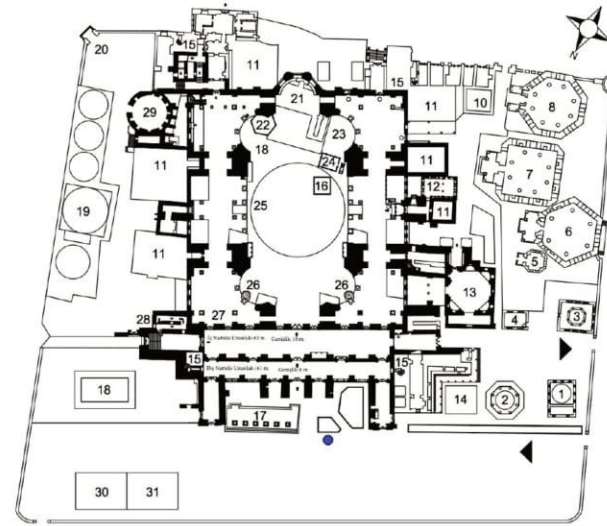




# HAGIA SOPHIA MOSQUE

Hagia Sophia was built by the Emperor Justinian. Its architects are Anthemius of Tralles and Isidorus of Miletus, both of whom were the important architects of that period. Besides these two chief architects, hundreds of architects worked in the construction according to the written records of history. Each one of these architects had hundreds of workers.

The construction of Hagia Sophia was completed in 5 years and 10 months. Serving as a church for 916 years, Hagia Sophia was started to be used as a mosque after the conquest of İstanbul in 1453 by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror. Hagia Sophia was opened to visitors as a museum in 1935. As one of the most important monuments of the history to have survived today, Hagia Sophia has a very special place in the world art with the magnificence of its construction, architectural style, size and functionality.



- |  |                            |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Ottoman Primary School               | 5 Tomb of Princes          | 10 Marble Cistern  |
| 2 Ablution Fountain                    | 6 Tomb of Sultan Murat III | 11 Buttress Walls  |
| 3 Prayer Timing Room                   | 7 Tomb of Sultan Selim II  | 12 Library of Sultan Mahmut I                            |
| 4 Board of Trustees Room / Directorate | 8 Tomb of Sultan Selim II  | 13 Tomb of Sultan Mustafa I - Sultan İbrahim (Baptistry) |
|  | 9 Public Fountain          | 14 Ablution Faucets                                      |
|  |                            | 15 Minaret   |
|  |                            | 16 Omphalion   |
|  |                            | 17 Remnants of Theodosius II's Church                    |
|  |                            | 18 Hagia Sophia Madrasah                                 |
|  |                            | 19 Hagia Sophia Public Kitchen                           |
|  |                            | 20 Door of the Public Kitchen                            |
|  |                            | 21 Mihrab  |
|  |                            | 22 Mahfil (raised platform)                              |
|  |                            | 23 Minbar  |
|  |                            | 24 Muezzin's mahfil                                      |
|  |                            | 25 Muezzin's platform built by Sultan Murad III          |
|  |                            | 26 Antique marble jars                                   |
|  |                            | 27 Wishing Column (Sweating Column)                      |
|  |                            | 28 Ramp to the upper gallery                             |
|  |                            | 29 Office of Treasury                                    |
|  |                            | 30 Rooms of experts                                      |
|  |                            | 31 Restrooms   |

## Dome of Hagia Sophia

The most important difference in Hagia Sophia's architectural design is its massive size in comparison with other churches. The dome over the central space is 55.60 m. from ground level, 31.87 m. from north to south and 30.87 m. from east to west. In the construction of the dome, architects used Rhodes soil bricks which were light yet durable for preventing the demolition of the dome during the earthquakes.

The renovation process of Hagia Sophia in the Ottoman Period started by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror continued by the following Sultans as well. Kazasker Mustafa İzzet Efendi, one of the most important calligraphists of his time, wrote the 35th verse of the Quran on the main dome during the renovations carried out by the Swiss Fossati brothers between 1847 and 1849.



Mosaics of Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia is embellished with mosaics of different periods. The most important mosaics are the figureless ones in the narthex. It is thought that all mosaics with figures of the structure were removed in the Iconoclastic period. Apse Mosaic is the first figured mosaic in Hagia Sophia which was made after the Iconoclastic period in 843. Figured mosaics from different periods can be seen in the galleries, Tymphanon wall, narthex and priest rooms of the Hagia Sophia Museum.



Remnants of Theodosius II's Church

Hagia Sophia was built three times in the same place. The first church was built by the Emperor Constantine in 360. It was demolished during the riot in 404. The second church which was built by Theodosius II in 415 was demolished again during the Nika Riots in 532. The architectural parts of the second church such as lamb reliefs representing the 12 Disciples and decorative friezes were unearthed during the excavations in 1935.



Islamic Period Expansions of Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia served as a mosque after İstanbul's conquest in 1453. In the 16th and 17th centuries mihrabs (pulpit), minbar (speaker's platform), mahfils (raised platform), preaching pulpit and maksoorah (an area which is enclosed by a screen or partition for prayer) were added to the inside of Hagia Sophia which was also decorated with gifts. The madrasah, sibyan mektebi (primary school), muvakkithane (prayer timing room), minarets, şadırvan (ablution fountain), public fountains, sundials, mütevellî heyeti odası (board of trustees room) which were built in different time periods make Hagia Sophia a complex structure in the Ottoman Period.