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ARTE: Art and Expression  
Presents

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## INTRODUCTION

**ARTE: Art and Expression** is a biannual book chapter, published under collaboration of Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Art & Design, UiTM Perak Branch with Galeri Al-Biruni under the supervision of Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. 'ARTE' is an amalgamation of english word 'Art', and malay word, specifically Perak slang 'Ate' which translate as conversation starter. 'ARTE' uses the concept of book chapter that platform art enthusiasts to express their inner-creativity in the form of literacy conjecture

## VISION

Art and expression as aspiration towards stylistic and artistic practices

## MISSION

- To enhance the culture of research and academic publication among academician and artist for international recognition
- To promote intellectual, cultural and knowledge sharing through artistic expression
- To celebrate the diversity and differences in arts practices thus creating and intellectual platform for artist to express their interest in art

## PUBLICATION FREQUENCY

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# CHAPTER 15



## AESTHETIC EXPRESSION OF MASJID UBUDIAH KUALA KANGSAR SERIES

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*Norhaslinda Binti Shafie*

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*Nur Akma Halili*

*Muhammad Firdaus Azman*

*Mohamad Zaidi Sulaiman*

### **Abstract**

Nowadays, our environment exists with thousands of images and photographs. Images and photographs are dominant to human communication and a variety of appearances. This artwork is to survey the power of the Tawhid concept in the photograph architecture of Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar. Thus, this writing of artwork uses visual research analysis to identify the usual photography of Masjid Ubudiah and to insert the concept of Tawhid. Brings to the end, there are three principles, the modular structure, repetition, and dynamism been applied in the artwork of aesthetic expression of Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar series.

*Keywords: Tawhid, photography, Masjid Ubudiah.*

## 15.0 Introduction

Architectural photography is for several purposes like an advertisement of building, documentation of space, and discovering what is beyond our eyes about building. According to Souktik (2022), Joseph Philibert Girault de Prangey year 1804 till 1892 century known as the first architectural photographer who started to take photographs with the daguerreotype process. Therefore, the development and importance of architectural photography are dominant nowadays.

The aesthetic expression of Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar series artwork is a work that symbolizes the oneness of Allah S.W.T. Through architectural photography, the implementation of the Tawhid concept has developed to create an impression of infinity and perfection based on the guidelines of Al-Quran. Modular structure, repetition, and dynamism have involved in this artwork.

### 15.1 Literature

Photography is an art that has been around for a long time, Taschen (2019) since the 16th century. Photography has undergone many changes, and the process is still going on. The first and most common use of photography is to capture main events for future reference. Therefore people use photography to inspire or inspire others. According to Norhaslinda (2018), photography includes a few areas in our daily life as education, history, society, cultures, and medicine.

Architectural photography is also known as building photography. The result of architecture photography can exhibit everything, not only for the documentation but also the aesthetic value such as art, expression, and emotion in the photograph. According to Julia (2015), architectural photography is a visual art.

In architectural photography, three elements are necessary to highlight. The first element is exterior photography. Exterior photography aims to photograph the view on the outside of the buildings. Therefore, this exterior can describe in detail the outside of the building. Not only that, but it also can descry the beauty of the building itself.

The second element is interior photography. Interior photography aims to photograph various elements of design and principles of design inside the building. Interior photography focused on the details inside the building. It also shows an impression of the beauty and luxury of the building space.

The third element is architectural details photography. Architectural details photography aims to photograph certain parts considered very special of a building. Therefore can highlight the unique things that are in the building.

The repetition (Figure 77) is the design principle connected to various design principles. Repetition together with pattern, balance, symmetry, and others. However, repetition can implement according to the demands of designers and design. According to Foroozani (1991), the laws of

repetition are one of the aesthetic principles in Islamic architecture, applied in the exterior and interior elements of architecture. The variety of geometric patterns in rhythmic form was an example of the repetitive calling for God associated with *zikir* remembrance ceremonies.

The concept of modular structure (Figure 78) is Islamic artwork that contains many small modules arranged and combined into one large plan. These characteristics are visible in the decoration and arrangement of the Islamic art motif. In Islamic patterns, the concept of the modular structure is observed by looking at the whole complex pattern design or only focusing on one specific unit and module.

Dynamic (Figure 79) is a design that must be able through time and space. The physical space uses spatial elements such as points, lines, shapes, and volumes for its creation. The boundless pattern can never be comprehended in a single glance, in a single moment, with a single view of its various parts. Instead, it draws the eye and the mind through a series of perceptions. The eye moves from pattern to pattern, from centre to centre of a two-dimensional design.

## 15.2 Methodology

Table 17: Flow of the process

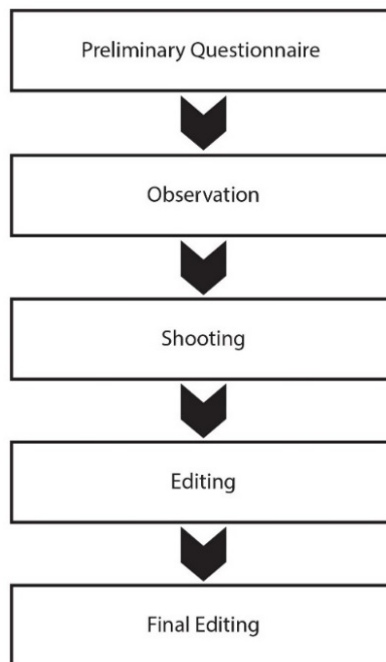


Table 17 shows the flows on how the process I act through in doing the artwork. From the preliminary questionnaire, I obtain explorative feedback regarding the *Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar*. After that, I do the viewing to identify trends and styles in the architecture photography of *Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar*. Then, I start the shooting process. Next is the editing process to

finalize the artwork.

Table 18 below shows 50 respondents who contributed to the preliminary questionnaire given. The questionnaire was distributed to local and international to obtain feedback regarding the *Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar* photographs. 82.25% know architecture photography, while 17.75% repudiated it. However, 87.15% do not know the *Tawhid* concept exists. 12.85% only know about *the Tawhid* concept from Islam Architecture. 75.25% agree to implement *the Tawhid* concept in architectural photographs, while 24.75% disagree.

Table 18: Questionnaire

Questionnaire	Yes	No
Do you know what architecture photography is?	82.25%	17.75%
Do you know what the <i>Tawhid</i> concept in architecture photography is?	12.85%	87.15%
Do you think that the <i>Tawhid</i> concept can be implemented in architectural photography?	75.25%	24.75%

### 15.3 Artist Influence

The idea of artwork aesthetic expression of *Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar* series was by the *Tawhid* concept. According to Ismail (1986), the aesthetic expression aspect of *Tawhid* is too prominent through its aesthetic content and form to enhance the effects of infinity and transcendence. Documenting photographs of *Masjid Ubudiah* architecture through the concept of *Tawhid* play a vital role in conveying the message of how beautiful the architecture of *Masjid Ubudiah* is in the development of Islamic visual identity for future generations. In addition, it can help build knowledge to acknowledge the concept of *Tawhid* using a photographic approach.

### 15.4 Studio Research and Analysis

The process of making this artwork starts with a preliminary questionnaire. The 50 respondents from local and international involved answered the questionnaire to get early feedback on *Masjid Ubudiah* photographs. After that, structure observation to identify trends and styles of *Masjid Ubudiah* photographs. Based on the structure observation, I find that most of the images of *Masjid Ubudiah* are more to capturing the scenery of all overbuilding.

Therefore, I start to photograph the architecture of *Masjid Ubudiah* using the *Tawhid* concept. Architecture photography is one of the genres in the photography field. In architectural photography, three factors need to portray. The first is the exterior. The second is the interior. Lastly is architectural details photography. In this artwork, I focus on capturing the details of *Masjid Ubudiah* photographs using the *Tawhid* concept. They are 5 *Tawhid* concepts that can use while photographing the



architecture such as abstraction, modular structure, successive combination, repetition, and dynamism. However, in this aesthetic expression of *Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar* series, I element only 3 *Tawhid* concept is *repetition* (Figure 77), *modular structure* (Figure 78), and *dynamism* (Figure 79).

### 15.5 Artist/Artwork Statement



Figure 77



Figure 78



Figure 79

The aesthetic expression of *Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar* produced in 2021 is two-dimensional fine art photography in 8 x 10 inches size. According to Norhaslinda (2018), fine art is an approach of creating active thinking of ideas from photographers to produce photographs with aesthetic values. The theme for this artwork is mainly on the concept of *Tawhid* in Islamic photography. Based on the selected concept, the subject was inspired by three (3) of the aesthetic expression of *Tawhid* which is modular structure, repetition, and dynamism. According to Asri (2021), the modular structure is the concept of creating repeating patterns such as lines or shapes to construct the larger design (Figure 78). According to Asri (2021), repetition is the repetition of motifs and structural elements without limitation. The repetition of geometric patterns is associated with *Zikir* (Figure 77). According to Asri (2021), dynamism is a design that is based on time and space which is used spatial elements such as lines, shapes, points, and volume on the photographs (Figure 79). The implementation concept of *Tawhid* enlighten me to know and get near to Allah S.W.T. As a Muslim, I can feel and know that Allah S.W.T is always seeing me and realizing what I do.

### 15.6 Conclusion

Generally, the main idea of this artwork is to explore the *Tawhid* concept in documenting architecture. I want people to realize how important it is to apply the *Tawhid* concept in their artworks especially since the artist is Muslim. The principle of *Tawhid* educates people to know and get near to Allah S.W.T.

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