Mosque of Selim II

By Isabell
❖ Madrassa: An educational institution
❖ Prayer Hall: Where you pray
❖ Court yard:
❖ Shops:
❖ Selimiye Complex: The social center
Materials
❖ Stone
❖ Brick
❖ Ashlar
❖ Marble
**Time Period and Location**

- 1568-1575 C.E.
- Edirne, Turkey
- By architect Sinan (famous for Ottoman architecture)
- Built by Sultan Selim II, the son of Suleyman the Magnificent. He loved the city.
Edrine Selected also because of its historical and geographical importance. In the Balkans, the land of the Ottoman empire, Edirne was the capital of the Ottoman empire in 15th century before Istanbul.

- The second city of the empire through the 17th century
- First major city that Europeans traveling to the Ottoman empire
  ➢ Offered the Sultan an opportunity to impress the Ottoman empire’s greatness
- Mosque that would dominate the city, overshadowed Edrines more traditional architecture
Architecture

- Approach through the north facade of the mosque is aligned with gates of the outer precinct wall and focuses eyes upwards toward the dome
- Ethereal dome above prayer hall
Dome above 8 muqarnas corbelled squinches, supported by 8 piers

Muqarnas are faceted decorative forms that protrude and recess and are commonly used in Islamic architecture to bridge points of transition

Exterior buttresses support east and west piers giving the dome the most support

Galleries fill spaces between walls and piers

Qibla wall (wall facing Mecca) projects outward

Sinan didn't use half domes or screen walls
❖ 190 x 130 meters
❖ Composed of a mosque
  ➢ Prayer Hall within approached through porticoed courtyard, central block rectangular
❖ Two symmetrical madrasas
❖ Row of shops (arasta)
❖ A school added by Sultan Murad III
❖ Original interior was different from today. It has been repainted and restored in the 20th century
Religion

- Islamic
- Muezzin's platform under center of the dome where Muzzin's who lead prayers chant to the congregation
- Placement like a church altar, a raised stand for biblical readings
- Reflects Sinan's interest in surpassing Christian architecture
- The Allah (god) is indivisible and that the Prophet Muhammad is God's human
- Messenger, certain passages from the Hadiths included to emphasize
- Muhammad's position as messenger
- Both and intercessor
Function

- A church
- A recitation school
- Shopping center
- Admirational building for travelers
- Social complex
- Library
- Hospital
Form

- Repetitive designs and patterns
- Color scheme is blue and arm earth colors
- Geometry refers to the earth and heavenly spheres
- Mosaic and tile work
Shows up on the 250 because...

- It has unusual features such as buttresses and influence of religion, and outstanding architecture
- The mosques inscriptions focus on the difference between Islam and Christianity, mainly the Allah (God)
- Open airy interior unlike most mosques
- Built after defeat of the Ottoman fleet at Lepanto 1571 against the Christian Holy League, prevented further Ottoman expansion along the European coast of the Mediterranean
- Unlike earlier Mosques because the exterior is an overall shell vital to the composition
- Cross cultural: Pantheon