

ARCH 1610-225: Introduction to Historic Building Conservation  
 Final Project B: Modern Heritage Property Assessment

Assessment by (Name)	The Grand Mosque of Kuwait
Property Name in English	The Grand Mosque of Kuwait
Property Name in Arabic	مسجد الدولة الكبير

General Information	
Date of Evaluation	29 <sup>th</sup> of September 2020
Location of Property, Coordinates	Abdullah al-Ahmed ST. Sief 29.379602, 47.97513
Property Owner	Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs
Current Use of Property	Mosque
Historical Information	
Building Age	37 years (1983 - 2020)
Building Style	Ancient Abbasid tectonic.
Architectural Details	"Rectangular in plan, the mosque houses a prayer hall surmounted by a central dome supported on four columns. A patio, six columns deep, separates the prayer hall from the main open court to the south. The open court is surrounded by an arcade that is open to both sides. Two smaller courts are situated to the north and south on either side of the prayer hall. The external walls of the complex are made up of a series of intermediate bays between the main load-bearing structure. Two major spaces of equal size balance the composition in plan: the Grand Sahan (courtyard) and the main prayer hall, covered with a big dome on four massive pillars. The transitional space in between (Haram) is a hypostyle hall, which again refers to an early typology of mosques. The northern corner is dedicated to the Amir's entrance and to the ablutions. From the outside, the façade is a repetition of independent modular elements: a series of wall bay units assembled in clear, hierarchical order." (Camacho, Fabbri & Soares, p.260)
Building materials and construction methods	"Pigmented concrete is the main material, often textured by bush hammering or sand- blasting." (Camacho, Fabbri & Soares, p.260)

<b>Architect</b>	Makiya Associates
<b>Cultural History</b>	
<b>Historical events or personalities that are related to this building (if found)</b>	Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah was behind the idea of building the mosque. The renovation was done after Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah orders.
<b>Architectural or Design styles related to this building</b>	Abbasid architecture influence is very present in the design. Khulafa Central Mosque in Iraq designed by Makiya Associates (Mohamed Makiya) is a mosque that he built in 1964. The similarities between the two mosques are very visible. The same pointed arches, repetition of elements, main dome, singular minirate and the courtyard.
<b>Archeology (if found)</b>	
<b>State of artifacts</b>	
<b>Date of artifacts</b>	
<b>Urban and Architectural Context</b>	
<b>Significance of property</b>	The mosque is located in a prime spot in the central business district and in front of the Sief Palace. The mosque serves as the The Grand Mosque of Kuwait or the Kuwait State Mosque, which it self is very significant. It holds up to
<b>Effect of property on surrounding environment</b>	The mosque is located in a prime area in the middle of sensitive locations, and it being the Grand Mosque of Kuwait it gives more weight to the area and it works as a link between the government and the public. The shortness of parking spaces effects the surrounding area especially in Ramadan.
<b>Landscape</b>	The Kuwait State Mosque is surrounded by General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development from the north-west, Al-Babtain Library For Arabic Poetry on the north-east side, Sief Palace from the west side, Boursa Kuwait and Burgan Bank - Head Office on the south-east side. The mosque has palm trees on the sides facing the streets, from the south-east and south-west elevations.
<b>Heritage Property Integrity</b>	

<p><b>Intactness of attributes</b>          (Form and design - Materials and substance - Use and function - Traditions, techniques and management systems - Location and setting - Language and other forms of Intangible Heritage - Spirit and feeling)</p>	<p>The mosque is still serving as Kuwait State Mosque till today. The structure of the building remained untouched. The exterior facades still have the same materials, ornaments, arches and location of windows.</p>
<p><b>Unsuitable additions to the property</b></p>	<p>The interior renovation of the mosque changed the atmosphere inside. The new design added a very overwhelming feeling to the interior by adding a dark blue color as the base color for the ceiling and the carpet, with gold ornamentation in both. The amount of ornamentations is quite distracting for the prayers and for the viewers who are watching the prayer in AlJumaah prayer or in Ramadan.</p>

**IMAGES:**

Add all images in a separate file with captions.

**REFERENCES:**

Camacho, R., Fabbri, R., & Soares, S. (2016). Modern Architecture Kuwait: 1949-1989.

Masjid al Kabir (Kuwait): Interior, prayer hall. (n.d.). Retrieved October 04, 2020, from [https://archnet.org/sites/450/media\\_contents/16575](https://archnet.org/sites/450/media_contents/16575)

Khulafa Central Mosque: Overview of mosque, elevated view from southwest. (n.d.). Retrieved October 04, 2020, from [https://archnet.org/sites/27/media\\_contents/89117](https://archnet.org/sites/27/media_contents/89117)

المسجد الكبير يعود للخدمة قبل شهر رمضان الكريم. (2013, April 20). Retrieved October 04, 2020, from <https://www.alanba.com.kw/ar/kuwait-news/375934/21-04-2013-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AC%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%A9-%D9%82%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D9%85%D8%B6%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%85/>

صور فنيه رائعة لـ المسجد الكبير من الداخل بعد الديكورات الجديدة .. تصوير – ١٠. (2013, August 01). محمد. ماجد سلطان. Retrieved October 04, 2020, from <https://q8ping.com/48176.html>