



# Proposal of Kyoto Central Masjid

Japan, 2017

Kyoto Muslim Association

*Photos in the cover are provided by Pixabay released under Creative Commons CC0. To the extent possible under law, uploaders of Pixabay have waived their copyright and related or neighboring rights to these photos which make them free to adapt and use them without attributing the original author or source.  
-<https://pixabay.com>*

*Kyoto Central Masjid Committee was appointed by Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) Executive Committee (EC) Members through an Official EC Meeting in 2017.*

*Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) is a non-profit religious organization in Kyoto that supports the welfare of the Muslim community in Kyoto and various Islamic events for Dawaa, and perform the cultural exchange between Muslims and Japanese community in Kyoto.*

*Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) is a registered religious corporation at Kyoto Prefecture (No. 1300-05-006671), and has a status of tax exemption.*



## Chairman's Message

Assalaamu' Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

Kyoto is a very friendly city and Japanese people deserve our efforts to introduce them about Islam. As for Muslim community living in this beautiful city, we are in need to build a new Masjid to be an important place for daily prayers, improving Islamic knowledge, and strengthening community cohesion. As appointed by Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) Executive Committee (EC) to be the chairman of this Kyoto Central Masjid committee, I called for members for the committee among Kyoto Muslim community after Friday prayer on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The committee has been working extremely hard to prepare the proposal and plans for our beautiful Kyoto Central Masjid and to establish new criteria and procedures that are vital to the success of a building of its size combining a prayer space, facilities, library, cultural and educational center for enlightening Muslims and non-Muslims about the religion of Islam. We kindly ask you to help us to build the Masjid in Kyoto and to have your sincere prayers that may Allah bless this Masjid. I would like to send special thanks for the Muslim community in Kyoto and all of brothers and sisters in Japan and worldwide for the donations and great supports during our campaigns.

Finally, I would like to give a note of thanks to all of our dedicated committee members including all KMA-EC members, for all of their precious efforts and thoughts. Needless to say, whilst the challenge and responsibility is great, Alhamdulillah, it remains an honor to serve Muslims and Islam in Kyoto.

Jazaakumullaahukhairan

Sameh Ahmed Abdelmaksoud Kantoush, Ph.D  
Chairman of Kyoto Central Masjid Committee  
One of Egyptian Representatives in KMA EC Members





## Table of Contents

1. Introduction: Kyoto Central Masjid (KCM).....	5
2. Muslim Community.....	5
3. Significance.....	6
4. Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA).....	7
5. KMA Activities in Pictures.....	8
6. The Challenges at Current Main Prayer Space of KMA.....	9
7. Objectives.....	10
8. Expectations.....	10
9. Purposed Locations.....	10
10. Purposed Architectural Style.....	11
11. Purposed Identity: KCM Logo.....	12
12. Cost of KCM.....	13
13. Financial Strategy and Plan.....	13
14. Bank Account and Donation Confirmation.....	14
15. Our Commitment to the Sustainability of KCM.....	14
16. Contact Person.....	15

Appendix A. Committee Members and Direct Contact Numbers

Appendix B. Works on Progress for the Building Design

# 1. Introduction: Kyoto Central Masjid (KCM)

Establishing a Masjid is a prophetic and Islamic deed for Muslim Communities. The first decision of our Prophet Mohammed "Peace be upon him" after entering Al-Medina, is to build the Masjid of Quba. For us as Muslims, our religion is an integral part of daily life and a holistic approach to personal and community development. The role of the Masjid has been always instrumental and central for Muslims.

However currently, there is no single physical structure wholly dedicated as a Masjid in Kyoto City. The current main prayer space is running by Kyoto Muslim Associations (KMA) since 1998 as a basement of an apartment building. This prayer space is too narrow for our Friday prayer congregations and doesn't open for all of the five daily obligatory prayers time. Therefore, KMA Executive Committee Members appointed a new committee to bring the first Masjid in Kyoto into reality named as Kyoto Central Masjid (KCM). This Masjid should be an excellent representation of Islam for Japanese and international society of Kyoto.

## 2. Muslim Community

The current population in Kyoto from Muslim-majority countries includes 1599 people (Figure 1) as recorded by Japanese Government in 2016<sup>1</sup>. We are able to expect or estimate that around 88% of these numbers (1407 people) are Muslims based on the average of each referred country's demographic ratio by type of religions<sup>2</sup>.

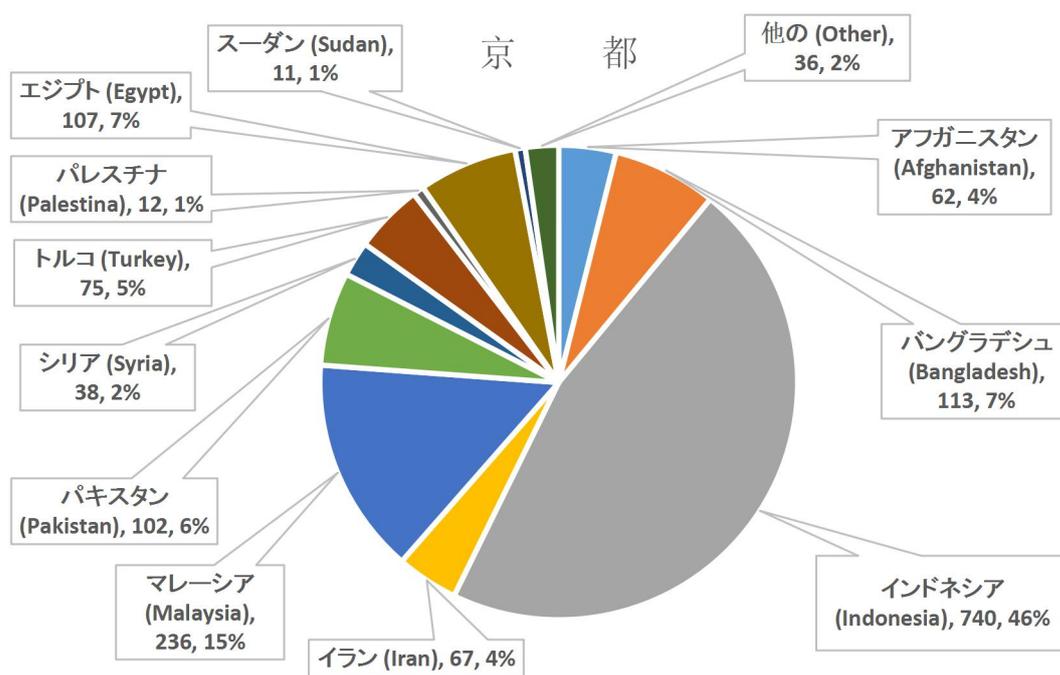


Fig. 1. Population from various Muslim-majority countries in Kyoto prefecture as in 2016<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This data is based on <http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/List.do?lid=000001177523>, the dataset was titled as 都道府県別 国籍・地域別 在留外国人

<sup>2</sup>The ratio information was available at wikipedia.org for Afghanistan, UAE, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalaam, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Egypt, and Sudan

<sup>3</sup>This data is based on <http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/List.do?lid=000001177523>, the dataset was titled as 都道府県別 国籍・地域別 在留外国人

One of the main reasons of the population growth is the study opportunity promoted by Kyoto University to the Muslim countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, Syria, Pakistan, Turkey, etc. That is why 80% of the Muslim community who are the users of the current main prayer space in Kyoto are students or affiliated with Kyoto University (Figure 2)<sup>4</sup>. There are some Muslims from foreign countries come to Kyoto to work as well. Most importantly, Kyoto has proclaimed itself as a Muslim-friendly city<sup>5</sup>.

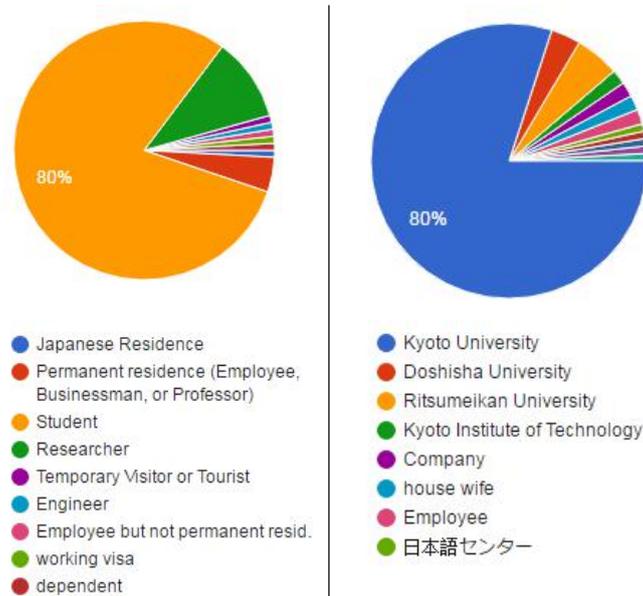


Fig. 2. Classifications of Muslims as the users of the current main prayer space at Kyoto based on professions and affiliation<sup>6</sup>

### 3. Significance

Kyoto is the old capital of Japan and still serving as the representative of the Japanese culture. In spite of its importance and position in the hearts of Japanese people, Kyoto has been aiming itself as a Muslim-friendly city<sup>7</sup> even though it is a city known as a major center of Buddhist temples and a home of many famous shrines. For Muslims living as a minority abroad, this aim from Kyoto government makes peace in our hearts. We thank Japanese people and government for this kind contribution which will allow the Muslims to introduce the beauty and the peacefulness of Islam to the Japanese people. We hope KCM to be the first true Masjid adapting the soul of Kyoto architectural style that in return will be the thankfulness from our side to the people of Kyoto (explained further on Section 10).

As a statistical comparison, there are more than 130 Christian churches<sup>8</sup> but zero dedicated building as a Masjid<sup>9</sup> along with 1600 Buddhist temples<sup>10</sup> and 400 Shinto shrines<sup>4</sup> in Kyoto (Figure 3).

<sup>4</sup>This information is based on the survey conducted by the committee from June 9<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

<sup>5</sup>This information is available at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/12/22/national/kyoto-aims-to-be-muslim-friendly-city/#.WfF0gVuCxp>

<sup>6</sup>This information is based on the survey conducted by the committee from June 9<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

<sup>7</sup>This information is available at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/12/22/national/kyoto-aims-to-be-muslim-friendly-city/#.WfF0gVuCxp>

<sup>8</sup> Google map by key words: “京都のキリスト教会”

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.masjid-finder.jp/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/japan/kyoto>

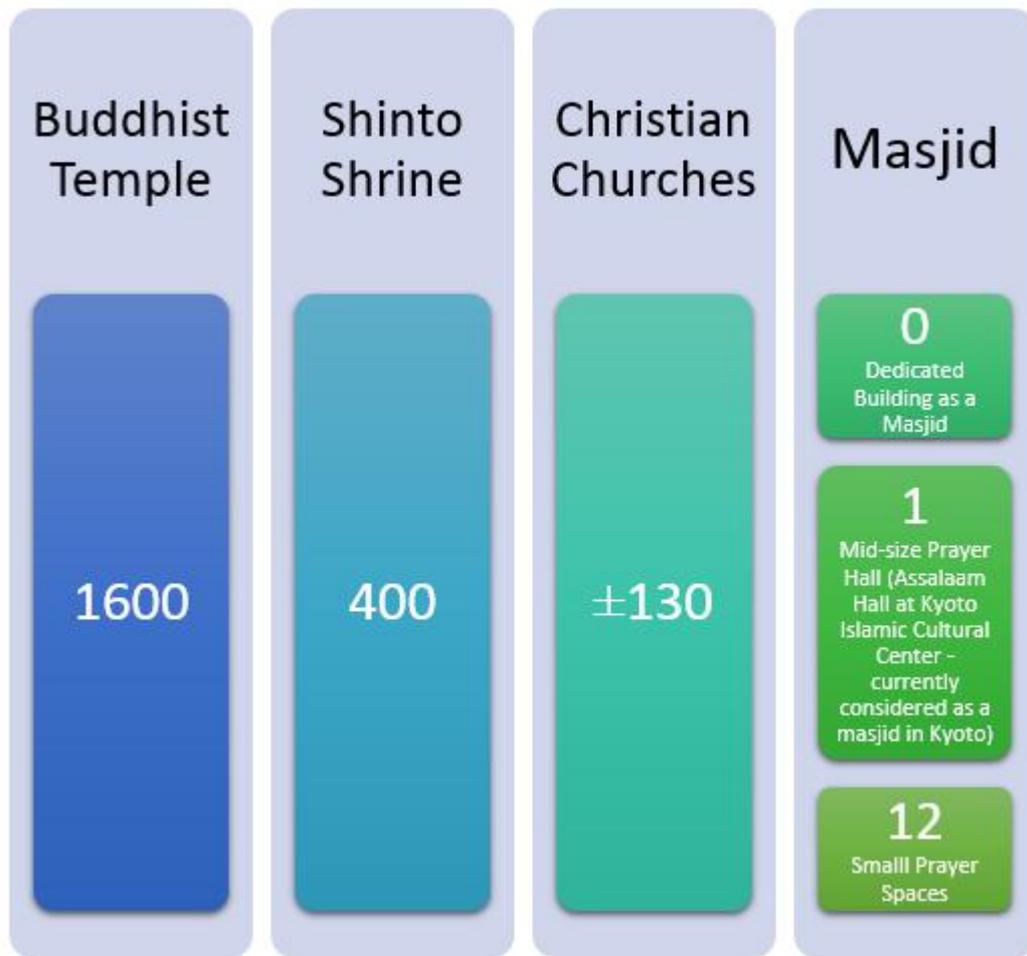


Fig. 3. Comparisons with Statistical Numbers<sup>11</sup>

#### 4. Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA)

Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) has been established since 1987, and its Islamic activities have been highly appreciated by the municipality and the citizens supporting the welfare of the Muslim community in Kyoto and performing cultural exchanges between Muslims and Japanese community in Kyoto such as presentation and Iftar party in Ramadhan. It has been also pioneering the Dawaa activities with Kyoto Islamic Cultural Center by unique programs and publishing several books. KMA is now a registered religious corporation at Kyoto Prefecture (No. 1300-05-006671), and has a status of tax exemption.

For now, KMA owns two floors in multistory apartment building located at Riverside Kojinguchi Building (RKB) where the first floor is used as Halal shop and the basement as prayer space. For large events, such as Eid prayers and Iftar party, KMA usually rents a large hall with the expectation of around 1000 participants, three times annually such as for two Eid prayers and Iftar party. To have a new Masjid is a living dream of Muslim community in Kyoto, as KMA has been collecting the funds for a new Masjid in Kyoto since 10 years ago reaching 23,307,405 JPY<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>11</sup>These data are based on Google map by key words: “京都のキリスト教会”, <http://www.masjid-finder.jp/>, and <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/japan/kyoto> for churches, masjids, and temple or shrine respectively

<sup>12</sup>This information is based KMA EC meeting minutes and agenda on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## 5. KMA Activities in Pictures<sup>13</sup>



Fig.4. Iftar Party



Fig. 5. Eid Prayers



Fig. 6. Halal shop sharing the space with multipurpose classroom at the first floor where Arabic lessons and several presentations have been conducted



Fig. 7. Books published by highly respected academic professor in Kyoto, Prof. Yassir Kosugi

<sup>13</sup>The photos were taken by the committee

## 6. The Challenges at Current Main Prayer Space of KMA



Fig. 8. Current main prayer space of KMA<sup>14</sup>

We are thankful with the current main prayer space and facilities of KMA. However, several challenges appeared with the current prayer space, among others are:

- located in the basement with a bit steep stairs which is not friendly for elderly, small kids, and people with disabilities. Even, for general people, it causes a bit of slippery sometimes

<sup>14</sup>The photos were taken by the committee

- from disaster mitigation point of view (earthquake) there is no additional exits
- not open for all of five obligatory daily prayers due to the agreed limitations with neighbors
- too narrow for the congregations of weekly Friday prayers
- having one main door only for the prayer space, no separation for the main door between male and female
- having very limited Islamic activities especially for increasing Islamic knowledge for all of ages and nations
- is not enough for weekly or monthly social gathering to improve Muslim community cohesion among nations, including Japanese Muslims
- having no full time Imam or the ability to host a visiting Islamic scholars that would serve us by providing Islamic lectures and continuous counseling

## 7. Objectives

---

To build the first Masjid in Kyoto that:

- serves Muslims in Kyoto and Japan and enable them to do Islamic ritual practices, gain more Islamic knowledge and have a better cohesion in the Muslim community in Kyoto from all of nations and all the people in general
- becomes a wider bridge for the Japanese people or non-Muslims in general to know more about Islam.
- is sustainable with full of integrity to the Islamic values and respecting Japanese law and community

## 8. Expectations

---

From the survey conducted by the committee, Muslim community in Kyoto would like have a new Masjid which is near to Kyoto University, more than 500 m<sup>2</sup> of land area, giving the ability to have 24-hour activities, and having at least 3 floors to host all activities in a reasonable space to serve a large number of visitors. Finally, the new Masjid named as Kyoto Central Masjid is expected to be sustainable with vibrant Islamic services and activities with full of respect to Japanese community around.

## 9. Purposed Locations

---

As most of Muslim people using the current main space are students or affiliated with Kyoto University, we purposed a location that is near to the location of student's residential area, not so far from Kyoto University and has an easy access. We found this location (Fig. 9) at Shirakawa, near to Shugakuin station and Kyoto University Shugakuin International House (around 5 minutes walk). This location is also not so far from the Kyoto University main campus itself, around 3 Km.

We also expect that establishing a Masjid in this location will attract more Muslims to stay, live, and even invest for their businesses around it serving the needs of Muslim community such as Halal shops and restaurants, etc. We also purposed a location that is facing a main street and accessible by public transportations so that everybody can reach easily.

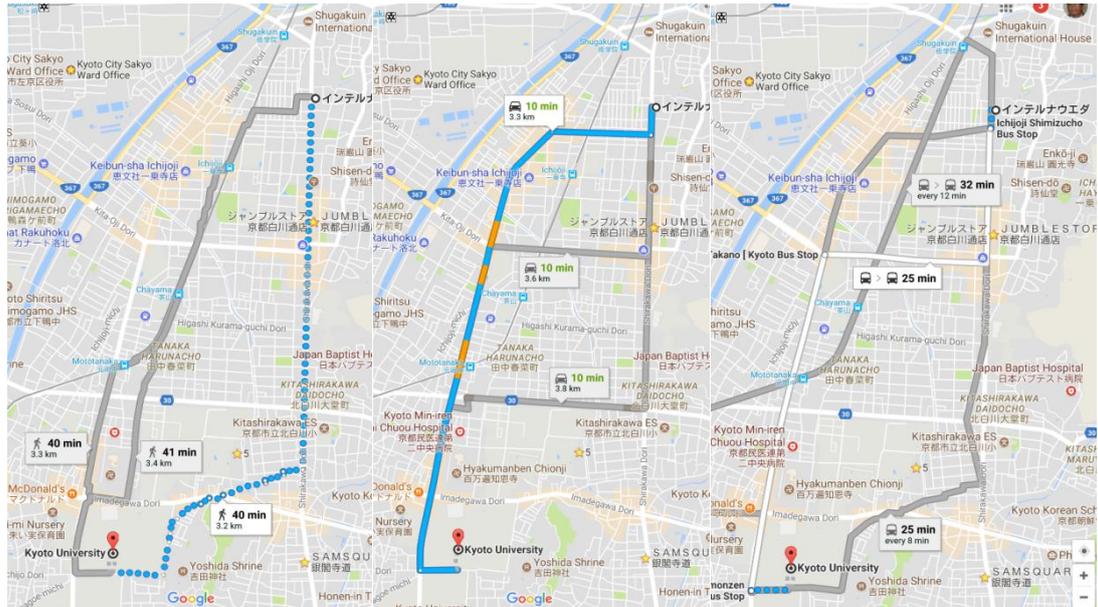


Fig. 9. Purposed location is 3.4 Km far from Kyoto University. 15-18 minutes by bicycle, 10 minutes by car, 25-30 minutes by public transportations<sup>15</sup>

## 10. Purposed Architectural Style

As the purposed location is at Shirakawa-dori roadside, the Kyoto Central Masjid will be in the zone of roadside aesthetic landscape promotion district which needs to use modern Japanese Kyoto style architecture (Fig. 10). Islamic identity will be added to the building. The details of the existing building and tentative purposed design is available in Appendix B. As a volunteer based Eng. Osama Ahmad Elfar, Design Director of UNii Engineering consultancy located in UAE, Qatar, and KSA, designed the masjid architecture design. The architectural design, the KCM exterior should have Islamic entity that follows Kyoto City architectural regulation.



Fig. 10. Design standard illustrations for Kyoto City<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup>This information is based on Google Map direction information

<sup>16</sup>This information is available from book titled as The Landscape of Kyoto prepared by Kyoto City Government at <http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/tokei/cmsfiles/contents/0000057/57538/3shou.pdf>

For that reason, we hope that Kyoto Central Masjid will be the first Masjid to have Japanese Kyoto style architecture. Usually in Japan, Masjids have a non-Japanese style of architectures (Figure 11).



Fig. 11. Several Masjids in Japan such as Kobe Masjid<sup>17</sup>, Tokyo Camii<sup>18</sup>, and Osaka Masjid<sup>19</sup> (from left to right) with non-Japanese style of architectures

## 11. Purposed Identity: KCM Logo

The design of KCM logo is inspired by a Muslim mosaic art, Chrysanthemum flowers, kanji character of 京, and a star-crescent combined as a dome of a Masjid (Figure 12). Muslim mosaic art, star-crescent, and a dome represent Islam. Chrysanthemum flower is chosen as it is traditionally loved in the Japanese culture and represents longevity and rejuvenation and, in fact, is the emblem of the Japanese Imperial Family<sup>20</sup>. Momiji colors represents autumn season which is one of the most beautiful and famous season in Kyoto. The kanji character of 京 (Kyou), which is the first kanji character in the name of Kyoto, represents the city as a whole and means "capital".

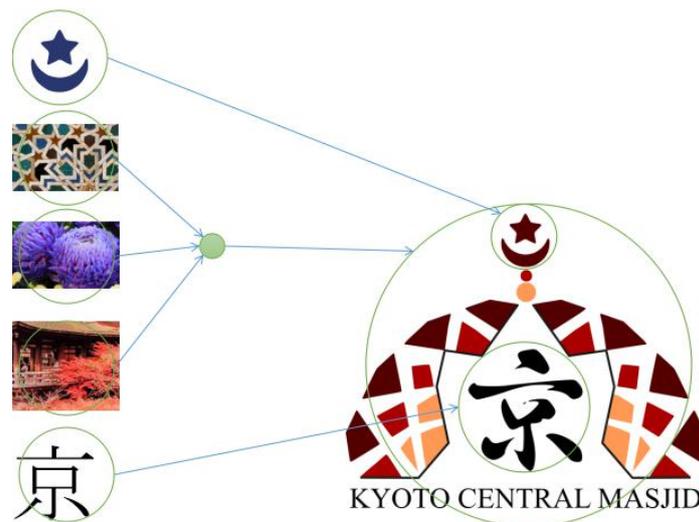


Fig.12. The Logo of KCM

<sup>17</sup>The information is available at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe\\_Mosque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Mosque)

<sup>18</sup>The information is available [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo\\_Camii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo_Camii)

<sup>19</sup>The information is available <http://halalmedia.jp/>

<sup>20</sup>The information is available [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial\\_House\\_of\\_Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_House_of_Japan)

## 12. Cost of KCM

Property Price	298,000,000 JPY
- Down payment: 10,000,000 by December 15th 2017	
- Completion: 288,000,000 by June 15th 2018	
Renovation Cost (Engineering Estimation)	100,000,000 JPY +
<b>Total</b>	<b>398,000,000 JPY</b>

Available fund for covering the down payment: 2,805,585 JPY per November 17<sup>th</sup> 2017<sup>21</sup>

Available fund for covering the renovation cost: 23,307,405 JPY per July 2017<sup>22</sup>

## 13. Financial Strategy and Plan

Kyoto city is ranked among top three Japan's tourist spots with limited residential land. This fact made our demand budget of project very big. The owner of the proposed site requested through a real estate company a down payment to sign the contract with Kyoto Central Masjid Committee and the rest of the money as described is due within 6 months. Therefore, we are encouraging and accepting all generous donations without any limitation. Our financial strategy was set as following (Fig. 13):



Fig. 13. Financial Strategy and Plan for Kyoto Central Masjid. For anticipating the price increase from the owner's side, we rounded our target to be 400MJPY. In the end, all of the collected donations will be put for Kyoto Central Masjid

<sup>21</sup>This amount is collected from donation boxes since October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

<sup>22</sup>The amount is taken from the data of KMA Meeting minutes and agenda on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## 14. Bank Account and Donation Confirmation

---

All of the funding and donations for Kyoto Central Masjid can be made through this bank:

Bank Name : Kyoto Bank  
Branch Name : Takano (branch code 143)  
Account Name : Kyoto Central Masjid  
Account No. : 3461097 (Ordinary)  
Swift Code : BOKFJPJZ

For donations from Indonesia can be made through this bank:

Bank name : Bank Syariah Mandiri  
Kode Bank : 451  
A/C name : Al Falaq  
A/C number : 7099675009

Additional 8 IDR should be used as a code for donation of Kyoto Central Masjid through this account of Bank Syariah Mandiri, Indonesia. For example, donations of 100,000 IDR should be 100,008 IDR.

After doing the donation, please confirm us your donation through:

- email : [confirm@kyotomosque.jp](mailto:confirm@kyotomosque.jp)  
- WhatsApp (WA) : +81-70-2676-3701

## 15. Our Commitment to the Sustainability of KCM

---

After the establishment of Kyoto Central Masjid (KCM), the committee with KMA will prepare an executive committee of KCM consisting all of nationality representatives ranging from students, professors, professionals, and businessman that will ensure the sustainability of Kyoto Central Masjid. Transparency of administration and finances of KCM will be applied.

Collaboration and sponsorship of KCM activities might be purposed and developed through the networks of KCM. Therefore, Islamic activities of Kyoto Central Masjid will be an integral part to the sustainability of KCM which is designed to provide endless support to serve the needs of Muslims communities in Kyoto and Japan.

Several ideas of Islamic activities at KCM are:

1. Embedding Kyoto Central Masjid with a library, educational services for kids, and Muslim community activity center;
2. Providing efficient services and dialogue for Muslims and non-Muslims in Kyoto through welcoming visitors, publishing books, and websites;
3. Providing excellent services for Islamic ritual activities such as five daily congregational prayers, Friday congregational prayers, Ramadan congregational night prayers (Taraweeh), EID congregational prayers (Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha);
4. Providing educational, spiritual, and counseling services to the community such as Sunday classes, Summer School for kids, evening Quran classes, weekly educational lectures and classes;

5. Social community services such as baby birth party (Aqiqah), Islamic wedding ceremony, prayers for the dead (Janazah Prayers) and preparation for its burials in available Islamic cemetery in Japan such as in Osaka Muslim Graveyard<sup>23</sup> which is the nearest Muslim graveyard to Kyoto so far.
6. Maintaining an effective system for networking and public relations with other groups

## 16. Contact Person

---

### **Sameh Ahmed Kantoush**

Language : Arabic and English  
Mobile and WA: +81-80-4390-2991  
Position : Chairman of KCM Committee  
Origin : Egypt  
Affiliation : Associate Professor at Kyoto University

### **Fahmi Machda**

Language : Indonesia and English  
Mobile and WA: +81-70-2676-3701  
Position : Vice Chairman of KCM Committee  
Origin : Indonesia  
Affiliation : Doctoral Student at Kyoto University

Contact by Email : [contact@kyotomosque.jp](mailto:contact@kyotomosque.jp)

---

<sup>23</sup> This information is available at <http://urdunetjpn.com/ur/2014/05/23/osaka-muslim-graveyard/>

## Appendix A. Committee Members and Direct Contact

---

### **Sameh Ahmed Kantoush**

Language: Arabic and English  
Mobile: +81-80-4390-2991  
Position in KCM Committee: Chairman  
Origin: Egypt  
Affiliation: Associate Professor, Kyoto University

### **Ahmad Yaman Kayali**

Language: Arabic and English  
Mobile: +81-80-4249-8308  
Position in KCM Committee: Fundraising & Financial Strategies  
Origin: Syria  
Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Kyoto University

### **Khaliduzzaman Alin**

Language: Indonesia and English  
Mobile: +81-90-8236-1561  
Position in KCM Committee: Coordinator for Donation Boxes at KMA  
Origin: Bangladesh  
Affiliation: Doctoral Student, Kyoto University

### **Mahdi Sarwat Ruposh**

Language: Bangali, English, Japanese, and Urdu/Hindi  
Mobile: +81-80-4390-2991  
Position in KCM Committee: Graphic Designs  
Origin: Bangladesh  
Affiliation: Master Student, Kyoto Institute of Technology

### **Mohamed Mahmoud**

Languages: Arabic and English  
Mobile: +81-80-3803-7332  
Position in KCM Committee: Fundraising and Public relation  
Origin: Egypt  
Affiliation: Doctoral Student, Kyoto University

### **Bintang Widhana**

Language: Indonesia and English  
Mobile: +81-70-3844-9354  
Position in KCM Committee: Fundraising and Graphic Designs  
Origin: Indonesia  
Affiliation: Master Student, Kyoto University

### **Fahmi Machda**

Language: Indonesia and English  
Mobile: +81-70-2676-3701  
Position in KCM Committee: Vice Chairman  
Origin: Indonesia  
Affiliation: Doctoral Student, Kyoto University

### **Wendi Harjupa**

Language: Indonesia and English  
Mobile: +81-70-4375-4051  
Position in KCM Committee: Website & IT  
Origin: Indonesia  
Affiliation: Doctoral Student, Kyoto University

### **Mahmudur Chowdhury Russell**

Language: Bangali, English and Japanese  
Mobile: +81-80-5455-9723  
Position in KCM Committee: Fundraising and Accountant  
Origin: Bangladesh  
Affiliation: President & CEO, PROSERVE K.K.

### **Feyzullah Gulsen**

Language: Turkish and English  
Mobile: +81-70- 2636-9326  
Position in KCM Committee: Public Relations  
Origin: Turkey  
Affiliation: Doctoral Student, Kyoto University

### **Bilal Hasan Tarar**

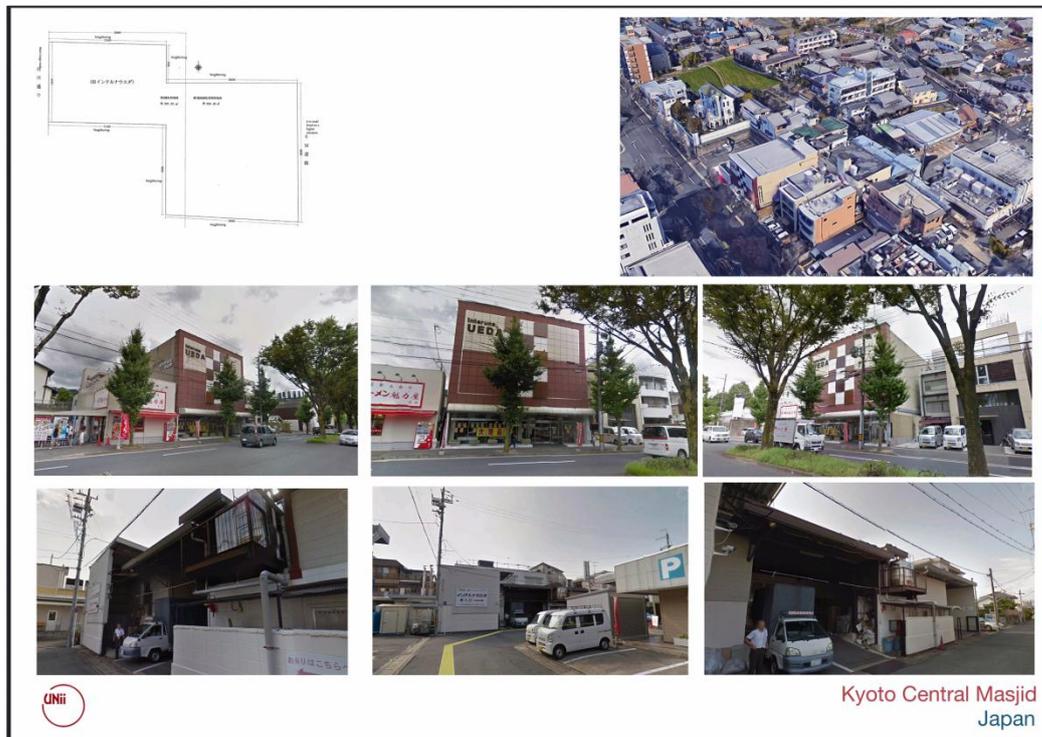
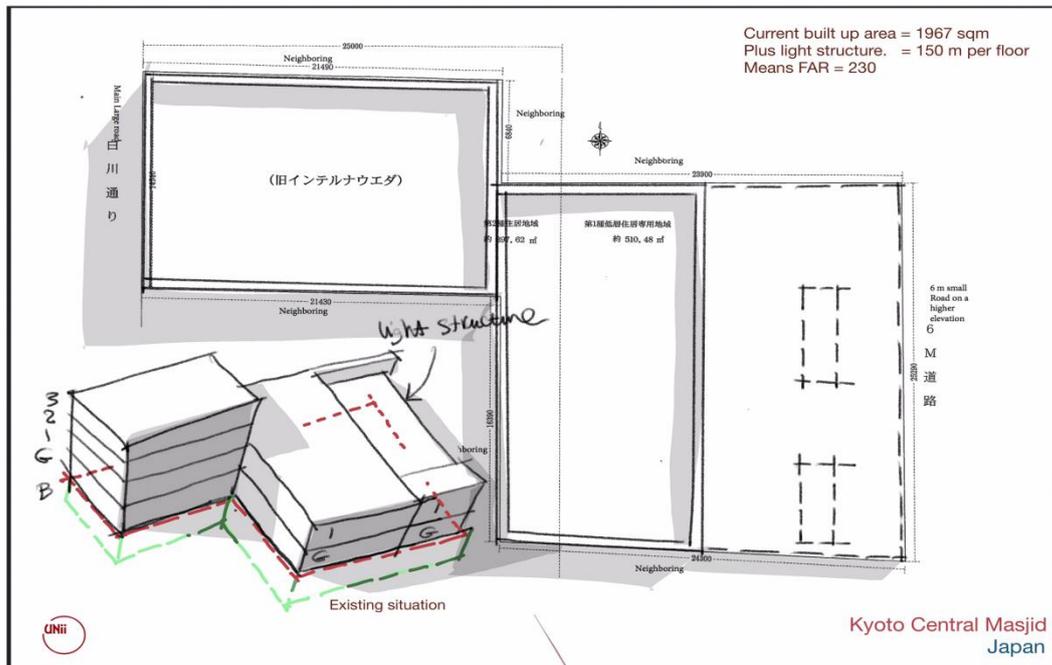
Language: English, Japanese, Urdu and Hindi  
Mobile: +81-80-3837-7786  
Position in KCM Committee: Fundraising and Public Relations  
Origin: Pakistan  
Affiliation: Business Manager, Tarar Corporation and Export Tsubasa

### **Md. Nizamuddin**

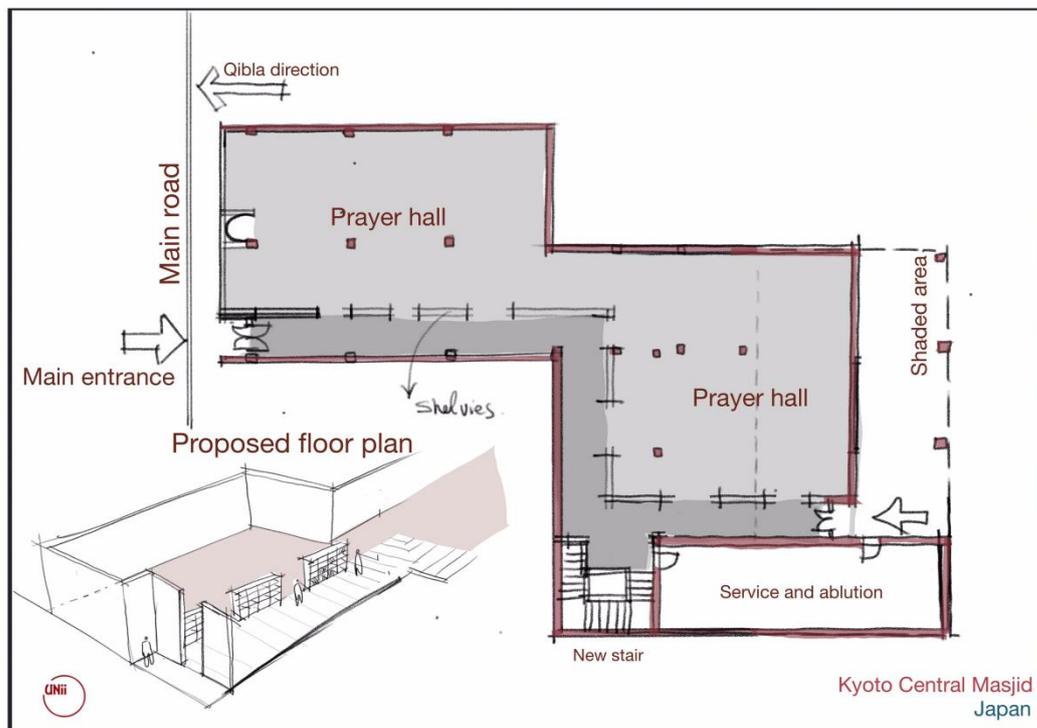
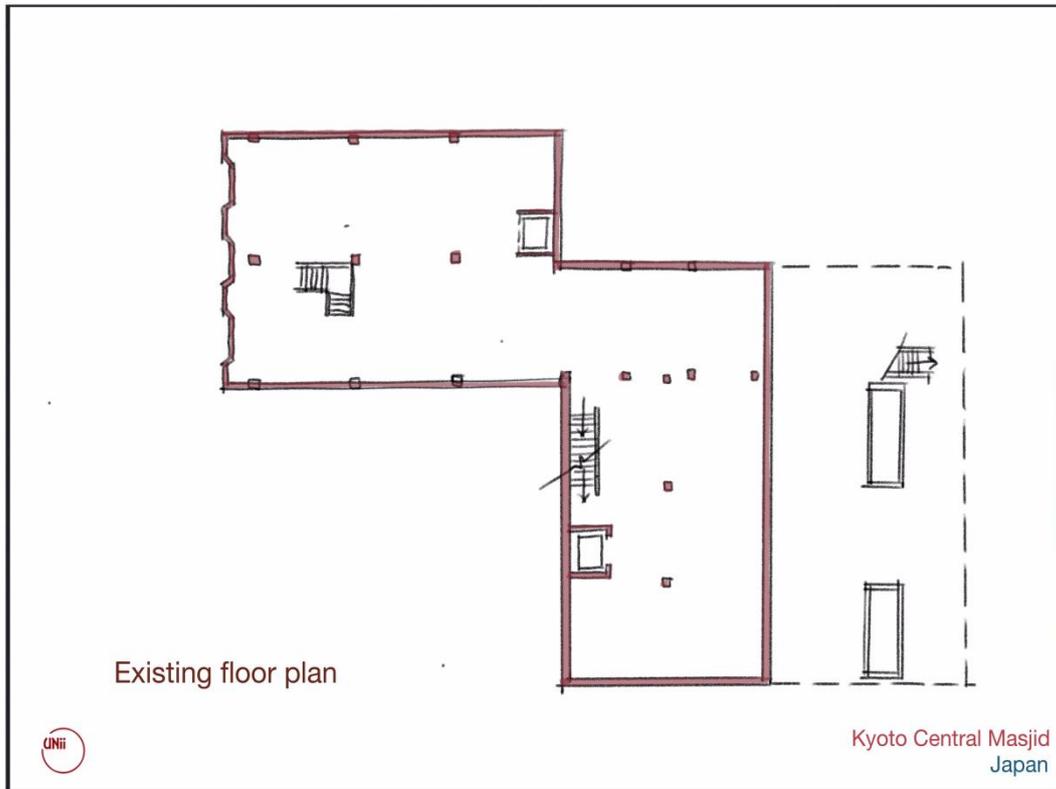
Language: Japanese, English, and Bangali  
Mobile: +81-90-1674-6716  
Position in KCM Committee: Fundraising and Public Relations  
Origin: Bangladesh  
Affiliation: Owner of Bengal Overseas Corp.

# Appendix B. Work on Progress for the Building Design

## 1. Existing Situation



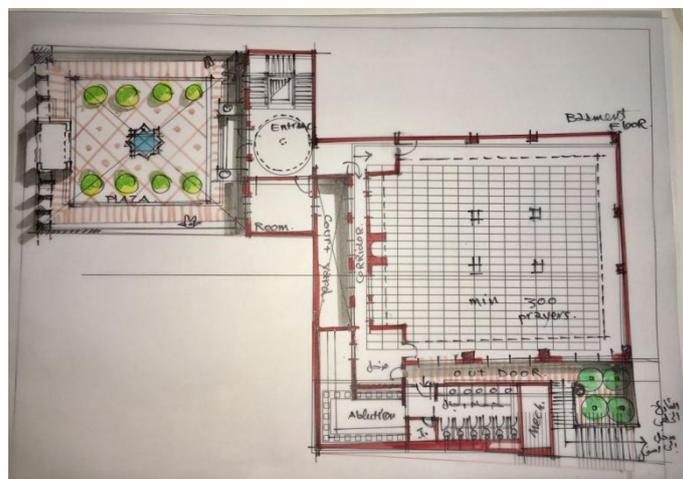
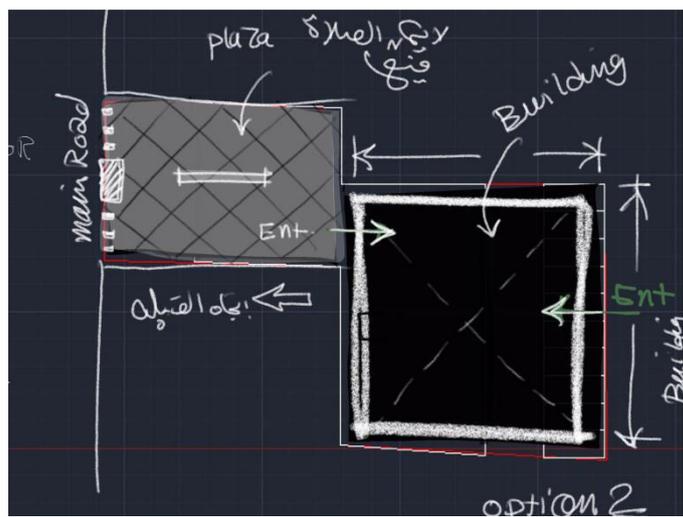
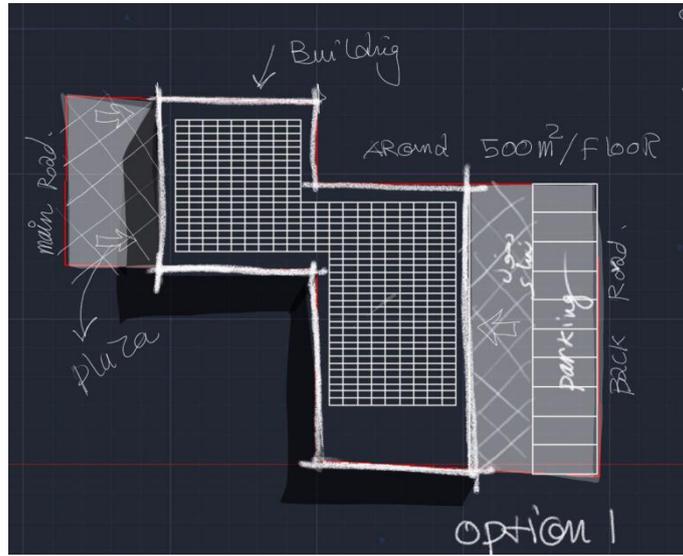
2. Purposed Floor Plan Design for Renovation Scenario (Work on Progress, not yet finalized)



3. Purposed Exterior Design for Renovation Scenario (Work on progress, not finalized yet)

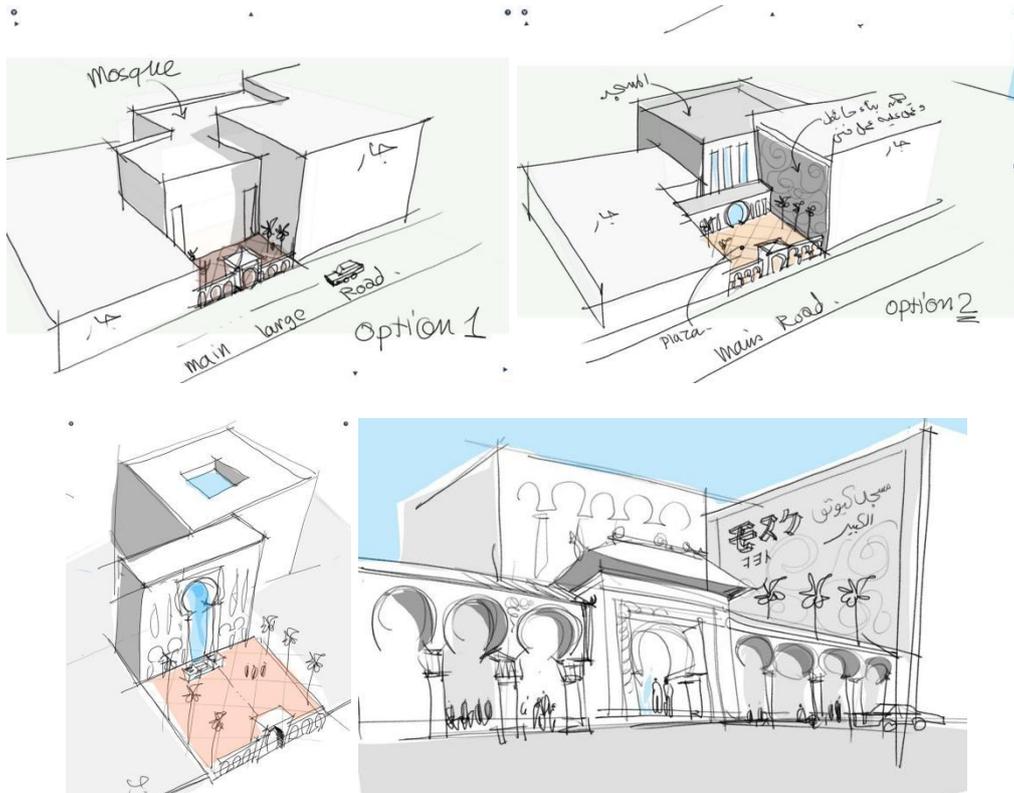


4. Purposed Floor Plan for New Construction Scenario<sup>24</sup>  
 (Work on progress, not finalized yet)

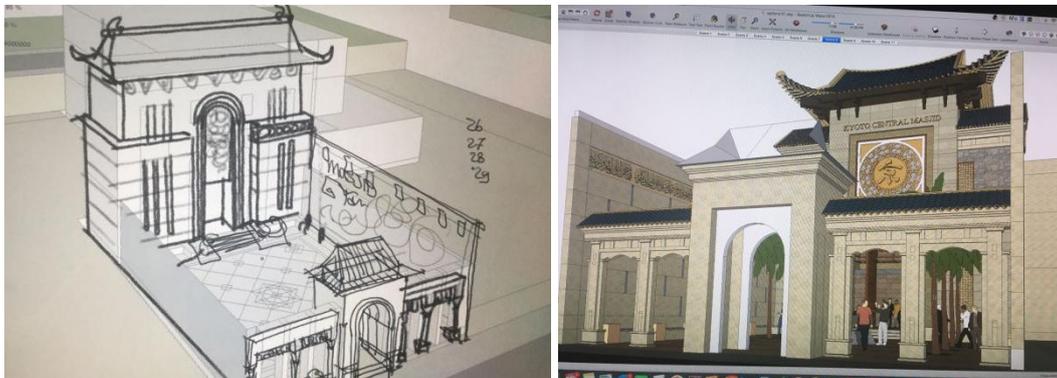


<sup>24</sup> The cost for new construction scenario is estimated more than the current target and will be considered as long term target for Kyoto Central Masjid

5. Purposed Exterior Design for New Construction Scenario<sup>25</sup>  
 (Work on progress, not finalized yet)



Japanese Architectural Style Sketches:



<sup>25</sup> The cost for new construction scenario is estimated more than the current target and will be considered as long term target for Kyoto Central Masjid

