

The Many Faces of Kocatepe Mosque

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Abstract Vedat Dalokay's 1957 winning design for Kocatepe Mosque, Ankara, Turkey, was a Modernist interpretation of a traditional Ottoman mosque. In 1967, construction was halted in for both technical and ideological reasons. The winning project from a new competition - a 16th century Mimar-Sinan look-alike by Hüsrev Tayla and Fatin Uluengin - was completed in 1987. Around this same time, another mosque by Dalokay, the Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan, was completed. While this design is not exactly the same as Dalokay's Kocatepe project, it is stylistically similar and utilizes the same compositional principle of making the entire building a dome. This essay is an exploration into how it is that two very similar mosque designs were rejected in one country yet accepted in another. That is, it seeks to examine the meaning of Modernism at/during these two specific times and locations through the form of "dome."

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