

Enhancing (Comparative of) the Experience of Worshippers and Visitors through Natural Lighting in Religious Buildings

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Abstract. Lighting is one of the fundamental pillars of life, and Islamic civilization was the best evidence of the development of natural lighting methods. Today's religious buildings have primarily neglected the element of natural lighting and have been replaced by expensive artificial lighting, even in broad daylight. Therefore, natural lighting must be an essential element in mosque architecture. This study examines the impact of natural lighting on religious buildings and explores how natural lighting affects the experience of worshippers and visitors. The study discusses how natural lighting affects the atmosphere and functions of religious spaces and what design criteria can increase natural lighting in religious buildings in Iraq. The study uses a quantitative approach that combines architectural analysis and empirical observations. The methodology and tools are the architectural analysis of existing religious buildings and the evaluation of design features that facilitate natural light. The study concluded that natural lighting affects religious buildings' spiritual and aesthetic aspects. Architectural elements such as windows, courtyards, and domes play a role in achieving perfect lighting.

Keywords: Natural lighting, religious buildings, Mosques, Worshippers 's experience.