

Ummah : A Proposed Islamic Community For Muslims



A Thesis Presented to the Faculty of Architecture Department College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology De La Salle University – Dasmariñas Dasmariñas, Cavite

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## ABLE OF CONTENTS

ii iii

iv

v

vi

vii

viii

xi

1 3 3

3

5

8

9

9

10

10

11

11

15

16

17

17

35

41

41

42

44

45

45 69

Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis	70
Part II Research Focus Chapter II.1 Rationale Chapter II.2 Principles and Relevance to the Project Chapter II.3 Application to the Project Chapter II.4 Conclusions Chapter II.5 Recommendations	74 74 75 76 76
Part III Site Identification and Analysis Chapter III.1 Site Selection Process Site Selection and Justification Site Presentation of Data Site Criteria Selection Site Description	77 77 77 77 87 99
Chapter III.2 <i>Site Evaluation and Analysis</i> The Macro Analysis The Micro Analysis Chapter III.3 <i>Site Development Options</i> Site Analysis Proposed Site Development Plan	101 101 102 105 105 106
Part IV Architectural Design Translation Chapter IV.1 Design Program Problem Diagnosis Design Objectives Design Criteria (Philosophy, Principles) Design Concept Design Considerations Design Space Programming Behavioural Analysis User Analysis Organizational Structures Programming Diagrams	112 112 112 112 112 112 113 116 118 120 120

Title Page

Abstract Dedication

Certificate of Originality

Acknowledgement

Table of Contents

List of Appendices

List of Figures and Illustrations

Part I: The Problem and Its Background Chapter I.1 *General Overview* Introduction

Project Goals

**Project Objectives** 

**Project Strategies** 

Background of the Study

Statement of the Problem

Significance of the Study

Scope and Limitation

Definition of Terms

**Related Literature** 

Chapter I.3 Research Methodology

**Research Method** 

**Research Design** 

Need Analysis

Research Flowchart

Presentation of Data

Conceptual Framework

Chapter I.2 Review of Related Literature

Acronyms and Abbreviations

**Related Studies and Projects** 

Chapter I.4 Summary of Findings and Analysis

List of Tables

Abstract

#### Chapter IV.B Architectural Programming

125

125

#### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A: Design Standards Appendix B: Related Documents Appendix C: Consultation Sheets/Comments/Permit To Deliberate Appendix D: Site Documents Appendix E: Letters and Certificates Appendix F: Actual Photo Documentation Appendix G: Presentation of Boards

References Biographical Sketch

#### **List of Tables**

Table no.1 Total Muslim Population as of year 2012 Table no.2 Largest Number of Muslims Table no.3 Highest and Lowest Number Table no.4 Percentage of Birth of Muslims Table no.5 Fastest and Lowest Urban Growth Table no.6 Estimated Number of Muslims Table no.7 Asia Pacific Countries Table no.8 Percentage of Muslims in Asia Table no.9 Projected Increase Population of Muslims Table no.10 Tourism Programs and Projects of Muslims Table no.11 Qualitative Analysis of Function Table no.12 Qualitative Analysis of Form Table no.13 Qualitative Analysis of Time Table no.14 List of Different Barangays in Silang, Cavite Table no.15 Slope Classification Table no.16 Soil Type Table no.17 Number of Population in Silang, Cavite Table no.18 Tourism Destination

Table no.19 Land Usage in Silang, Cavite Table no.20 Statistics of Muslim in Region IV A Table no.21 Site Descriptions Table no.22 SWOT Analysis

#### **List of Figures**

Figure no.1 Macro Conceptual Framework Figure no.2 Detailed Research Framework Figure no.2 The Maranao Tribe Figure no.4 The Maguindanao Tribe Figure no.5 The Iranun Tribe Figure no.6 The Tausuq Tribe Figure no.7 The Yakan Tribe Figure no.8 The Sama Tribe Figure no.9 The Sangil Tribe Figure no.10 The Kaagan Tribe Figure no.11 The Kolibugan Tribe Figure no.12 The Palawan Tribe Figure no.13 The Molbog Tribe Figure no.14 The Muslim Wearings Figure no.15 The Arabic and Islamic Alphabet Figure no.16 The Muslim Pancit and Chicken Delicacies Figure no.17 The Wedding Cerenomy of Muslims Figure no.18 The Muslim Children Figure no.19 The Singkil Dance Figure no.19 The Islamic Mosque of America Figure no.20 The Masjid of Samarinda Figure no.21 The Salarjung Museum Figure no.22 The Golden Mosque Figure no.23 The Islamic Call and Guidance Center Figure no.24 The Talunsangay Mosque Figure no.25 Summary of Related Projects Figure no.26 Muslim World Population Figure no.27 Muslim World Population Figure no.28 Muslim Population by Region Figure no.29 Annual Population Growth Rates for Muslims and Non

1

1

1

1

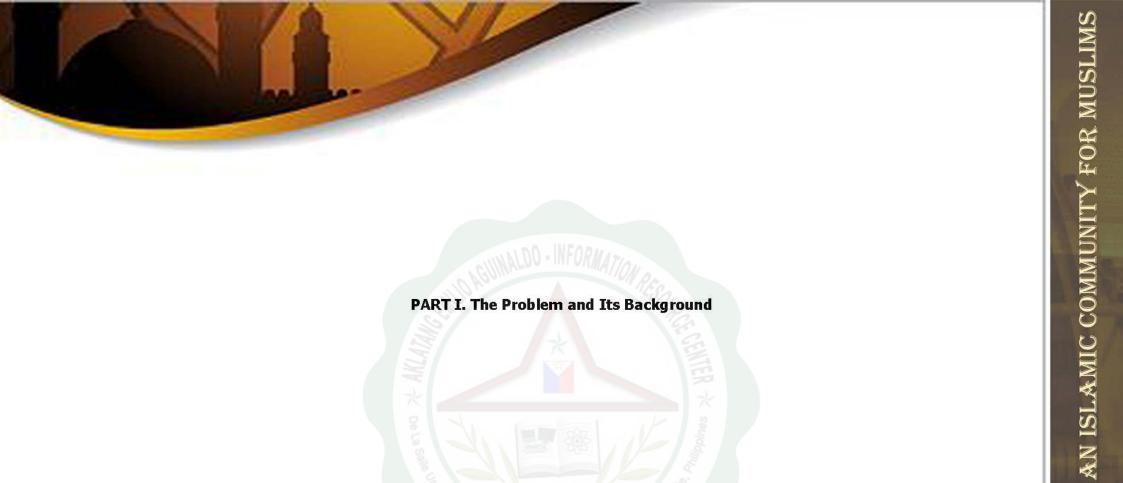
Figure no.67 Adobe Construction Figure no.68 Ventilation Concept

Figure no.32 Life Expectancy at Birth of Muslims Figure no.33 Percentage of Births Attended Figure no.34 Migration of Muslims Figure no.35 Urbanization in Muslim Majority Countries Figure no.36 Urban Growth of Muslims Figure no.37 Muslim Population in Asia-Pacific Figure no.38 Annual Population Growth Rates Figure no.39 Estimated Number of Muslims, 1990-2030 Figure no.40 Growth in Number of Mosques in Metro Manila Figure no.41 Communities in Metro Manila Figure no.42 Location Map of Silang, Cavite Figure no.43 Slope Map Figure no.44 Geologic Map Figure no.45 Population Graph of Silang, Cavite Figure no.46 Land Use Map Figure no.47 Map of Asia Figure no.48 Map of the Philippines Figure no.49 Map of CALABARZON Figure no.50 Map of Cavite Figure no.51 Location Map of Silang Figure no.52 Site Analysis Figure no.53 Site Building Classification Figure no.54 Zoning Diagram Figure no.55 Site Computation Figure no.56 School matrix 78 Figure no.57 Focal Point Analysis Figure no.58 Qibla Direction Analysis Figure no.59 Design Concept Figure no.60 Islamic Concept Figure no.61 Site Programming Diagram Figure no.62 School Programming Diagram Figure no.63 School Programming Diagram Figure no.64 Mosque Programming Diagram Figure no.65 Admin Programming Diagram Figure no.66 Structural Concept

Bansuan,Karl Fahad D.

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# PART I. The Problem and Its Background

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#### Abstract

UMMAH (An Islamic Community for Muslims) aims to address unity of Muslim-Non Islam relation and to advocate Islam as a good religion through architecture. It aims to promote Islam existence in the Philippines by introducing spaces where people can worship, learn, interact, and experience the Muslim environment and religion. The Architectural proposal aims to showcase and promote the religion of Islam by introducing Islam as a great religion, far from the notion of being terrorists or extremists

The Philippine Muslims was once a dominant group in the country. They have 500 years of political history, so far the longest political experience compared to other groups in the whole Philippines. Today, Non-Muslim – Muslim relations have been an issue since the historical rise of Islam, more than fourteen centuries ago. From the start there have been two dimensions to the topic. The first one is related to the practical relationship of individuals and communities of the two faiths; and the second to religious challenges. These include questions of Non-Muslim self-identity and self-expression in relation to Islam as well as those of understanding its significance. Non-Islam and Islam have been in contact for over fourteen centuries. As a religion which began after the time of Non-Islam, and therefore after the New Testament had been completed, Islam have been always presented a theological challenge to Christians especially in relation to Muhammad's status as Prophet and the Qur'an's status as Revelation. Another issue regarding Non-Muslim and Muslim relations is the conflict arises between the two religions. Also having the largest number of population of Muslim living in the Philippines there are only limited number of places and centres for Muslim people. As a solution to these problems, one way is to create a community where people of the next generation will have a better understanding of what Islam could bring to people, and the other is to preserve the quality of life of Muslim people. *www.ncaa.gov.ph* 

The architectural design approach is in a form of a community wherein all existing beliefs, culture, arts, crafts, interaction will be exhibited and enhanced. The main purpose of the study is to help Muslims in their upbringing – education, background, personality, faith and relationship towards the others. With the help of this proposal, Muslims will tend to be more open with the Non-Muslims and therefore initiate peace and unity. The proposal aims to promote the sense of being proud to their people. Also to create a place for new Muslims who need care and attention because most of them are orphans-No parents which need total care and attention/advise in the times of need especially in providing them food to eat, shelter because they are homeless and education- teach them academic and moral values especially Islamic values and teachings. Residential and educational facilities, museum, mosque are few of the spaces. This is a way for the Islam religion to introduce, exhibit and boast of their rich religion. The Muslims being misunderstood adds to the damage of their dignity and false views of the people.

#### BANSUAN, KARL FAHAD D.

Understanding and being aware of one's religion and culture enable community to value the experiences and contributions of different groups in the Philippines. Understanding the connections between social structures and inequality will effectively build a compassionate world.

The creation of this project suggests improvement and better understanding of Islam by presenting its beauty to the people and tourist not as a threat or problem. The proposal is inclined with the vision of the related organizations increasing tourism in their area as well as protecting the well being of Muslims. The use of different materials incorporating classical architecture as well as Islamic architecture for the main theme and concept of the project is suggested upon its completion.



BANSUAN, KARL FAHAD D.