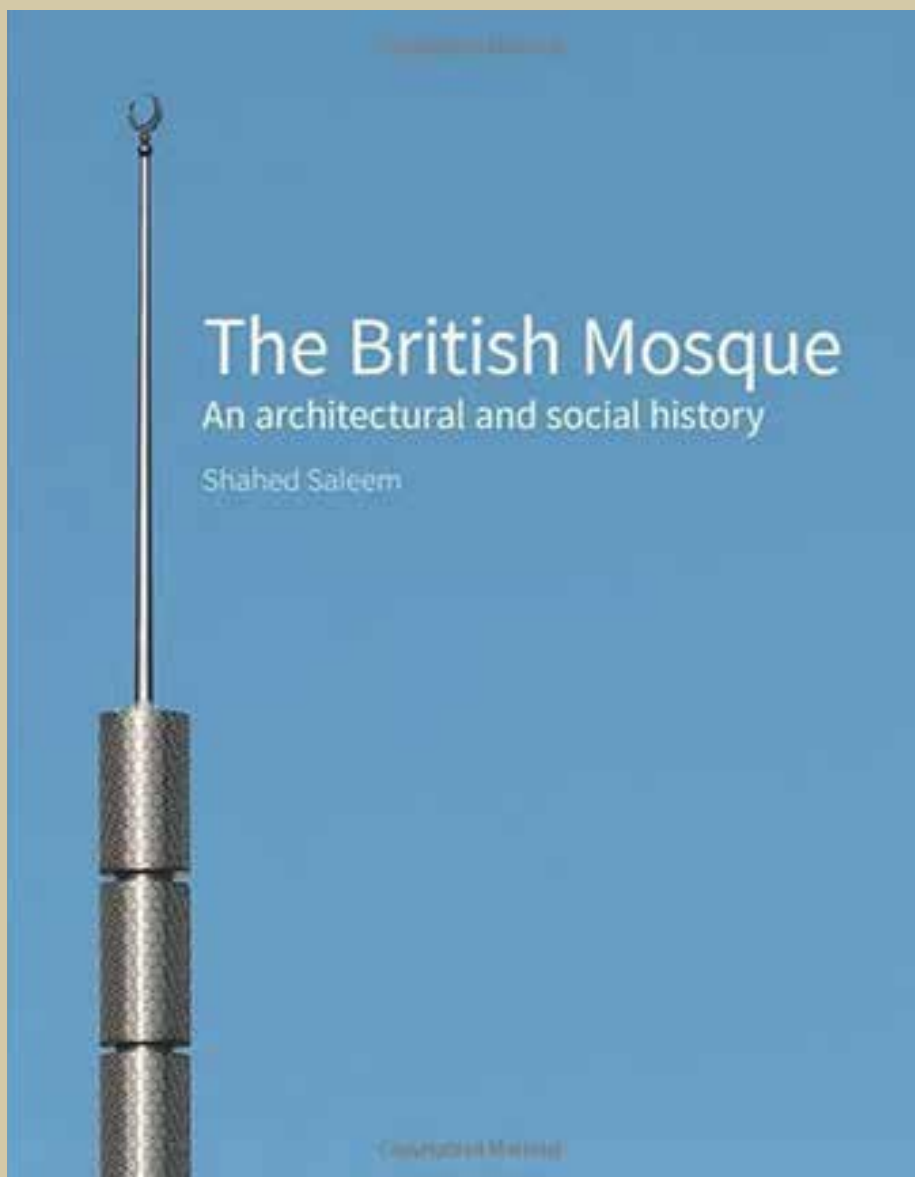
No apologies, then, for the determination of Cambridge's Muslims to build one of the twenty-first century's great mosques. At all stages of this journey we have insisted on a gold standard. Appointing always the best architects, engineers, consultants, landscape designers, artists, contractors, subcontractors, and craftspeople, we have been clear that this symbolically-freighted project should showcase nothing but the best. The world's finest Turkish calligraphers are working side by side with hi-tech sustainability engineers, while garden designers steeped in medieval traditions are collaborating with innovative materials consultants. It has been a challenging and mould-breaking project. We are sure that not only the Muslim congregation, but all of our builders and designers, the local residents, the city of Cambridge, and the whole country, will be proud of what this uniquely talented and diverse team has achieved.

East and West do not always converse as well as they should. But the Cambridge New Mosque shows that they are at their best when they work together. Visitors to our site on Mill Road now see what can be achieved when the latest and most responsible technologies are creatively coupled with timeless sacred principles and traditions. The new techniques find a spiritual purpose, while the endlessly-diverse traditions of Muslim architecture find a breathtaking and convincing way of moving into an unmistakeably modern space. 



NEWS FROM GERMANY

The long-awaited 1200-capacity DITIB Central Mosque has opened its doors in the German city of Cologne. Work on the complex, which includes a sports hall, a guest house, a TV studio and a large carpark, began in 2009 under the auspices of the country's Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs, which is Germany's largest Muslim organization.



MOSQUE CELEBRATED IN NEW BOOK

Our mosque receives extensive favourable treatment in Shahed Saleem's new book *The British Mosque: an Architectural and Social History* (published by Historic England, 2018). The lavishly-illustrated book provides a complete history of Britain's magnificent mosque heritage, and closes with a discussion of our own project here in Cambridge. According to the author we represent a 'step change in the narrative of British mosque design'.



Holy Kiswah Donated

Our heartfelt thanks to Mr Ersin Arioğlu, CEO of Yapı Merkezi, for donating a spectacular embroidered panel from the Holy Kiswah in Mecca. This will be hung in a place of honour inside the new mosque upon completion.

Yapı Merkezi, one of Turkey's leading engineering companies, has donated significant sums towards our project, as well as appointing, at its own expense, a full-time consultant, Mr Emrah Cavlı, to work at the site to liaise between the various parties.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Many thanks to the trustees of Emmanuel United Reformed Church in Cambridge for their generous donation of £150 to the mosque. Their secretary Christopher Wright records the church's 'support and encouragement to you, as your exciting project becomes a reality.' 🌸

The first pilgrims arrive ...

We are not open yet, but have already welcomed a host of high-profile visitors to the site, including the Bishop of Ely Stephen Conway, local MP Daniel Zeichner, Conservative peer Baroness Warsi, a high-profile delegation from Diyanet, several academics, and representatives of sustainability groups including Open Eco Homes, together with journalists from Middle Eastern, Turkish, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and UK broadcast and print media. ITV journalist Claire McGlasson called the building 'stunning'.

INDONESIAN MOSQUES GO GREEN

Indonesia has almost a million mosques! Now the Indonesian Council of Muslim Scholars has announced that a thousand will be converted to run on sustainable principles and will be centres for educating the public on green technologies and recycling methods. This follows a number of eco-fatwas, including a landmark ruling against lighting fires in forest areas.

The programme is being championed by Shaykha Huzaema Tahidlo Yanggo, the Council's president, and one of the few women to rise to the highest position of religious authority in a Muslim country.



Si Monumentum Requiris Circumspice

It was with deep sorrow that we learned that our architect David Marks died on October 6, after a long illness. He was 64.

Born in Stockholm in 1952, David studied at the Architectural Association in London, where he met his wife-to-be Julia Barfield. They formed their own practice in 1989 and were honoured with MBES following the huge success of their landmark creation in Britain's capital, the London Eye.



Sami Yusuf's Ramadan Blessing

"I'm here to add my voice to those all over the world who are supporting the amazing project to build the new mosque in Cambridge. This is such an exciting development, with its green credentials and its superb contemporary design. I'm sure that once it's opened it will give so

much pride to the Muslims not only in Cambridge but all over the world. Cambridge is a global symbol of education and knowledge; and to have such a beautiful mosque in the heart of the university city will symbolise Islam's pride in being a religion of knowledge and scientific enquiry. So in this blessed month of Ramadan I urge everyone all over the world to donate to this project and build the future of Islam in this very important intellectual hub."

Prayers from Konya

We are selling an HD video lecture by British scholar Hamza Maqbul on 'Invocations and Supplications'. The lecture was recorded live at the historic Alaettin Mosque in Konya, and comes complete with famous Turkish spiritual songs *Tende Canım* and *Salik Meratib Kat' Eder*. All proceeds go to our mosque! Buy the DVD, or download from <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/invocations>

WHO ARE SILICON CPV?



BY YUSUF WINTER

Silicon CPV are a UK-based company founded in 2007 that designs, manufactures and installs innovative photovoltaic solar energy and high-efficiency LED lighting solutions. The forward-thinking company is an offshoot of Akhter Computers Ltd, which has been successfully operating in the UK since it was founded in 1979 by Professor Humayun Mughal. Our patented products have gained strong market recognition for both high performance and innovative features including remote communications allowing for long-term management of our installed products. Widespread recognition has led to high-profile outcomes. We won a Best Paper Prize for 'A High Efficiency, Low-Cost IBC Cell' in 2014, awarded by the Institute of Physics, Material and Characterisation Group at Loughborough University.

The research and development operations of Silicon CPV are carried out at our UK Head Office whilst the company has also worked continuously with universities around the world since 1995 to fund research projects that can bring emerging silicon and photovoltaic technologies to commercial reality. Silicon CPV has been productively and successfully distributing its wide range of products on a vast international scale with clients ranging from the UK to Morocco and Saudi Arabia and from Pakistan to Dubai and Turkey.

Our Involvement in the Cambridge Mosque Project

Being involved with the Cambridge Mosque Project is something very close to our hearts. We feel pleased and privileged to be involved with such a ground-breaking charity and project.

How are we involved exactly? Silicon CPV are supplying the new eco-friendly Cambridge Mosque with a state-of-the-art 20kW rooftop-mounted photovoltaic solar solution. This will be entirely free of charge. Green initiatives are precisely the kind of projects we strive for. This is not the first project of its kind for Silicon CPV, having initiated several 50kW rooftop mounted solar solutions for a number of schools and academies around Essex and Bedfordshire; and we have even equipped our own offices with a 100kW rooftop photovoltaic system.

Here at Silicon CPV we are extremely proud to be working with the Cambridge Mosque Project and are looking forward to seeing our solar panels powering the breathtaking prayer hall and Mosque complex next year. We similarly hope to support and supply similar projects in the future.





Cambridge Islamic Art

OUR SECOND INTERNATIONAL Islamic Art Sale closed triumphantly on 15th December 2017 having raised no less than £56,200, with over 80% of the works on offer sold. Buyers made their bids online from across the UK, the US, UAE, Malaysia, Singapore and Greece.

The 2017 collection comprised 44 works, mainly original, donated by leading traditional and modern artists in the field of Islamic art offering various mediums within the three components of Islamic art: calligraphy, islimi (Arabesque) and geometric patterns.

The two-month online sale was entirely run by volunteers in aid of the Cambridge new mosque project. A series of YouTube videos featuring the work of individual artists was also a runaway success, and continues to promote awareness not only of our build but also of the splendours of Islamic art, and the gifted practitioners who have ensured that it remains a vibrant living tradition.

More works by leading artists are being received! As we press ahead with this major income stream for our project, don't forget to sign-up to find out about our third sale at www.CambridgeIslamicArt.com

The Cambridge Islamic Art team would like to express its sincere gratitude to all the artists, volunteers and supporters. Special thanks go to the Islamic Union of Hong Kong and the Tokyo Camii Mosque for their kind support. Thanks also to Sharjil Siddique (UK)

(coordinator); Nabila Winter (UK) (art consultant); Henrietta Egerton (social media & mailchimp support/website content review); Ibrahim Rahman (social media support); Syed Gilani (US) (video final cut and animated logo design); Tom Gowanlock (UK) (photography); Zak Whiteman (Spain) (poster design / video title pages); Nuria Ribelles (UK) (video introductions); Sarah El Attar (France) (videography); Fatema Niazy (UK) (videography); Mohammed Tahir (UK) (videography); Aisha Malik (UK) (photography); Lisa Islam (UK) (videography); Arshad Madrassi (Jordan) (E-commerce product selection/registration & social media set-up); Nora Outalib (UK) (outreach support); Abdullah Mirza (US) (hashtag brainstorming); Rehana Bhathal (Malaysia) (marketing); Basmah Lok (Hong Kong) (marketing); Imam Muhammed Rasit Alas (Japan) (marketing support); Shimoyama Shigeru (Japan) (marketing support); Mustafa Tsunooka (Japan) (Japanese translations); Zainab Hui (UK) (Chinese translations).



Channel S 2018 Appeal

You can make your donations live by telephone during this year's Channel S Cambridge Mosque Appeal.

The appeal will be broadcast LIVE on Channel S on JUNE 3, from 5PM until after Suhoor!

Live auction sale of original Islamic artworks!

Donation hotline 0208 523 1666

Studio hotline 0208 523 4111

Watch online at www.chsuk.tv or LIVE on Sky 814

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

For all the latest updates on our fast-moving project don't forget to subscribe!



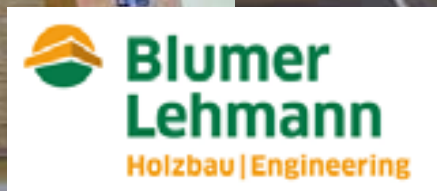
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GILBERT-ASH NEWS

Congratulations to our main contractor Gilbert Ash for winning the prestigious Construction Supplier of the Year award.

Gilbert Ash has just broken ground on a major new building for Wadham College, Oxford, and has started work on an ambitious redevelopment of the Royal College of Music campus in South Kensington.

A unique world of wood

THE GLUE-LAMINATED TIMBER 'trees' of the mosque have been fabricated by the world-leading craftspeople of Blumer-Lehmann AG, a Swiss company which has specialised in wood milling and engineering since 1875. The CMT team has visited their fascinating plant in the small town of Gossau, where we saw state-of-the-art technologies in the process of curving key components of our mosque. Wood is sourced from sustainably-managed forests, and the energy used in the plant is supplied by a generator fuelled entirely by the waste wood generated in the factory.

The 2746 timber parts produced at Gossau were trucked to Cambridge and assembled to form the mosque's signature trees and the major sections of the mosque wall and dome. This is the first time this technology has been used on this scale in the UK.

Membership News

At a meeting in Arbury Community Centre on 4 February a group of 31 new supporters were formally granted membership of the Cambridge New Mosque. They each received a certificate and their names are inscribed in our beautiful leather-bound Register of Life Members. Life Members have the right to attend the regular Members' Meeting of the new mosque following its completion, and to vote on important matters relating to the use and policies of the facility. Life Membership is open to all supporters who have donated a minimum of one thousand pounds.



A Calligraphic Vision

The Cambridge Mosque combines the minimalism often associated with modern design with Islam's indigenous preference for simplicity. There are no images to distract the visitor's eye. Instead, Muslim culture has always believed that the word, mediated through the voice and the pen, represents the highest expression of human nature. Through words we are made rational, compose thoughts, think about morality, and pray to God.

A mosque, which holds no graven images, is a space in which the abstractions which raise human beings high above the mere possibilities of their flesh are brought to the foreground, serving as a constant and meditative invitation to raise our hands to Heaven. Surrounded by harmonious abstraction, we are all equal and at home; our heritage of culture, class and race is not confirmed or denied by the simple and soaring spaces of Muslim holiness.

A mosque is often likened to 'a garden of Paradise'. The world of virgin nature, with its dynamic symmetries, colours and cycles, bodies forth the power and beauty of the God Who is above all representation. So sacred art, as celebrated in a mosque, invites nature indoors: the stylised repetitions of vegetal motifs, tessellations, and arabesques, serve to bring to the surface of the world the deep order and beauty from which God has made creation. Sacred space is affirmed by the structure of the mosque; and sacred time, also, is present, as the five daily prayers are governed by the movements of the earth, the sun and the moon.

The columns of our mosque seem to unite earth and heaven. As the gaze ascends, the trunks spread to form a canopy which reminds us of the geometry of nature. The light of heaven shines not between the trees, but from the treetops themselves: nature is not at war with grace; for there is nothing in the world that is not a sign of God's presence. The Qur'an tells us that 'the stars and trees prostrate to God', and that every order of creation is engaged in its own unique form of praise. The language of a mosque invites human beings to join this cosmic symphony.

The arts of the pen and the voice perfume the space with the Word of revelation; the arts of decoration do the same, by inviting us to read the Book of Nature; both are, as the Holy Qur'an insists, made only of signs; confirming, to the sensitive heart, the all-present power and holiness of the Creator.



Hymn by Yunus Emre (d.1320)

'Taşlar ile, dağlar ile'

With the rocks and mountains high
Let me call, my Lord, on Thee,
At the dawn with birds that fly,
Oh let me call, my Lord, on Thee.

With Jesus, raised on high,
With Moses on Sinai,
With the rod that he holds by,
Oh let me call, my Lord, on Thee.

With thankful praise addressed to God,
With the Koran's 'Say: He is God',
With bare feet, head uncovered,
Oh let me call, my Lord, on Thee.

With Job in suffering drear,
With Jacob shedding many a tear,
With Muhammad, loved so dear,
Oh let me call, my Lord, on Thee.

With this song, Yunus regales,
Singing with the nightingales,
With the Truth's most loving slaves,
Oh let me call, my Lord, on Thee.

Translated by Muhtar Holland

DONATION INFORMATION

Bank Transfer

HSBC

Address:

63-64 St Andrews Street,
Cambridge CB2 3BZ,
United Kingdom

Account Name: The Cambridge Mosque Trust

Account No.: 54298209

Sort code: 40-16-08

IBAN: GB31 MIDL 4016 0854 2982 09

Branch Identifier: MIDLGB2103J

Post one-off cash/cheques made payable to:

"THE CAMBRIDGE MOSQUE TRUST"

14 St Paul's Road
Cambridge, CB1 2EZ
United Kingdom

Or automate a regular donation by downloading,
completing and posting a standing order form to your bank.
Information on our website.

www.cambridgecentralmosque.org

Registered charity: 1164931

