THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE MOSQUE

Secondary Architectural Features cont.

3. The minbar: a pulpit-like structure that allows the Imam to preach to the congregation from a position visually accessible to all worshippers. Traditionally, these large, elaborate objects had a humble form, consisting of three steps. Only later, due to local cultural influences, did the minbar become a standard feature of mosque design.

Communal Features

Diverse innovations have evolved in mosque architecture over the centuries as Muslims have responded to the surroundings in which they live. In American contexts, mosques have acquired new features, such as banquet halls, classrooms, and gymnasiums, all of which meet the demands of new, dynamic congregations.

Recreation center

Office in Islamic Center

Classroom

Elevated prayer space for women, The Islamic Center of America