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# Architectural and Cultural Preservation: A Comparative Study of Mosques in Australia and Turkey

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## Abstract

The architectural landscape of mosques dynamically reflects cultural identities and societal needs. This study compares Turkish mosque architecture, focusing on the Sunshine Mosque in Melbourne, Australia, and mosques in Istanbul and Antalya. Using mixed methods, including observations and spiritual experiences, and an interpretive approach, the research examines how Ottoman-influenced designs diverge from traditional mosque designs. The study aims to reveal the architectural, spatial, and spiritual differences between Turkish mosques in Australia and those in Türkiye. The findings highlight the Sunshine Mosque's adaptation to the Australian Muslim community, including the incorporation of outdoor amenities and its redefinition as a spiritual and social hub. The use of climate-adapted materials and increased inclusivity for elderly worshippers is emphasized. Turkish mosques in Melbourne tend to be minimalist, less bulky, and spacious, lacking inner courtyards due to land constraints and a lack of regional planning standards within a multicultural, secular system. The Sunshine Mosque and iconic Turkish mosques are critical landmarks in urban planning and public transportation, sharing architectural elements inspired by Ottoman design. Both are vital community hubs for religious, social, and cultural activities and incorporate significant Islamic symbols. In secular countries, places of worship face minimal spatial-planning regulations, with the community focus often shifting toward engineering concerns.