

Kechaoua mosque in algiers before it was converted into a cathedral (1794 ad - 1209 ah) / (1830 ad / 1832 ad - 1246 / 1247 ah)

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Abstract:

Algeria possesses a variety of cultural assets that express its identity and the historical stages it has gone through. Among the cultural assets that fall within the scope of this study are fixed cultural assets that resemble an open book that allows seeing history through its walls and design. These properties varied between civil, religious and military, and between this and that religious architecture took its course in the subject of the study to identify one of the mosques in the city of Algiers. The important thing that attracted us to this topic is the historical mass that made it disappear to be replaced by a cathedral known as *the Katchaoua Mosque*, which was founded in the Ottoman era and witnessed the assault, erasure of identity and demolition by the French colonialism, it was destroyed and turned into a cathedral.

Thematic research:

According on what was reported that *the Katchaoua Mosque* was attacked and modified, the following question can be asked:

What was the shape of the real mosque before it was turned into a cathedral?

Research aims:

The research aims lie in the following topics:

- A collection of scientific materials about *the Katchaoua Mosque* from different aspects.
- Learn about the historical stages that the mosque went through.
- Learn about the original mosque shape and help the younger generations discover that the mosque we see today is a cathedral born in the French era instead of the original *Katchaoua Mosque*.

Research Methodology:

-We relied in this research on **the historical method** to extrapolate the history of the mosque, and **the descriptive analytical method** to describe the mosque before it turned into a cathedral.

-Research temporal and spatial limitation:

- Concerning the temporal boundaries of the research, it begins with the first reference to the mosque, which begins in the year 1021 AH / 1612 AD, until the French colonization within the year 1830 AD / 1832 AD - 1246 / 1248 AH.
- As for the spatial boundaries of the research, it is confined to the city of Algiers, exactly in Lower Casbah.

Research topic :

The research deals with a number of points to answer the problem. The topic was addressed as follows :

- Identifying the geographical location of the Kechaoua Mosque within the city of Algiers, and as we have previously mentioned that it is located in the Kasbah of the city of Algiers (**Map No. 01**).



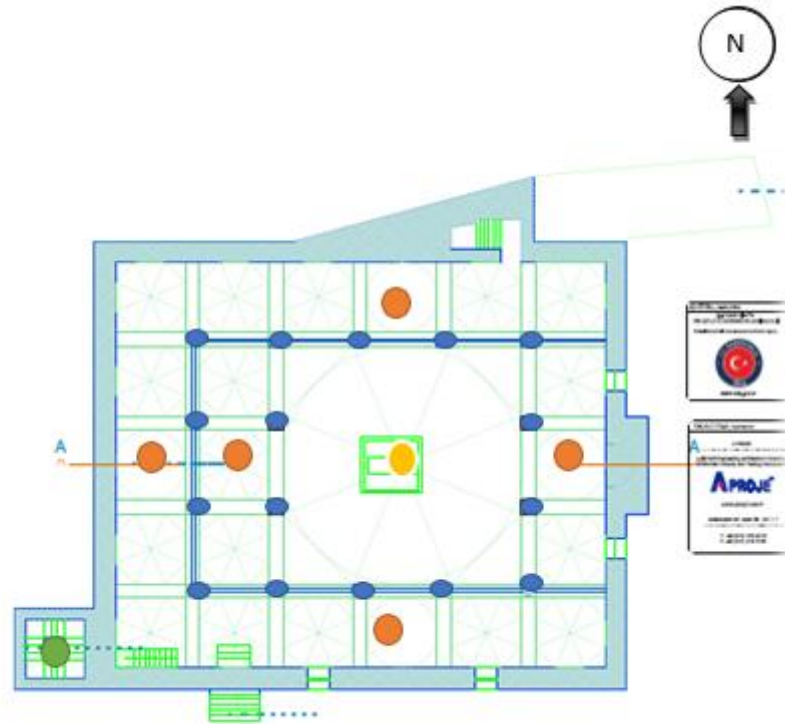
Map No. 01: The location of *Katchaoua Mosque* within the Kasbah of the City

رشيد دوکالي، مساجد مدينة الجزائر في العهد العثماني، ترجمة: لطيفة بورابة، شقيقة عيساني، موفم للنشر، الجزائر، ٢٠١٣ م، ص ٥٤

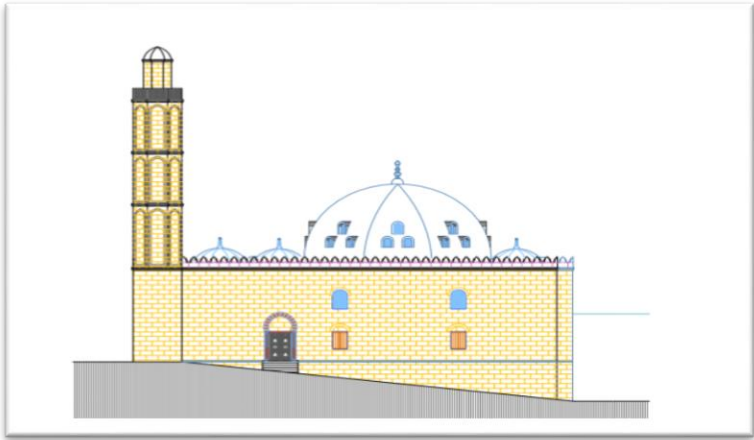
-In addition to the geographical location, it is possible to identify the historical framework of the mosque, in which it appears that the first indication of its construction was around the year 1021 AH / 1612 AD, and that in fact it was completely rebuilt in the year 1208 AH / 1209 AH - 1794 / 1795 AD.” It was retrieved after independence to pray in it, and the latter was damaged so that restoration work began from 2014 to 2017.

- Getting to know the origin of the name of the mosque in the Ottoman period, when it was called at that time the name *Katchaoua* and *Okjawa*, in addition to identifying the name that was given to it after it became a cathedral to become under the name of *Saint Philip*, and after gaining independence it was called by the name *Katchaoua* again.

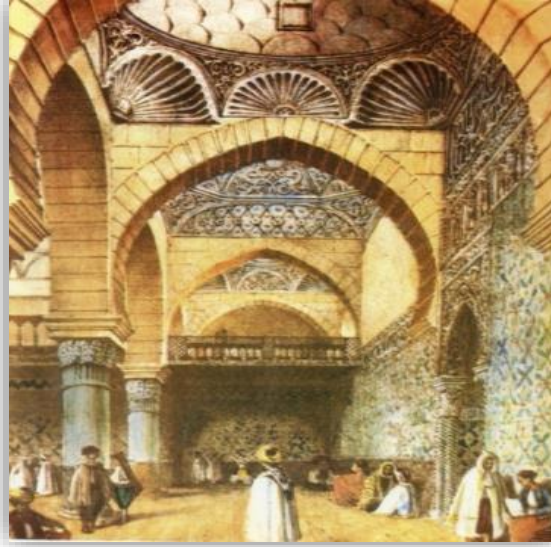
- Getting to know the architectural description of the mosque before it was turned into a cathedral. In it, the general planning of the mosque (**plan No. 01 and No. 02**) was discussed, and then the building materials that were used at that time were bricks, marble, plaster...etc., then dealt with the external description of the mosque from the various facades and what appears from them, in addition to identifying the aesthetic elements. From there, the internal description of the mosque, the architectural and aesthetic elements it contains (**Plate No. 01**).



plan No.01: Scheme of the original collector.
Source: office of studies proje A (contribution of engineering and architectural consultancy, industry and trade).



plan No.02: Pictorial scheme of the original *Ketchoua Mosque*.
Source: Studies Office A proie.



Painting No.01: The Prayer Room.

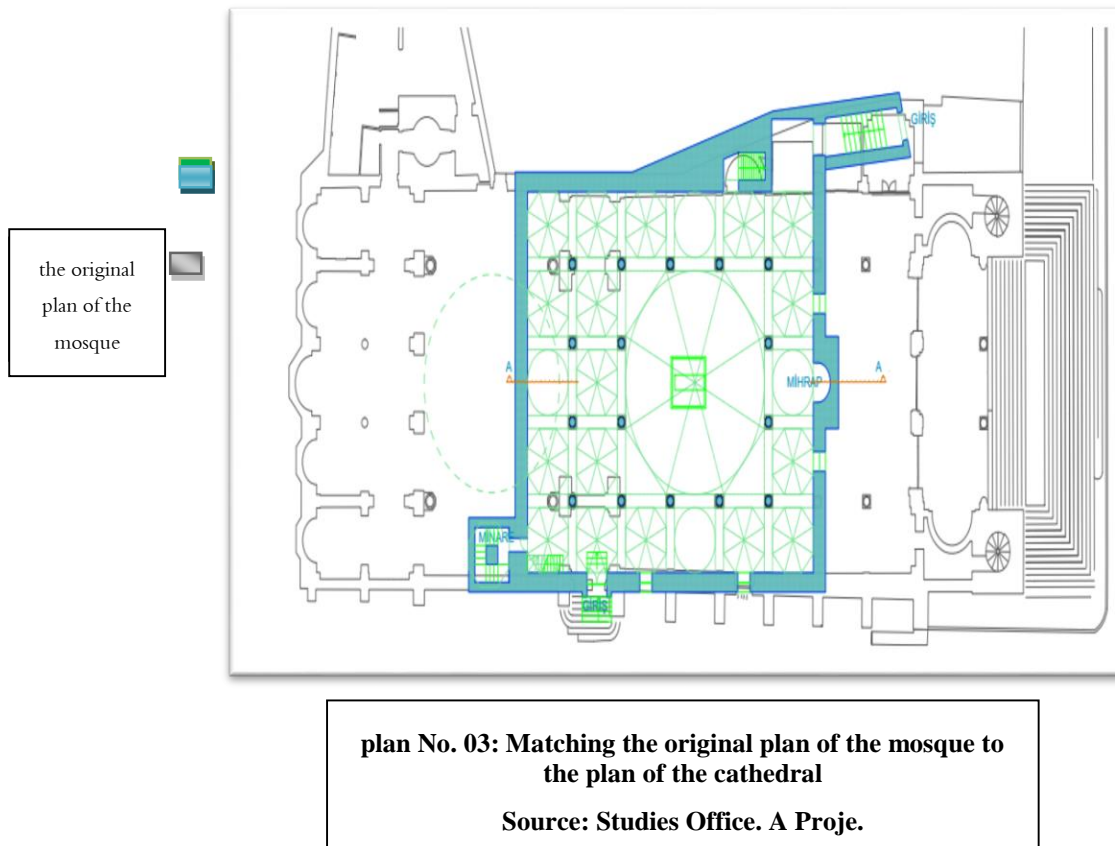
سعيد بوزرينة، جامع كتشاوة...تاريخ وتراث، مجلة الحكمة
للدراستات التاريخية، ال عدد ٢٠، كنوز الحكمة للنشر والتوزيع،
٢٠١٣م، ص ١٧٨.



Photo No.01: The eastern facade of the cathedral (the cathedral in 1839 AD)

محمد الطيب عقاب، لمحات حول العمارة والفنون الإسلامية بالجزائر، ط ٠١، الجزائر،
دت ص ١٧٩ .

Finishing the topic with a deductive conclusion in which it appears that the original mosque has been demolished and only a few remain in the centre of the cathedral that replaced it today **(Picture No. 01) (and Scheme No. 03)**, so that the rising generations are aware that what you see today is a French cathedral.



The most important search results:

By addressing the most important elements that serve the topic of the research, the following were done:

- Identifying the most important historical stations of *the mosque* and the various aspects of its definition, including its name and geographical location.
- Getting to know his true image through what was left by the literature, and getting to know his conceptual scheme, although only a few features remained within the cathedral.