

## Djamaâ El Djazair Great Mosque of Algiers (Algeria)

The new Great Mosque of Algiers is to be built on a ca. 269.000 m<sup>2</sup> site in a central position on the bay of Algiers very close to the sea.

A consortium comprising Krebs und Kiefer and KSP Jürgen Engel Architekten won the international competition for the project in January 2008.

In July 2008, the contract for general planning and construction supervision for the Great Mosque of Algiers was signed in the presence of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The mosque complex combines religious and secular facilities in a unique way. It is designed for up to 120.000 visitors per day.

With its rectangular buildings, the architecture of the mosque combines tradition and modernity; tradition, because the design is derived from the earliest type of mosque, the pillar mosque. Among the features that define its characteristic style are pillars that open upwards like flowers and also provide space for technical supply lines. They are found throughout the complex.

A wing to the west containing a cinema center and shops leads into the northern area of the complex, onto the esplanade, a large square surrounded by buildings in a U-shape that provides access to the minaret. Beneath the esplanade there is underground parking for 4.000 cars on three levels.

At 265 m, the minaret will be the highest in the world. It is divided into several functional areas that are accessed via pan-



View from the southwest (Visualization)

Visualizations (3): KSP Jürgen Engel Architekten

orama elevators. At the foot of the minaret is a spacious entrance area with a foyer that extends into the adjacent building.

The 4th to 20th floors contain a museum of Islamic art and history together with a research center.

Over the height of the minaret there are a number of sky lobbies offering space for recreation and communication. At the top there will be a viewing platform with a restaurant which will also be accessible to visitors via two panorama elevators.

### Owner / Client

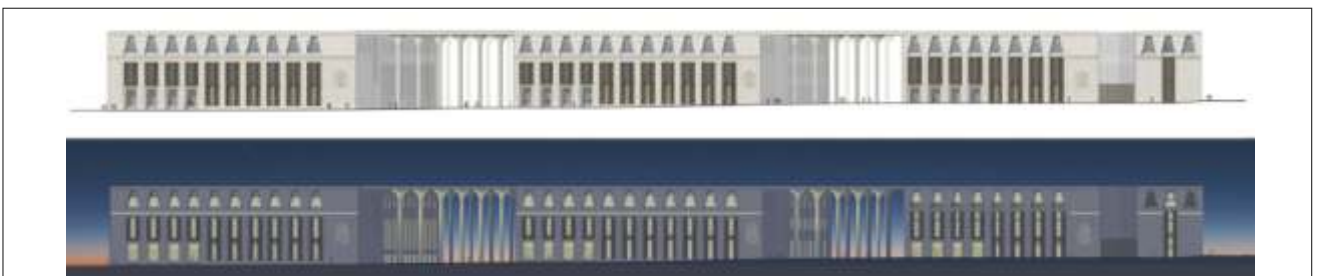
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Ministry of Religion

Agence Nationale de Réalisation et de Gestion de la Mosquée de l'Algérie (ANARGEMA)

### Architect

KSP Jürgen Engel Architekten, Frankfurt am Main



View from the south of Centre Culturel, Bibliothèque and Dar El Coran (Visualization)

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Rainer Schmidt Landschaftsarchitekten

Site plan (Visualization)

The religious part of the mosque complex lies to the east; it comprises the prayer hall and courtyard, each with an area of 22.000 m<sup>2</sup>. The prayer hall is 45 m high and is crowned by a dome with a diameter of 50 m and a height of 70 m.

A large park separates the northern part of the mosque complex from the buildings to the south.

The cultural center on the south of the site houses an extensive library with a multimedia room and a video and film library. A congress center in another building can accommodate up to 1.500 participants.

The "Dar El Coran" (Koran school) provides facilities for 300 postgraduate students from Algeria and abroad to deepen their knowledge of Islam and Muslim cul-

ture. Residential accommodation for students and teaching staff will also be provided in the campus-like area in the south of the complex.

The technical leadership of the project, which is being directed by Krebs und Kiefer, is a major challenge. Efficient coordination of the planning team of over 100 architects and engineers is critical to the success of the project.

The result of the planning process - which will be presented to the owners - must be an integrated plan that covers all specialist areas and trades and ensures a smooth construction process.

Coordination with the Algerian owners is also a critical task for the general planners and technical leadership. The owners must constantly be fully informed

### Construction costs

1.042 million EUR

### Planning

2008 - 2012

### Construction supervision

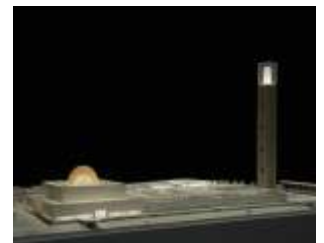
2012 - 2016

### Project data

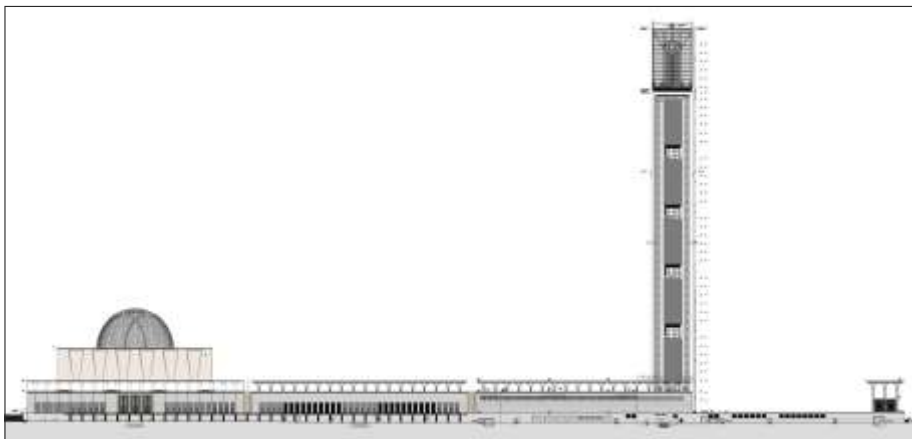
- Gross floor area: 373.550 m<sup>2</sup>
- Gross volume: 1.800.000 m<sup>3</sup>
- Height of minaret: 265 m

### Krebs und Kiefer services

- General planning (corresponding to HOAI phases 1 - 9)
- Technical leadership
- Structural design
- Traffic planning
- Building services
- Landscape planning
- Construction supervision



Model (photos)



View / Photos (2); KSP Jürgen Engel Architekten

View from the north (Visualization)

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about and integrated into the planning process in order to ensure that the project always reflects their wishes. Among other tools for this purpose, an Internet-based communications system has been put in place which is managed by Krebs und Kiefer.

A special challenge facing Krebs und Kiefer's structural designers is earthquake safety. The project is located in area in the highest risk category and must remain intact and functional even after an earthquake.

Since large areas of the project go beyond the scope of the normally applicable EC norms and local regulations, intensive dialog with the authors of the norms was required at the highest technical level.

Another special factor in the planning of the mosque is security. Risk analyses were carried out for a variety of dangers to which the complex is exposed as a public facility. Appropriate measures and equipment are to be integrated into the planning process in agreement with the local security services.



Minarett - Sommah (Visualization)



View from the northeast by night (Visualization)

Visualizations (4): KSP Jürgen Engel Architekten

The project's high public profile in Algeria is a further unique aspect. Its progress is being monitored at the highest political levels. Public opinion about the project must always be taken into consideration. In Germany, too, there has been a dialog with the press about the special features of this project.

But finally, the outstanding feature of this project – in addition to its physical dimensions – is above all its cultural importance. All those involved in the planning process are called upon to think intensively about Islam as a religion and about Islamic culture in order to understand the functions of the complex and ensure that these are appropriately reflected in their planning work.

In this way, the intensive dialog between the German planners, the Algerian owners and the Canadian project managers represents a positive example of intercultural exchange forming the basis for mutual understanding.



Dome (Visualization)



View of courtyard (Visualization)