|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Achitect | Mimar Sinan |
| Title | Suleymaniye Mosque |
| Date | 1550-1557 |
| Medium | Marble, granite, porphyry |
| Scale | Interior 59m square, dome 53m high, minarets 70m |
| Scope | Architecture pre 1850 outside European tradition |
| Style | Ottoman Mosque |
| Patron | Sultan Suleyman |
| Location | Istanbul, Turkey |
| Function | Mosque, monument to imperial grandeur |

|  |
| --- |
| Formal features |
| Composition | Square base-has sturdy and strong foundations-metaphor for Islam. Dome on a pendentive- looks thin creating a delicate effect. Arches –make it feel tall and grand looking up to the heavens. Symmetrical-harmony and balance. Wide and tall- close to god  |
| Colour | White marble for body- pure, clean, divine.Different marbles, limestone and granite- multiple colours, rich Iznik tiles- bright colours- reds, yellows, blues |
| decoration | Highly decorative interior with mosaics. Non-figurative decoration. Muquarn (column) decorated. Decorations include: ebony, mother of pearl inlay, gilding. Islamic inscriptions. |
| features | Sahn (courtyard for ablution), Mihrab (niche that faces Mecca), Minbar (Imam speaks from), Minaret (for muezzin to call to prayer), Mausoleum (tombs), caravanserai (hostels), mandras (school), large prayer hall. |

Critical text quote: **Jane McGrath** “Unquestionably the [most influential Turkish architect in history](https://science.howstuffworks.com/engineering/architecture/10-most-copied-architects.htm), Sinan perfected the design of the domed mosque, which was an important symbol of both political power and the Islamic faith in the Ottoman Empire”

Influence from political factors (impact of the Patron): (Sultan Suleyman) the Sultan is the leader of the Ottoman society- the equivalent of a king or emperor. He oversaw the development of what came to be regarded as the most characteristic achievements of Ottoman civilization in the fields of law, literature, art and architecture. He was the 10th Ottoman Sultan which is reflected by the 10 serifes on the minarets to mark hi8s status. The mosque was built 36 years into his reign as his legacy and crowning achievement. The bold decoration with the iznik tiles celebrates his success. The extensive use of different materials from all over the Ottoman Empire emphasises and reminds us of the large reach the Ottoman Empire had and the power and control Suleyman had. The mosque is situated on the third hill of Istanbul, meaning it can be seen from a distance, showing off Suleyman’s wealth and power.

Influence from cultural/social factors: Istanbul (previously Constantinople) was originally the centre of Christianity until the Islamic Ottomans took over. Istanbul 1550 has 15-25 million people so needs to be large to house many (especially important for Friday prayer Jumu’ah). Hagia Sophia is the former Greek Orthodox Christian patriarchal cathedral, later an Ottoman imperial mosque, built in 537. It is visually similar and clearly influenced the Suleymaniye Mosque. 16th century- The Golden age for architecture (Sinan’s contemporaries include Leonardo DaVinci, Michelangelo). St. Peter’s Basilica is an Italian Renaissance church in the Vatican City, the papal enclave within Rome. It was built at the same time as the Suleymaniye mosque. Domes used often thought as a symbol of Islam (Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

Stylistic comment and artistic influence: (Mimar Sinan) An earlier career in the military meant he travelled widely across the enormous Ottoman Empire. He helped construct the minarets in the restoration of the Hagia Sofia. The chief royal architect 1559-88- he was the Sultan’s chief architect for the twelve years before the construction of the mosque.

Use or development of materials, techniques & processes: Top dome held up on pendentives supported by smaller half domes on the outside. Large amounts of windows added around the base of domes in lines to create lines of streaming light. The Ottoman Empire has a large reach meaning lots of extensive materials could be imported (e.g. marble, granite, porphyry, Iznik tiles).

Image: 