

12. Middle East meets West.

The impact of Islamic cultural heritage on urban space in Berlin, Germany

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Since decades Arabic and Turkish immigrants have come to Germany and they have changed the appearance, culture and urban experience in cities and neighborhoods in a significant way. There are certain neighborhoods in Berlin that have gained a new identity through the mix and interchange of people with different backgrounds and religions intermixed with the local population.

There are three main topics that will be analyzed within this context:

- Small family businesses
- Form and use of public space
- Significant architecture types like mosques

Small scale family businesses shape many streets, they convey a certain array of goods and services within their neighbourhood. Green areas and parks now experience a certain type of use for informal trade or gathering. Mosques as centres of the religious, cultural and social are being built in quarters with a high number of Muslim inhabitants.

The local cultural heritage of the immigrants, indications and traces found in the public area, their affiliation and memory and how this shapes and changes urban space, public life and everyday culture in Berlin will be the focal point of this paper.