

Islamic ARCHITECTURE



THE GREY STREET MASJID
The original 1881 structure accommodated 48 worshippers. It is now one of the largest mosques in the Southern Hemisphere.



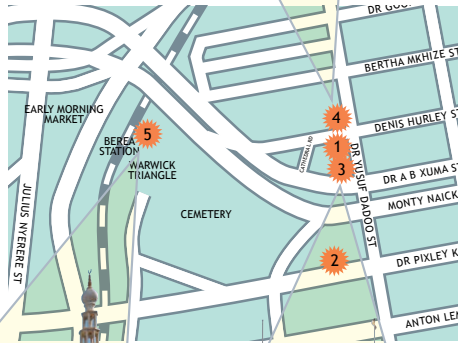
THE SHRINE OF BADSHA PEER, KING OF GUIDES
Badsha Peer was one of South Africa's most hallowed Indian Saints. He arrived in Durban in 1860 as an indentured labourer. A year after Badsha Peer's death, Soofie Saheb erected a shelter over his grave so that people could receive blessings and pay their respects in comfort.



Soofie Saheb arrived in South Africa in 1895 and founded a small masjid and khanqah (spiritual retreat) in Riverside, followed by several other mosques. When he died in 1911, Soofie Saheb was buried next to his mother at the Riverside shrine.

CENTRAL AREA

- GREY STREET JUMA MASJID**
Cnr Dr Yusuf Dadoo St and Denis Hurley St, Durban. William Baroque. 1881; 1903; 1941-1943.
- WEST STREET MASJID**
484 Dr Pixley Kaseme St, Durban. Henry & Hill. 1885.
- MADRESSA ARCADE**
Linking Dr Yusuf Dadoo St and Cathedral Rd, Durban. Payne & Payne. 1972.
- ISLAMIC PROPAGATION CENTRE**
124 Denis Hurley St, Durban. Founded in 1975.
- BADSHA PEER (SHRINE)**
Brook Street Central (Cemetery), Durban. 1895.



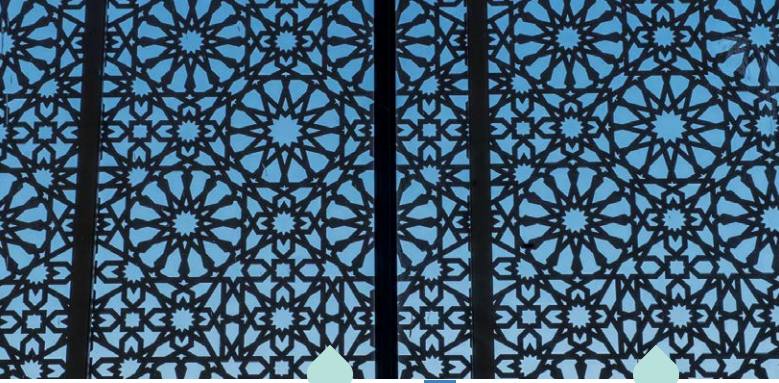
WEST STREET MASJID
This was the second masjid to be erected in Durban, built in 1885. In 1903 it was extended to include an enlarged prayer area, a madressa (religious school), shops, residences and a two-storey minaret.

MADRESSA ARCADE
Built in 1927, Madressa Arcade is a busy bazaar, filled with the hubbub of traders.

SOOFIE SAHEB



- SOOFIE SAHEB SHRINE**
50 Soofie Saheb Drive, Durban North. 1911.
- HABIYIYA SOOFIE SAHEB**
50 Soofie Saheb Drive. 1896.
- ALPINE ROAD MASJID AND MADRESSA**
327 Quarry Rd, Cnr Alpine Rd and Umgeni Rd, Umgeni. 1904.
- WESTVILLE MASJID, MADRESSA & CEMETERY**
119 Jan Hofmeyer Rd, Westville. 1904.
- GLEARN ROAD MASJID & MADRESSA**
64 Glearn Road, Overport. 1905.
- KENVILLE MASJID**
21 Chris Hani Road, Durban North.
- SHERWOOD MASJID**
West Riding Row, Sherwood. 1905.



THE FIRST MUSLIMS IN DURBAN
 Muslims first arrived in Natal in 1860 after the British had colonised the region and began recruiting indentured labourers from India to work on the sugar-cane plantations. In 1881, the first masjid (mosque) was built in Dr Yusuf Dadoo Street, Durban.



THE MULTICULTURAL CITY OF DURBAN IS HOME TO A LARGE AND WELL-ESTABLISHED MUSLIM COMMUNITY. WITH MORE THAN 100 MOSQUES AND SHRINES, THIS ISLAMIC INFLUENCE ADDS A UNIQUE ASPECT TO THE CITY'S DIVERSE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE



FINDING **islamic** ARCHITECTURE

RELIGIOUS ENCOUNTERS During a leisurely stroll or drive through Durban and its outskirts, you are likely to encounter many religious Islamic buildings. Various Indo-Islamic as well as Western influences are evident in their design.

Whilst the Grey Street complex remains true to the planning principles of Islamic architecture as can be seen in its façade, entrances and adornment, elsewhere there is a break from tradition. The designs of the Orient Islamic School – with its bold calligraphy on the façade – as well as the Jama'at Khana for the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Westville campus (designed by Rodney Harber), the Reservoir Hills Mosque (Hallen Custers) and the Jama'at Khana at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban campus (Architects' Collaborative), are all strong examples of a new and eclectic Western-Islamic architectural direction.

As prayer five times a day is a fundamental element of Islam, the masjid is always the first building to be constructed by any Muslim settlement. Two of the first congregational masajid in Durban were built in Dr Yusuf Dadoo Street and Dr Pixley Kaseme Street. Today there are over 100 masajid in and around Durban, easily identifiable by their minarets that punctuate the city's skyline.

While the masjid is the most common example of Islamic Architecture in the city, the Islamic architectural influence can also be found in various shrines and other structures in commercial and residential sectors of Durban.

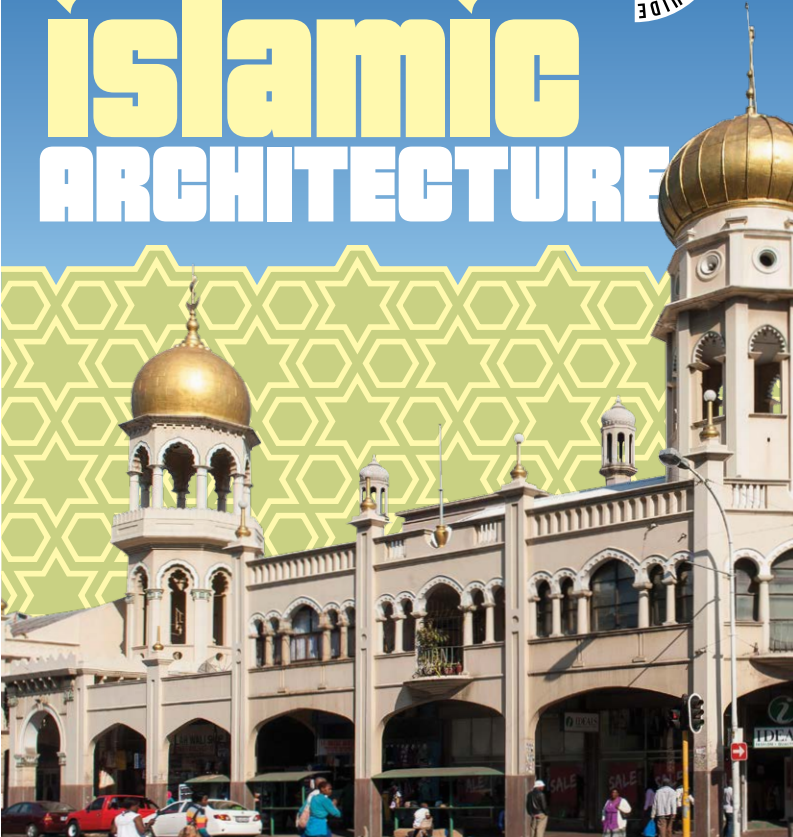
IN DURBAN

ISLAM The five fundamental acts of worship for Muslims are: Testifying that there is no deity but God and that the Mohammed (pbuh) is His last and final Prophet. Praying (Salah) five times a day. Giving alms (Zakaat). Fasting (Saum) during the month of Ramadan. Making the pilgrimage (Haj) to Mecca.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES Masjid (Mosque) means 'a place to prostrate'. The following elements are likely to be present in a mosque's design:

- **Qibla** - the direction to Mecca which worshippers must face when praying
- **Mehrab** – niche or arch in the wall to indicate qibla
- **Minbar or Mimbar** – pulpit, usually a raised platform to the right of the mehrab
- **Imam** – person who leads the prayer
- **Adhan** – call to prayer by muazzin (caller)
- **Minaret** – tower from which the adhan is/was proclaimed
- **Salah** – daily prayer
- **Jummah** – Friday prayer
- **Wudhu** – ablution to be performed before offering the prayer
- **Sehn** – antechamber to main prayer area

islamic ARCHITECTURE



JAMA' AT KHANA MASJID Anniversary Rd. University of KwaZulu-Natal



PEACE AND RESPECT All are welcome, but please dress modestly and remove your shoes in the designated area. If you wish to enter a mosque, seek permission from the local imam and, once inside, stand or kneel quietly.

Organised tours of the Grey Street Mosque can be arranged with the Islamic Propagation Centre International (IPCI). Contact the IPC on 031 304 5746. Or go to: <http://bit.ly/dbn-ia>

Brochure Produced by the City Architecture Department eThekweni Municipality
 166 KE Masinga Road, Durban 4001
 Tel: 031 311 7098

Photography: Roger Jardine
 Research: Yusuf Patel
 Editing: Peter Machen & Siobhan Gunning
 Design and Art Direction: THB Disturbance

