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Decoration in Praying Hall of Mosque: A review of current literature

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Abstract

The most intention of decorating the interior of the mosque is to create of feeling remembering Allah. The challenge is to avoid the wasteful as well the negative impact to users. Among of Islamic scholars agreed the decoration in the interior of mosque shall be done in a moderate way since is has not been prohibited in Islam. This paper intended to search the literature on the function of decoration of the interior of the mosque as well its effects towards people either negative or positive way. The significance of this paper is to identify the best way in decorating of the interior of the mosque.

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1. Introduction

The mosque is a place where Muslim people can perform their Solat and doing other activities of ibadah such as learning Quran, religious talk, perform Friday prayer and etc. relating to religious activities. Praying hall is the most important space in mosque also known as sacred space. Decoration on a mosque being disputed by some Islamic scholars, especially to those highly decorated mosques. Many of Islamic scholars protesting the decoration in mosque especially highly decorated is a symbol of luxury

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and wastefulness. As stated by Othman, R. (2011) in his paper, proper positioning of motifs and ornamentation, more believers will be called to come enlighten the mosques. She also mentioned, if without the small niché as mihrab on the kiblah wall and dome on top, praying hall could be misinterpreted by people as a multipurpose or library without furniture. Therefore, she declared that the place pray is important to be studied in great detail, as this will lead to the concentration and sincerity of the prayers by the mosque users. Ornamentation should be taken as part of mosque components and not as mere decorations done afterthought or filling in the gap. (Othman, Z. J. Zainal-Abidin, 2011).

1.1. Definitions of terms

1.1.1. Decoration

Decoration as described Mitrache. A (2012) is highlighted and enhanced the spatial attributes of any architectural composition.

1.1.2. Praying hall

A prayer hall is sometimes assumed as the sacred area. Most of the time the praying area is large and open where the devotees will perform their congregational prayers either during daily five time prayers, festivity prayers or Friday prayers. (R. Othman, N.Inangda, & Y. Ahmad, 2008).

1.1.3. Mosque

In Malaysia mosque is literally given a different meaning from another place in the world. Meaning of mosque in Malaysia as described by Abdul Halim.N, (1984), the mosque is the place where people perform their Friday prayer while, the place has not been used for Friday prayer called Surau. Many scholars described the meaning of the mosque but in different word. As described by Rahman, (1998), a word of the masjid in Arabic gives a meaning of “place of worship”. While, Seyyed Hossein (1987) and Hillenbrand, (1994) mentioned the word ‘mosque’ derives from the Arabic ‘masjid’ mean literally the place of ‘sujud’ or prostration, in which forehead of the worshipper touches the ground in the supreme act of submission and surrender to God. Prostrate is one of action in praying, the action of put the head on the praying mat as a symbol to show that Allah is the Greatest one.. Also, as mentioned by Afridi, (2011) mosque is a Holy place for worshipping. The word “mosque” in English refers to all types of buildings dedicated for Islamic worshipping. Notwithstanding call or pronunciation was found, but the use of this building remains the same.

2. Decoration in mosque

Decoration as described Mitrache. A (2012) is highlighted and enhanced the spatial attributes of any architectural composition. The early construction of the mosque, the form was very simple as long as it can serve the function to the Muslim people at that time. Under the reign of the prophet, peace be upon him, the decoration is not allowed. The first mosque was built by our Prophet in Medina. This mosque built with a simple form, without any declaration within it. It was extremely simple in its form. It consisted of an enclosure with a wall made of mud bricks and orchard on his Qiblah side made of palm trunks used as columns to support a roof of palm-leaves mud. There was no ornamentation either within or without it. The most important is the congregation can perform their prayers and take protection from rain and heat. They are not thinking about decorating as long they can pray together with the prophet.

The decoration in mosque normally concentrated in the main prayer space, especially on Khiblah wall. Common elements of decoration found in the interior of the mosque are the ornamentation motifs represent by floral, geometric and Calligraphy. According to Utaberta, Sojak, Surat, & Tahir, (2012)

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