Mosque of Selim II  

Edirne, Turkey. Sinan (architect). 1568-1575 C.E. Brick and stone

- commissioned by Sultan Selim II
- Ottoman
- Innovation: organization of its interior
- Sinan: masterpiece and is one of the highest achievements of Islamic architecture, lifelong search for a unified interior space
- Center of a külliye (complex of a hospital, school, library and/or baths around a mosque) which comprises a medrese (Islamic academy teaches both Islamic and scientific lessons), a dar-ül hadis (Al-Hadith school), a timekeeper's room and an arasta (row of shops)
- huge encompassing dome (31.25m diameter)
- possible to see the mihrab (direction – Quibla wall – that is faced – toward Mecca- while praying) from any location within the mosque
- purpose of centralizing the city (Emperor)
- one inspiration: he saw a connection between the wish of the central dome and the centralizing political and economic changes made by the empire
  - alternately: inspired by Hagia Sophia
- four identical minarets were planted at each corner of the marble forecourt to enforce attention on the surrounded central dome
  - The four vertically fluted symmetrical minarets amplify the upward thrust, shooting towards the sky like rockets from each corner of the mosque
- It was believed that the circular architecture was to affirm the oneness in humanity and called out the simple ideology of circle of life
- The visible and invisible symmetries that were called out from the exterior and interior of the mosque was to evokes God’s perfection through the plain and powerful structure of the dome and the bare stone . . . it amazed the public with the extravagant symmetrical exterior
- Interior: With the monumental exteriors proclaiming the wealth and power of the Ottoman Empire, the plain symmetrical interiors reminded the sultans should always provide a humble and faithful heart in order to connect and communicate with God
  - the insignificance of human
  - it also astonished the people with the plain symmetrical interior for it had summarized all Ottoman architectural thinking in one simple pure form