

## **Interaction of Solid and Void in Aleppo's Mosques: A Study of Architectural and Social Impacts**

### **Abstract:**

This study delves into the interplay between solid and void elements in the architecture of historical mosques in Aleppo, Syria, and explores its influence on social, cultural, and aesthetic dimensions. The research investigates how this architectural feature has been integrated into mosque designs over centuries, from the Umayyad to the Ottoman periods, and its evolution in modern contexts. By analyzing architectural plans and conducting case studies of five significant mosques, the study uncovers the shifting relationships between open and closed spaces, particularly the placement and function of courtyards. The findings reveal that during the Ottoman era, a marked transition occurred, with some mosques relocating their courtyards from central to external positions, impacting these spaces' spiritual and social atmosphere by reducing natural light and ventilation. The study also highlights the transformation of solid and void relationships in modern mosques, where external open spaces envelop buildings from all directions, further diluting the traditional social and environmental roles of courtyards. This research underscores the need to revisit traditional designs to restore the social vitality of mosque surroundings and adapt these principles to contemporary urban planning. The insights gained from this study contribute to a deeper understanding of Aleppo's architectural heritage and its potential application in modern mosque design, ensuring the preservation of both aesthetic and functional aspects for future generations.