#### A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH FOR ENERGY AUDIT IN MOSQUES

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## ABSTRACT

In harsh climatic areas, mosques need to be air-conditioned in order to provide an acceptable level of comfort quality for worshippers. Mosques are characterized by their unique intermittent operating schedule determined by the prayer time, which varies continuously according to the local solar time. Achieving the required comfort quality necessitates the use of an air-conditioning system which consumes substantial amounts of energy, the exact quantity being determined to a great extent, by the thermal envelope design, as well as the operation time and strategy of the air-conditioning system. This paper presents a systematic approach for energy audit in mosques. The audit process requires the collection of base information, field data, sample mosque selection criteria, and equipment and simulation software considerations. The audit process constitutes part of a comprehensive study aimed at assessing not only the impact of the envelope thermal design but also the operation of the air-conditioning system on thermal comfort and energy consumption in mosques in the hot- humid climate zone of the eastern region of Saudi Arabia.

Keywords: Energy Audit, Mosques, Thermal Comfort, Saudi Arabia

# **INTRODUCTION**

In Muslim communities, mosques represent a place of great importance and function. The mosque constitutes the central location where people gather for their daily as well as weekly prayers (i.e. "*Friday*" prayers). Worshippers in mosques need to feel comfortable and relaxed in order to attain a feeling of tranquility and peace. However, mosques are characterized by having a unique operation schedule as compared to other types of buildings. They are usually occupied five times intermittently throughout the day all year round with each occupancy averaging a fraction of an hour to an hour. A limited number of studies have dealt with thermal comfort requirements in mosques. One such study on thermal comfort requirements for "*Friday*" prayer conducted in *Riyadh* during the hot season reported that worshippers indicated that most of them were comfortable, and only a few would have preferred cooler conditions [1].

The subject of thermal comfort in buildings is closely related to the issue of energy conservation. However, the desired thermal comfort may not be achieved due to the improper operation or control of the air-conditioning systems, resulting in under or overcooling of the space and possibly with a higher level of energy consumption than necessary. Many studies have been carried out on various building types to investigate this relationship and explore a means to conserve energy without compromising comfort [2,3]. These have included

investigations into the impact of various energy conservation measures, air-conditioning (A/C) systems and component characteristics on the thermal performance of building and thermal comfort of occupants. Results indicated that adaptation of a higher set point temperature in summer could lead to a significant reduction in the consumption of cooling energy without a corresponding loss of thermal comfort [2].

In Saudi Arabia, all buildings including mosques account for a major share of energy consumption. This grew to more than 70% of the total electric energy consumption in the kingdom for the year 1998 [4]. The demand for energy in mosques can be critical as they are all operated at almost the same time of the day in each region, especially at the times of *Duhr* and *Asr* prayers, which fall within the most critical demand periods in summer. Though research on energy consumption and conservation in mosques is lacking, many studies have been conducted on energy conservation in other types of buildings, particularly residential ones. Said and Abdelrahman [5] conducted a parametric energy analysis on a detached single-family house in *Dhahran* using "DOE" simulation software. The study showed that there was great potential for reducing energy consumption in residential buildings if they were properly designed and operated. As much as a 38% reduction in the total annual energy consumption was reported possible by considering the combined effect of the analyzed parameters.

Studies on envelope optimum thermal design of residential and office buildings in the hot and hot-humid climate zones of Saudi Arabia were also conducted [6,7]. Annual energy savings of as much as 37% and 28% respectively were achieved in the optimization of a small two-story residential building in each of the two climate zones in *Riyadh* and *Jeddah* cities. Various annual energy savings were achieved through envelope thermal design optimization of large, medium, and small office buildings in the two climate zones with as much as 15%, 19%, and 40% savings respectively for the three office sizes in *Riyadh*, compared to about 8%, 12%, and 24% for the same offices in *Jeddah* [6,7].

Compared to the research work on other types of buildings, envelope thermal performance and air-conditioning operation strategies in mosques have been largely neglected. This fact further supports the need to develop a comprehensive knowledge base about the performance of thermal and energy systems in mosques in Saudi Arabia, where large numbers are already being operated and where many more mosques are expected to be built in the future. A detailed energy audit, through which the performance and consumption of energy systems are identified, represents a first step towards achieving this objective. This paper summarizes the process of energy audit in mosques as a step towards a comprehensive study of their overall thermal performance.

### **CLASSIFICATION OF MOSQUE TYPES**

Mosques in Saudi Arabia can be classified broadly into two major categories. These are designed and built by the *Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Da'wah and Guidance* (*MIAEDG*) and those designed and built by private donors. The first category of mosques is standardized into various sizes ranging from small and medium, to the large type of mosque. They have similar characteristics in terms of layout, shape and construction materials, as well as the type of air-conditioning and other energy systems used. Mosques in this category are designed, built, operated and maintained by the *MIAEDG*. The privately donated mosques do

not usually follow a specific standard in their design or construction. Some of them are donated to the ministry after construction, for operation and maintenance, while others continue to be operated and maintained by the donor under the supervision of the ministry. Due to the diversity of mosque types with respect to their size and type of construction, it was found necessary to limit this investigation to those mosques designed by the *MIAEDG*. These mosques were surveyed to assess their actual condition and subsequently criteria were set for selecting representative sample mosques for detailed energy monitoring and/or simulation.

A list of mosques located in the eastern region was obtained from the *MIAEDG* [8]. This list included mosques built by the ministry as well as those built by private donors. Exclusion of the latter group resulted in a total of 156 candidate mosques. Sets of design drawings for some typical mosques were also obtained for preliminary review and assessment of the major common characteristics and systems to be considered in developing an appropriate energy audit form.

# DEVELOPMENT OF MOSQUE "ENERGY AUDIT" FORM AND DATABASE

Energy audit is a necessary process to identify and quantify energy and cost savings that can be achieved through investment in energy conservation measures. "The energy audit serves to identify all of the energy streams into a facility and to quantify energy use according to discrete functions" [9, *pp.1-2*]. A systematic approach to energy audit in mosques was developed to provide an accurate and practical account of energy consumption and energy performance in mosques. The approach offers a step-by-step procedure that takes into account the diversity of mosque types, the uniqueness of mosque design and energy system types and operation.

In order to collect relevant information from mosques during field surveys, a special energy audit form was developed. This form included the main information concerning mosque location, construction type and year of construction, size, A/C system type and number of units, lighting system, envelope configuration and general characteristics in addition to other relevant aspects of the mosque and its surroundings. The information collected for each mosque was classified in the following major categories: general information; surroundings; mosque physical data; zoning; construction information; window system; lighting system; A/C system; air circulation system; hot water system; power supply; and an area for additional comments.

A preliminary audit form was developed and used in a pilot survey in a sample mosque in *Dhahran*. The objective was to test the appropriateness of the form contents, the ease of its use and how it is interpreted by each member in the survey team as well as testing the adequacy of information to be collected. The form was then revised by clarifying certain items, deleting redundant items and adding additional information required. The final revised audit form shown in *Figure 1* was then used to conduct the complete field survey. Out of the 156 mosques, a total of 132 mosques were located and surveyed employing the audit form developed. The remaining 24 mosques were either not located or found to be not typical or useful for the purpose of this investigation. Subsequently a database was developed, using Microsoft Access 2000 software for the purpose of transferring all collected information and storing it electronically. The collected information was then input into the developed database

for further use in processing and retrieving the data in the desired form. This was also meant to help select representative sample mosques for detailed monitoring and/or simulation.

### DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SAMPLE MOSQUES

Considering the number of surveyed mosques and the time and equipment required, it would have been impractical to carry out detailed energy investigations for all surveyed mosques. Instead, representative sample mosques had to be selected based on specific criteria that took into account in a practical way the diversity of the surveyed mosques without impacting the credibility of the research findings. The selected sample mosques had to be typical and reflect the most common types built in terms of capacity, construction, shape, and type of the airconditioning system with minimum deviations from the original design. The comprehensive mosque information compiled and stored in the database was utilized to categorize mosques according to their capacity, aspect ratio and type of air-conditioning system. In order to select a representative sample of mosques, a two-phase procedure was utilized. In the first phase, mosques were grouped according to capacity into six main groups as summarized in *Figure 2*.

The objective was to select a number of mosques from each group proportional to the total number in each category. In the second phase, a two-step elimination process was utilized to further reduce the list of candidate mosques for detailed energy monitoring and analysis based on the following criteria:

- 1. Location (i.e. mosques located close to the *Dhahran* area were preferred for easy access and close monitoring by the project team members); and
- 2. Amount and cost of required energy monitoring equipment.

In the first step of the elimination process, the convenience of monitoring and collecting data and the cost of the energy audit/monitoring process were considered in reducing the number of mosques in the target sample. Based on the above criteria the number of mosques in each of the six groups of the list was further reduced as shown in *Table 1* by excluding mosques located far from the Dhahran area. In the second step of the elimination process the number of mosques was further reduced considering the following criteria:

- 1. Uniformity of the air-conditioning (A/C) system;
- 2. Degree of deviation from original design; and
- 3. Accessibility and degree of surrounding obstructions.

As can be observed from *Table 1*, some mosques have three or more different A/C systems. According to the second set of criteria, mosques with minimum diversity in terms of A/C system types were selected and considered more appropriate for further energy simulation as they represented a more normal trend in A/C design and offered a better opportunity for more reliable correlation between energy consumption and A/C system type and operation strategy. Accordingly, it was then decided to select at least one mosque from each group for detailed study. A number of mosques were selected for site visits in order to confirm their suitability to the study according to the above set criteria. As a result, some mosques were observed to have been subjected to major construction changes compared to the original design and were excluded since they lacked the characteristic of being typical and would present a major challenge when performing energy simulation due to difficulty in obtaining relevant information. Also, mosques in which energy systems were highly diversified or control

systems were not well placed or randomly connected to the power supply lines were also excluded. Based on the full consideration of the second set of criteria, six mosques were selected for in-depth energy monitoring and analysis. The subsequent activities involved acquiring energy consumption histories (i.e. utility bills) and details of the physical characteristics of these mosques for the purpose of detailed investigations. *Figure 3* summarizes the major steps and components of the systematic approach that was followed for energy audit in mosques.

### MONITORING OF MOSQUE ENERGY CONSUMPTION: A PILOT STUDY

The selection of the proper monitoring equipment is an important issue in monitoring of energy usage. A large-size mosque (referenced *TH-13*) was selected for installing, operating and testing the energy consumption monitoring equipment. *Figure 4* illustrates the *TH-13* mosque information along with its geometric configuration showing its major characteristics. Considering the intermitted occupancy of the mosque, energy consumption was monitored using "*Elitepro*" energy data logger [10] using a 1-minute interval data acquisition for two successive days. *Figure 5(a)* illustrates the pattern of base-load energy use in the daily cycle with peak load of lighting usage at the five daily prayer times during Thursday and Friday. No air-conditioning units were operating during the monitoring period. As can be seen from part (a) of *Figure 5* the fine resolution of the acquisition made it difficult to observe the energy usage pattern represented by the envelope of the fluctuations.

The data acquisition interval was then modified from one minute to five minutes. *Figure* 5(b) shows the monitored base-load consumption for a weekday. The energy consumption pattern can be better observed and interpreted with a 5-minute interval acquisition with less data to be managed. In order to test the operation of the meter/data logger for an extended period of time, the daily pattern of electricity use was monitored for six successive weekdays. *Figure* 5(c) illustrates the consumption patterns superimposed. The consistency of daily peak base-load occurrence time, duration and magnitude verifies the consistent operation and data acquisition of the monitoring equipment.

Since it is planned to monitor several mosques in different locations, one problem with having multiple sites is the need to regularly download all data from those sites. Therefore it is beneficial to utilize monitoring equipment that supports multiple remote data collection. The *"Elitepro"* logger can be equipped with modem and be configured to automatically initiate scheduled telephone data retrieval sessions as well as receive calls with instructions from the connected PC. This feature can help manage the collection and download of monitoring data at almost the same time for all mosques under investigation.

### CONCLUSIONS

This paper presented a systematic approach for energy auditing in mosques and collecting the necessary base information and field data towards a comprehensive study on the impact of envelope thermal design and air-conditioning systems operation on thermal comfort and energy consumption in mosques in hot-humid climate. Mosques built by the *MIAEDG* were surveyed, representative sample mosques were identified for detailed energy monitoring and/or simulation, and a sample set of potential energy monitoring equipment was acquired and tested. Work is in progress to conduct long-term energy consumption monitoring in the selected mosques as well as conducting calibration of an energy simulation program for identifying the proper envelope thermal design of the mosques in the hot-humid climate of the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.

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Mosque "Energy Audit" Form	
Date: , Audit Team Members: 1 2 2.	
	GENERAL INFORMATION   Mosque Reference Number : [Indicate Mosque Reference No. on map(s)]   City :   Neighborhood :   Address :
•	SURROUNDINGS [Show necessary information on plan sketch] North : South : East : West :
	CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION   Year of Construction:   The mosque was renovated recently : No   Yes , Year of renovation :   The mosque configuration was modified : No Yes   Yes [Indicate Major Modifications on Sketch]
	MOSQUE PHYSICAL DATA   Mosque Dimensions (W x L x H), m (as measured) : W :, L :, H:   Dimension of Structural Module, m (as measured) : W :, L :   Number of Structural Modules   Exterior Wall Color : Light □ Medium □ Dark □
	ZONING [Show different zones on plan sketch]   Jumah, "Friday" Mosque : No □ Yes □   Women Prayer Hall : No □ Yes □, Air-conditioned: No □ Yes □ Area, m <sup>2</sup> Separate "Daily" Prayer Hall : No □ Yes □, Air-conditioned: No □ Yes □ Area, m <sup>2</sup> Closed/Open Court : No □ Yes □, Air-conditioned: No □ Yes □ Area, m <sup>2</sup>
	WINDOW SYSTEM   Number of Windows :, Typical Size(W x L) :,   Type : Single Glazed □ Double Glazed □ Reflective □ Other   Operation : Operable □ Interior Shading : None □   Number of Entrances to Air-conditioned Areas : Others: Others:
	LIGHTING SYSTEM   Type of Lighting : Fluorescent □ Incandescent □ Other   Number of Interior Units/Lamps :,,   Number of Exterior Units/Lamps :,,,
•	HVAC SYSTEM   AC Type : Central    Split units  Fan-Coil Units  Window units  Other :   Number of units : ,,,,,,
•	AIR CIRCULATION SYSTEM   Type : Ceiling Fans □ Fixed on the Wall □ Stand-alone floor Fans □   Number :,,,
	<b>HOT WATER SYSTEM</b> No □ Yes □, Type of Hot Water Heating System : Electric □ Gas □ Other, Number of Hot Water Heaters :,,,
● □ AD	POWER SUPPLY Power Distribution Panels : No  Ves  , Number :, Location: [Indicate on Plan Sketch] Electricity Consumption Meter(s) : No  Ves  , Number : DITIONAL COMMENTS:

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*Figure 2* Summary of the surveyed mosque groups classified by capacity, (a) Tabular and (b) Graphical representation.



*Figure 3* The major steps and components of the systematic approach that was developed for energy audit in mosques

HVAC Hea NL NW Fm 0 ID w ٨R Are С w m 5.9 m<sup>2</sup> 55 <= 250 (Number of mosques = 21)</p> m 9.4 ratio Persons # # # # 1323232223333222433222433222 # --# 17 9 6 8 6 8 # --# 3 3 3 DM052 D 1.6 1.1 58 TH53 TH32 18 20 21 23 25 28 29 30 32 33 34 35 36 41 42 43 44 50 53 58 D 11.6 10.8 126 131 13.6 9.7 1.4 131 136 TH16 D 3 11.6 1.0 133 139 11.6 3 3 9.6 12.0 1.5 1.0 139 144 KH77 D 145 144 -12.0 150 2 TH39 14.6 15.0 16.3 1.5 1.5 1.8 D FD 146 150 152 156 DM070 3 3 3 4 3 10.0 2 3 -6 6 6 DM242 10.0 -Group DM243 FD 9.3 151 158 TH22 TH27 D D 13.8 13.5 156 12 11.3 1.2 1.1 162 12.0 162 169 8 8 1.0 1.3 170 175 179 191 TH12 TH08 13.1 15.0 13.1 11.7 FD D D D D FD 177 -3 4 4 5 3 3 3 5 182 10 19.2 19.7 19.7 19.7 9.3 9.7 9.7 KH26 2.1 2.0 2.0 1.3 186 2 4 4 6 6 6 8 5 DM095 199 -2 9 DM173 191 199 12.3 192 200 KH15 Capacity TH30 D 13.9 13.9 1.0 193 201 8 2 5 5 TH54 D D 15.3 19.9 12.9 10.2 1.2 2.0 2.6 197 206 -\_ 8 7 8 DM154 203 211 3 DM064 D 24.6 9.6 236 246 24.3 24.9 18.0 62 DM063 2.4 2.5 1.2 1.2 253 D 10.0 243 10 7 5 3 3 5 4 3 4 5 5 6 7 5 7 7 4 1 9 10 - - -244 270 254 281 KH45 DM260 63 66 67 68 69 70 72 75 76 78 80 83 86 83 86 83 89 90 91 93 94 97 D D D 9.8 7 --2 15.0 DM282 18.0 15.0 270 281 18.0 23.8 15.0 11.5 270 274 281 285 10 2 8 DM277 FD 1.2 <= 500 (#25) DM050 D 11 2.1 -DH007 DM016 D FD 29.0 19.5 9.5 14.7 276 287 287 299 10 2 -3.1 1.3 11 DM148 D 20.0 15.0 1.3 300 313 8 2 20.7 19.7 301 311 317 332 14.6 15.8 1.4 1.3 12 KH28 314 FD FD KH17 324 10 5 1.7 12 \_ KH09 23.4 330 -4 13.6 13.7 14.7 12.6 14.8 14.9 Capacity >= 251, 24.3 KH03 FD 346 Group 1.8 24.7 29.0 1.7 2.3 1.7 TH48 TH28 D D 361 365 376 380 -10 2 3 -15 FD FD 24.9 24.8 KH41 5 5 5 5 367 382 7 17 KH59 1.7 1.7 368 384 -16 25.0 25.0 25.9 375 DM125 15.0 391 -D D D 4 10 15 4 1 8 -15.0 15.1 DM126 391 -DM088 392 408 5 7 3 5 9 11 1.7 FD FD 30.5 24.6 13.0 17.3 2.3 1.4 396 425 DM048 412 7 --DM004 443 6 98 100 TH42 DH014 24.2 29.6 35.1 18.4 15.3 13.2 444 453 463 472 D FD 1.3 8 8 10 1.9 2.7 -101 KH12 D 465 484 10 <=750 (#7) 105 32.1 36.4 37.5 25.0 DM006 2.0 2.3 507 528 592 FD 15.8 4 7775754 3 3 5 4 4 3 ---7 106 DM021 FD 15.6 568 -4 Ξ FD FD 15.9 25.0 595 625 619 651 6 3 12 107 TH06 2.4 6 4 Group 108 DM008 1.0 -19.4 23.0 19.9 110 TH43 DM009 FD FD 33.8 1.7 656 667 684 -20 1 10 >= 501, 695 111 29.0 34.3 1.3 2 112 KH31 FD 681 710 3 762 824 844 DM002 FD FD FD 114 27.6 44.3 43.4 42.0 1.0 2.4 2.2 2.0 794 27.6 4 6 12 2 5 7 4 4 4 4 5 >=751, <=1000 (#6) KH05 DH003 858 879 115 9 9 9 9 7 18.6 16 15 17 116 19.4 -Group IV FD FD 119 DM031 20.8 872 908 6 121 DM210 45.0 20.0 2.3 1.4 900 938 8 8 FD 931 122 DM036 26.0 970 35.8 >=1001, <=1 /b0 123 126 33.0 42.3 33.0 29.7 > TH11 FΓ 1086 1132 8 3 7 7 9 3 6 5 7 1.4 1.4 1254 Group \ FD 1306 TH13 21 #4) D FD 45.5 1479 1556 1540 1621 127 DM181 32.5 8 2 1 13 TH01 34.7 128 44.9 1 ⋝ > 1750 (#3) RH01 130 131 FD F D Group \ 63.0 52.0 36.0 52.0 2268 2704 2363 2817 14 25 9 9 9 5 9 9 -4 DM43 1.0 10 -132 DM001 62.0 62.0 1.0 3844 4004 13 m<sup>2</sup> # # # # # # # # m m ratio Persons # FC Ŵ ID Use NL NW L w AR Area Capacity С Wm Fm FC HVAC Type 0 Symbol Key USE NL NW D = Daily prayers, FD =Friday+Daily prayers, F = Friday prayers Number of Structural Modules parallel to "Qibla" wall # of Central Air-conditioning C Wm # of Wall-mounted AC units Fm FC W Number of Structural Modules perpendicular to "Qibla" wall # of Floor-mounted AC units L, m W, m # of Fan-Coil AC units Length of Mosque, meters Width of Mosque, meters # of Window AC units

0

Others

AB

Area Capacity Aspect Ratio = L/W

Number of persons (Mosque Capacity)

Floor Area, m<sup>2</sup>

Table 1. List of mosques (sorted and classified by capacity) after eliminating distant ones



Figure 4 The TH-13 mosque's geometric configuration and information



Figure 5 (a) The patterns of monitored electricity use (kW) of the *TH-13* mosque (superimposed) for a weekday and Friday acquired using a 1-minute interval, (b) The pattern of electricity use (kW) acquired using a 5-miunte interval, and (c) The pattern of electricity use (kW) monitored, using a 5-miunte interval, for six successive weekdays.