

AJ Architecture Awards 2019 winner: Community and Faith

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Source: Morley von Sternberg

Cambridge Central Mosque by Marks Barfield Architects has been named best community and faith project at the 2019 AJ Architecture Awards.

In a category featuring schemes differing in scale, complexity and purpose, Marks Barfield Architects' 'delightful' new mosque in central Cambridge won the judges' favour.

The practice landed the project following an international design competition in 2009 with a design that evokes both English and Islamic architectural traditions. The lattice vault roof of the main space nods toward the famed ceiling of the city's King's College Chapel. The design also draws upon Islamic geometry. The judges were impressed with the handling of circulation within the 2,556m² building, whereby worshippers and visitors are taken on a journey from the street through gardens, porticos and an atrium to a lofty prayer hall. 'A calm, welcoming and thoughtful project,' commented one juror.

With a structure made predominantly of timber, the £25 million mosque was also praised for its sustainability credentials. The jury said: 'There has been a totally coherent approach to all the environmental aspects of the building. This has been

done in an intelligent and rigorous way. There is a sense that architect, client and contractor have worked collaboratively throughout the design and construction.'

Credits

Project team:

Client The Cambridge Mosque Trust

Architect Marks Barfield Architects

Project manager and planning consultant Bidwells

Structural Engineer (construction) Price & Myers

Structural Engineer (planning) Jacobs

Timber Engineer Blumer Lehmann

Building Services Engineer Skelly & Couch

Landscape Architect Emma Clark with Urquhart & Hunt

Islamic Geometer Professor Keith Critchlow

Quantity Surveyor, Principal Designer Faithful & Gould

Acoustic Consultant Ramboll

Fire Consultant Harris TPS

Approved Inspector MLM

Main Contractor Gilbert-Ash