

Makkah Museum

Makkah, Saudi Arabia

Role: Museum Designer for International Competition (one of seven finalists); Lead team of specialist museum consultants (West Office Exhibition Design, Northern Light Productions, eL Seed, WSP and Al Mansouryah Co.)

Program: History galleries, collection storage, auditorium, library, lobby, cafe, gift shop, function spaces, classrooms, exhibit support, and offices

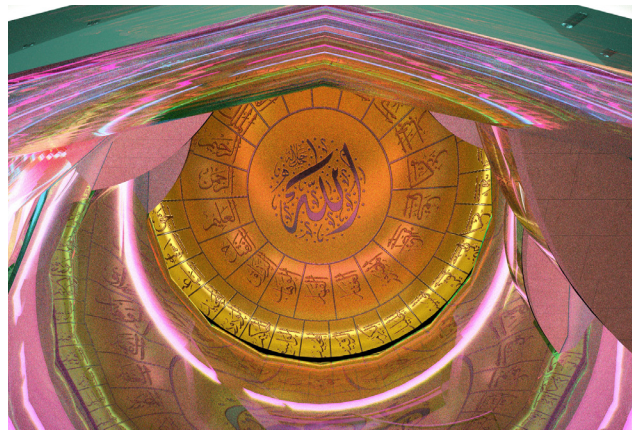
Building Area: 145,000 sf (plus 55,000 sf underground parking area)

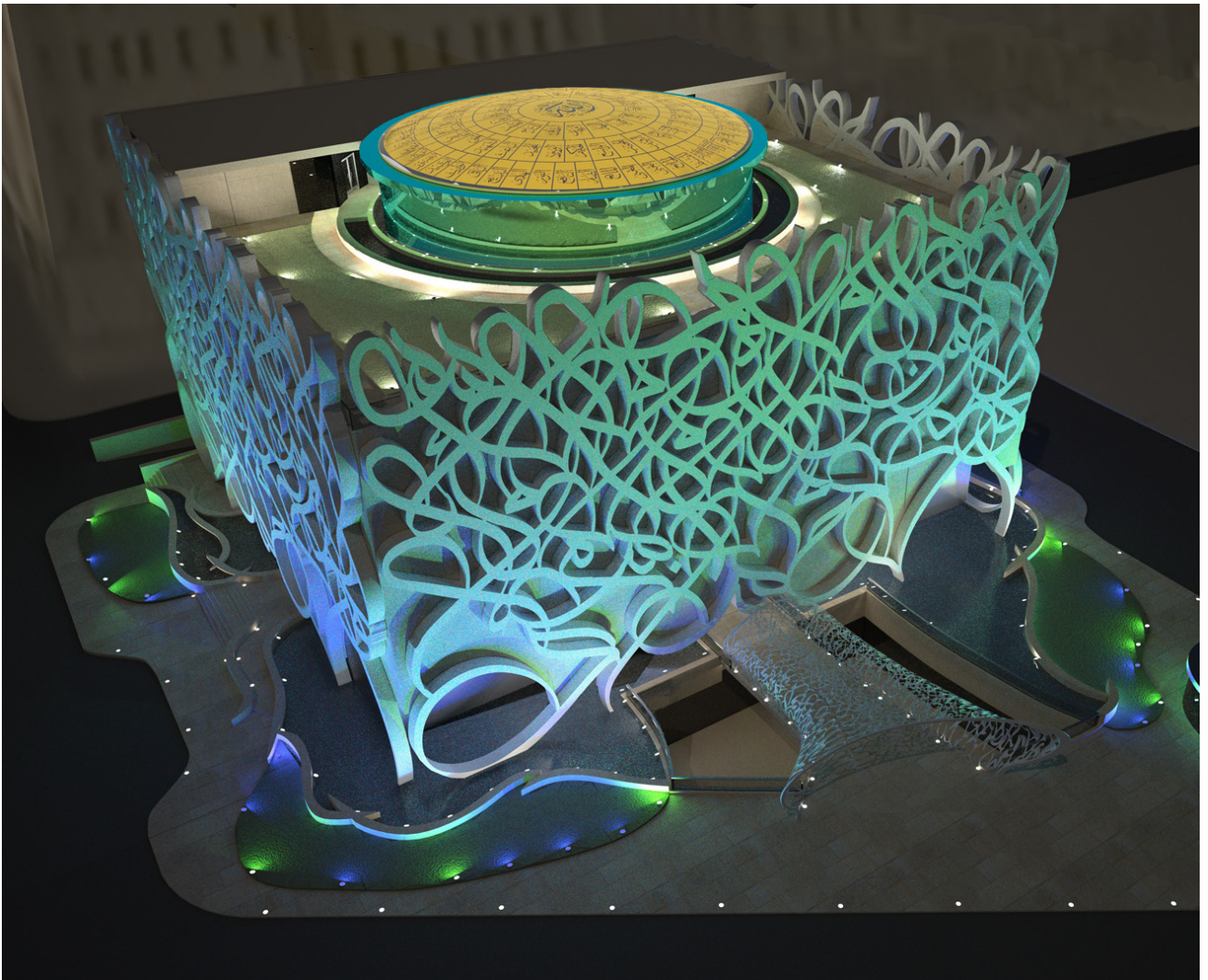
Status: Client awarded project to another finalist in 2016

Description: All over the world and five times a day, Muslims pause to face Makkah and pray to Allah. More than a billion Muslims direct their prayers to the Kaaba, the center of the sacred al-Masjid al-Haram, and affirm the unity of their faith. No matter where you are or what language you speak, for Muslims there is one God, one direction, and one people.

In the design of this museum, we celebrate the unity symbolized by the Hajj, the congregation of Muslims from all over the world, and the achievement of the pilgrims who have arrived in Makkah. After a lifetime of praying in the direction of the Kaaba, visitors to the Makkah Museum will be in the middle of a transformational journey, fulfilling the fifth pillar of their faith.

As a meeting place for visitors, this museum will provide opportunities for Muslims to exchange information about how Islam is practiced in their home countries and will bestow a sense of membership in a global Islamic community. As a sanctuary for the names of Allah, this museum will inspire prayer and reverence for Islam through the architecture of the building as well as the exhibit displays and





media. As an Oasis of the Faith, this museum will be a center of teaching about the Islamic faith.

Ultimately, this museum will provide context for the pilgrimage that visitors are undertaking and make connections, both spiritual and historical, between their journey and the life of the Prophet (pbuh). The intent, as

expressed in the design, is to deepen the meaning of their stay in Makkah and to offer teachings that visitors will take home to their families, friends, and communities.

The architectural design expression is intended to blend traditional Islamic forms and styles with modern state-of-the-art technology and materials.

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