

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.

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.

