

# **RAMADAN KAREEM 2006**

## **The Glass Mosque – A Landmark for Future Generations**

**Let's build the Glass Mosque together – in tribute to world peace, tolerance and love of God.**

**by David Gwodzik**

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**Dear Brothers & Sisters,**

**Cultural identity plays a very important role in every society and when heritage is replaced with larger than life hotels and grandiose shopping malls, a signal is sent to the local inhabitants that their new world will no longer resemble a proud past.**

**“It is much more difficult to identify the expectations of the modern world than it is to explain the attraction of the past. The task is made all the more difficult because the future will reflect the dreams and aspirations of our contemporaries, especially the younger generation in whose hands the destiny of tomorrow's world will lie.”**

**The twenty-first century poses new challenges in world religions and each of us are confronted by modern life, such as regular travel between home and place of work, television, internet, supermarkets, etc.**

**Each has contributed to an altering of traditional modes of behavior and ways of thinking.**

**In light of this, the Glass Mosque will become a new landmark for future generations. People from all walks of life and religion will come to the shores where it is built. There is no better place in the Arab world where to build the Glass Mosque than in the Gulf.**

## **The Glass Mosque - A Vision with Purpose**

**The new landmark will serve the local and world community in simple and significant matters. The mosque has always represented a space that is eternal and sacred helping believers to feel home in God's house.**

**The Glass Mosque complex will become a focal point for activities involving all aspects of collective life, from teaching to exchange of information and for delivering Islam to the world in an atmosphere that promotes world community, brotherhood and tolerance. Adjacent buildings (madrassa) will be used as international learning centers and institutes for global support and peace.**

**The famous mihrab of Olyaytu in Isfahan has the prophetic hadith which states that, "God builds a house in paradise for him who builds a mosque." Characteristically, the mosque serves not only as a place of prayer, but also encourages social, educational and cultural activities. The role of Islam in the world community is of great importance – The Glass Mosque will serve as a new source and foundation for spreading the word of God and Islam in a positive light.**

### **Why Glass?**

**Various forms of glass and its shades symbolizes hope – rays of hope, streams of light pouring in through a variety of domes. The clarity and colorful streams of light symbolizes our unity in diverse relationships.**

**Glass and its diverse application, structure will create a new-world visual experience bringing people together from every continent to contemplate, study and improve the welfare of all people.**

**The Glass Mosque will encourage people of all faith and religion to witness and experience the wonder of Islam and its contributions to the world, ancient and modern.**

**The Glass Mosque will symbolize the cultural and political importance each of us bear in finding solutions to live in peace and harmony.**

**The Glass Mosque will become a central meeting place on the world stage for eradicating wars, famine and environmental pollution.**

**Building a new Islamic landmark with cultural identity will have far-reaching historical value and perspective. An architectural wonder of this magnitude will better serve traditional values. Increasing worldwide positive regard by instituting higher learning, research and development, welfare and family centers will reinforce the importance of cultural growth in the Arab world.**

**Tourism, for example, is a cross-cultural experience leading to invaluable human experience where old and new meet. Millions of tourists each year will come to the Gulf to witness one of the world's greatest architectural landmarks – The Glass Mosque.**

**Palm gardens, with water reflecting pools and fountains surround minarets and long arch ways – tourists from every continent walking in the midst of truly blended cultural heritage.**

**The Glass Mosque has yet to be constructed, but there is time for people with like minded interests to meet one day and build a magnificent monument in the heart of the Gulf. Until now, it remains a dream.**

## **The Glass Mosque – A Poem by David Gwodzik**

**I.**

**Across ancient waters lay the Gulf  
facing desert homes of God's children**

**Above the shore and palmed gardens  
Stood the Glass Mosque**

**Under a vast blue heaven  
Resonated a unified creed  
We heard... (shahada)**

**“There is no God but the God and Muhammad is his Prophet”**

**Where light meets water  
In reflecting pools  
Messages from an angel were delivered  
It began...**

**“Read in the name of thy Lord who creates man from a clot of blood  
Read and thy Lord is most generous who taught by the pen  
Taught man what he knew not” (Qur'an 96: 1-4)**

**Each faithful knows  
Nothing stands between him and God**

**Guidance stretched across dunes  
Interpreting the Prophet's words** (Hadith)

**Belief born in community  
Calling all faithful to live the five pillars**  
(Shahada, Mamaz, Zakat, Fasting, Pilgrimage)

**In palm groves where minds weave design  
Geometric craft inherited time and winds of change**

**Communion with God echoed form  
Each minaret called the faithful to prayer  
Under domes filled with rays**

## **II.**

**Worshippers surrounded by inscriptions  
Meet heaven's light**

**Glass in timeless space  
Mirroring hues  
bridge continents**

**Water flowing freely  
Strengthens our prayers  
Reminding each of his duties**

**Our hearts filled with towers of light  
Enlightened by domes of space**

**All of God's children  
reflected in a crystal sanctuary**

**We are blessed  
In God's house of glass**

**David Gwodziak lived and worked in the Gulf ten years. His Glass Mosque was born in a dream. He would like to share the Glass Mosque project with individuals who could assist in fulfilling the task.**

**Let's Build the Glass Mosque – together! I have architects and models in place – it is only a question of starting.**

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