

**I. IDENTIFICATION****Al-Aqsa Mosque Dome Restoration**

Jerusalem

Date Completed : 1983, September

Architect : I.C.C.R.O.M., Italy, with Isam AWWAD, JerusalemClient : The Al Aqsa Restoration Committee, Jordan

Building Type I : (083) Planning : Intervention : Conservation

Building Type II : (612) Religious : Centres : Mosques

**II. DESCRIPTION**

One of the most sacred monuments in Muslim Jerusalem, the Al Aqsa Mosque lies in the south-eastern part of the old city and shares the site on which is located the Dome of the Rock. Built in 711 A.D., destroyed by an earthquake, and reconstructed in the 9th century, the mosaics on the interior drum and dome surfaces date to 1034 A.D. Inscriptions indicate that the coloured, arabesque stuccoes on the drum were executed in the 14th century. The dome was severely damaged by bombing in 1969.

The restoration proceeded in three phases: 1) consolidation or replacement of the structural timbers forming the dome, 2) removal of super-imposed paint layers from the original stuccoes, and 3) re-construction of the surface areas completely ruined by the bombing (particularly in the lower areas of the dome where 60% of the stuccoes was ruined).

The dome structure is timber and the shells of both the exterior (12.5 m. diameter) and interior (11.5 m. diameter) domes are erected of timber ribs imbedded in the stone drum. The interior dome surface is an envelope of palm-fibre panels; the original lead sheeting of the exterior dome was replaced by a reinforced concrete shell faced with aluminium sheets.

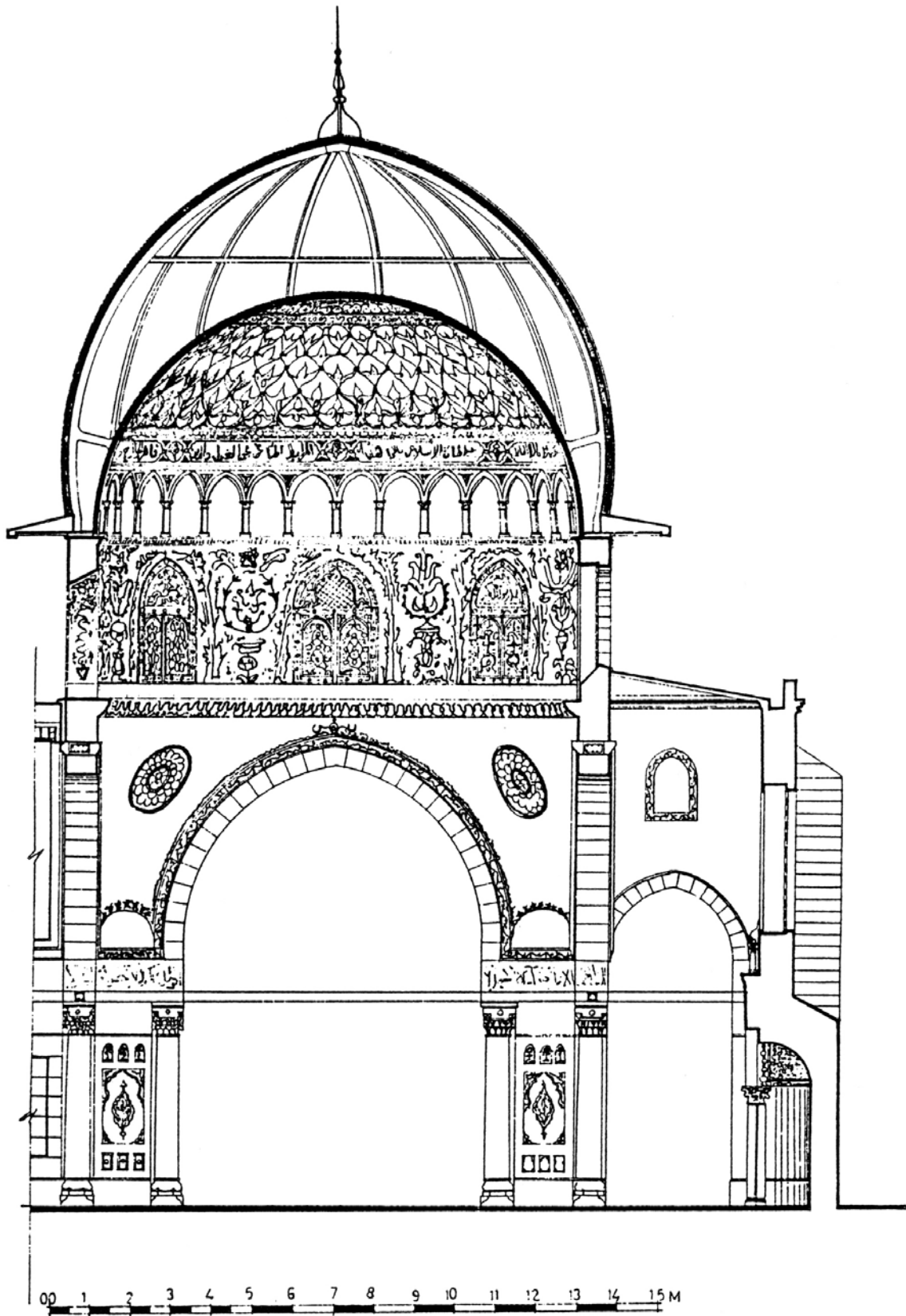
Distinction between the original and replaced stuccoes is made by use of the *Tratteggio* technique whereby striations are incised into the surface of new areas of stucco.

Overseen by a foreign team of noted experts, the work was performed by a local team of craftsmen and specialists who received training in the most recent techniques of restoration.

**III. AREA and COSTS :****Site and Building Area ( in square metres ):**Site 140'000 Total surface of inner vault 150**Costs :**

Total cost : US\$ 320'000

US\$ 2'130 per square metre.



AL-AQSA MOSQUE AND THE DOME OF THE ROCK RESTORATION COMMITTEE  
OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT ARCHITECT  
SECTION — THE DOME OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE