



Friday prayers at Sultan Mosque

WHAT'S UP



Muslim men are expected to go to the mosque for Friday prayers. The prayers follow fixed movements taught by the Prophet Muhammad, who received the spiritual revelations known as the Quran around 1,400 years ago. Here, the men are pressing their foreheads, nose and palms to the ground to show their humility while praising God. Women may also join the prayer, but they go to a separate section of the mosque. Besides the Friday prayers, most Muslims are taught to pray five times day.



Praying

WHAT'S UP



When Muslims pray, they face Mecca, their holiest city. The mihrab is a niche in the wall of the mosque that indicates the direction of Mecca. Mecca is also the destination for the important pilgrimage called haj.



Mimbar

WHAT'S UP



The session is led by a prayer and worship leader called an imam. The imam stands on the mimbar, a raised platform, from which he delivers a sermon before the Friday prayers.

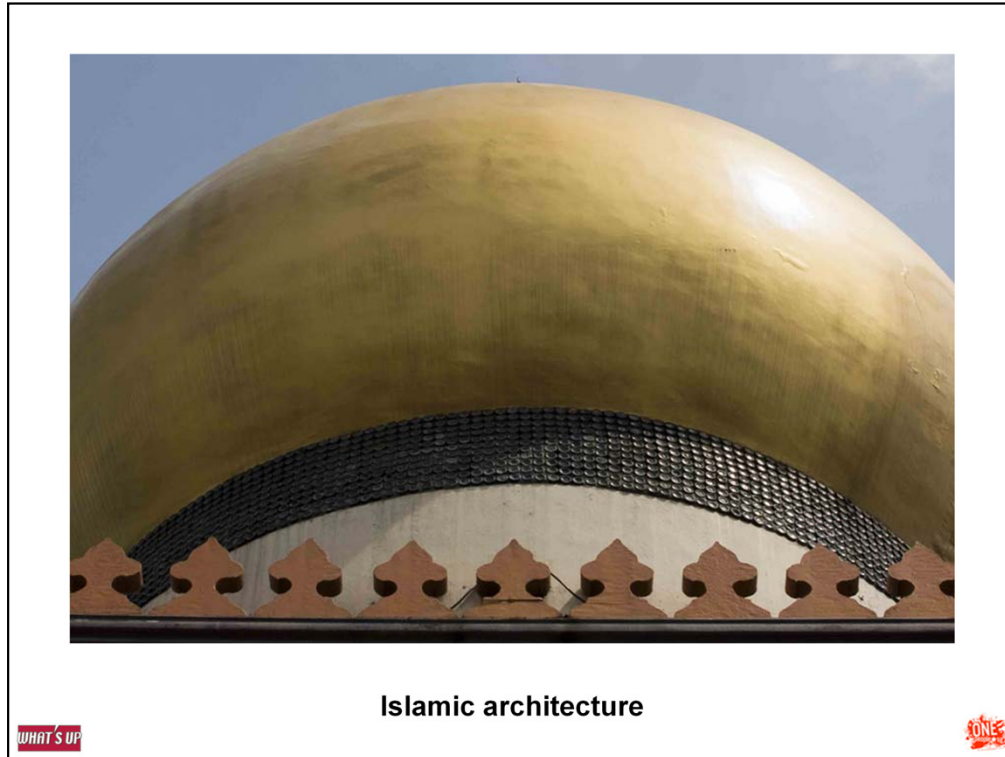


Wudu

WHAT'S UP



Worshippers come into the mosque barefoot. They must also perform wudu, a ritual washing, before they pray. They wash their faces, arms, head and feet in a special way to ensure their body is cleansed before performing their prayers. Every mosque has a washing area outside the hall for this purpose, called an ablution centre.



Islamic architecture

The pointy arches in Sultan Mosque are one typical feature of Islamic architecture. Sultan Mosque also has some more unique features. For example, the base of the mosque's golden dome is decorated with old soy sauce bottle bottoms donated by the community. Muslims from all walks of life in Singapore continue to donate what they can to their mosques, to help upkeep the mosques and for the poor and needy.