

Display of Photographs of the Berlin Mosque at the ‘Reconstruction Exhibition’ organised by the University of Technology, Munich at the Museum of Architecture

Report by Yasir Aziz (Masters in Marketing), Sweden.

The University of Technology, Munich organised an Architectural Reconstruction Exhibition from 22nd July to 31st August, 2010 in Munich. It was held at the Architectural Museum situated in the Pinakothek der Modern area of Munich. The subject was “The History of Reconstruction”. Mr. Johannes Peter Kifinger, a Research Assistant of the team working for organising the Exhibition, wrote to our website: www.ahmadiyya.org to provide photographs of the Mosque in Wilmersdorf, Berlin which can give the visitors a glimpse of the Mosque built in 1927, the damages done to it during the World War II and how it stands now after necessary repairs have been done.

We provided brief history of the construction of the Mosque and its activities and to what extent repairs have been done and who have been the donors. It may be pointed out that after the Second World War major damages were caused to the dome and minarets of the Mosque and to some extent to the adjoining residence of the Imam as well. Necessary repairs to the Mission House and the Mosque were done with the generous contributions of the members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan. But Major repairs of the Mission House, dome and the reconstruction of one minaret were done by the Monument Department of the City Corporation of Berlin. For the last two years the young and energetic Imam, Mr. Muhammad Ali and the German Foundation for Conservation of Ancient Monuments (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz) have been jointly organizing Open Days at the Mosque. The Foundation has ambitious plan to collect funds for the necessary repairs of the Mosque. In this regard we highly appreciate dedicated efforts of Mr. Gunter Paetz, resident Director of the Foundation and her equally energetic and hard working colleague Ms. Anika Forbst.

In response to the request of the Exhibition management we sent one copy each of the brief and also the exhaustive history of the Mosque in German with photographs with exhaustive footnotes and sources very ably translated from English, edited and compiled by our learned friend Mr. Manfred Backhausen of Cologne by post along with some photographs and a CD.

Later Mr. Kifinger, the Research Assistant, forwarded to us a copy of the Press Release dated 21st July, 2010 by Ms. Katharina Horn, Incharge, Press and Public Relation Officer of the Exhibition, giving details about its dates, timings and also outlining the purpose of holding the Exhibition. Here we would like to thank curators of the Exhibition Dr. Markus Eisen and Mrs. Hilde Strobl, who are mainly responsible for the realization of the Exhibition Project.

The Press Release runs as follows:

Opening: 21 August, 2010 to be held from 22nd July to 31st August, 2010.

For years “reconstruction” has been the subject of a heated debate. However, reconstructions can be found since Antiquity, as throughout history buildings have been destroyed and rebuilt if required, for a variety of reasons and with alternating perceptions and definitions of “reconstruction”. A look at the history and a differential view at the concepts can help to set the problems and arguments in a wider historical context, thus relieving the current discussion of its emotional aspect.

As exposed witnesses of the past and in front of everyone’s eyes, buildings have always played a particular part in the formation and imprint of “cultural memory” (*Jan Assmann*). With a deliberate recourse, the lost ‘place of remembrance’ is restored as an important bearer of the most diverse meanings by means of reconstruction. Many reconstructions have never been debated, such as the re-erection of the Campanile at St. Mark’s Square in Venice after its collapse in 1902, others have integrated into the history of the respective building and have long been historical documents themselves.

By means of 85 representative case studies and 200 reconstructions – ranging from Japan to Canada and from ancient Greece to the present day – the Exhibition is presenting and analysing the various motives in favour of reconstructing lost buildings. The spectrum embraces reconstructions carried out for reasons of religious continuity or due to national motives, as well as in response to aesthetic concepts or commercial demands. Models, plans, photographs and animations provide a comprehensive insight into a fascinating subject.

An extensive publication with 16 essays and a catalogue of renowned scholars accompany the Exhibition.

Architekturmuseum der TU Munchen in the Pinakothek der Moderne
Katharina Horn
Press and Public Relations Officer
Arcisstrasse 21, Munich 80333.

Three photographs displayed at the Exhibition are reproduced with captions in German. (See the next three pages.)

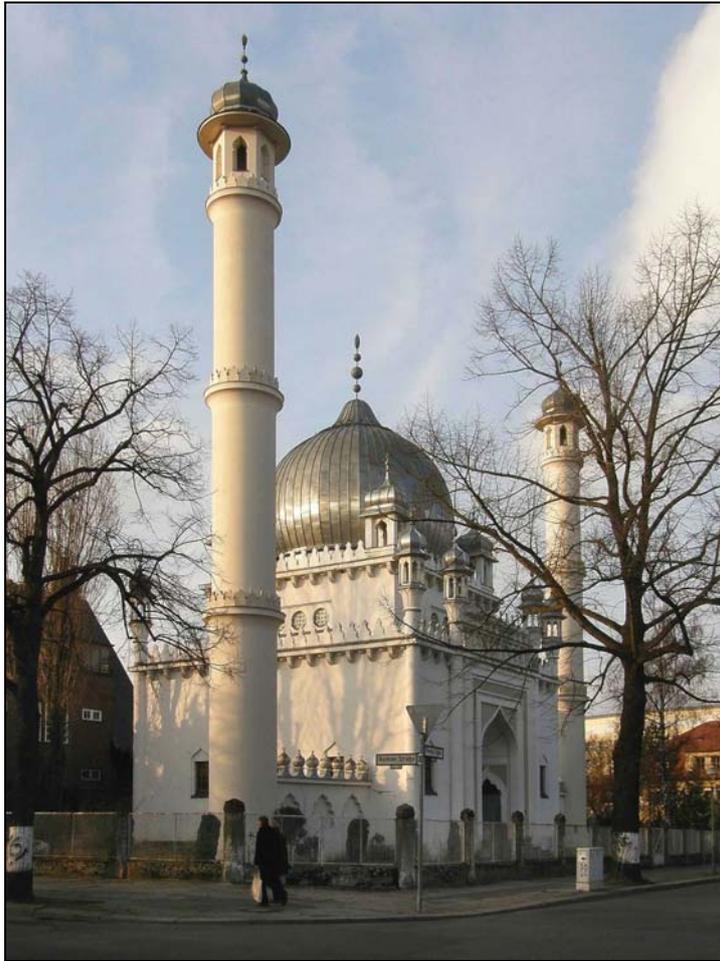
1. The Mosque in its original form.
2. The condition of the Mosque after damages were caused to the Mosque with one of the minarets half destroyed.
3. The Mosque with the minaret and the dome completely reconstructed and renovated.



Die Moschee, die älteste in Deutschland, wird zwischen 1924 und 1928 mit zwei freistehenden Minaretten und einer hochaufragenden Kuppel errichtet



In den letzten Tagen des Zweiten Weltkrieges wird die Moschee beschossen, da sich deutsche Truppen hier verschanzen. Ein Minarett stürzt ein, die Kuppel wird beschädigt.



Die nach dem Krieg notdürftig wiederhergestellte Moschee wird zwischen 1996 und 2001 restauriert und das fehlende Minarett rekonstruiert.