

ANSWERS TO THE FIRST ROUND OF QUESTIONS

On the International Architectural Competition for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Complex in Mosul

Deadline to submit questions: 7 December 2020
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PARTICIPANTS' QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>Q1: Please, clear to us that: existing will be preserved and will be re-shaped with new structure? It's let us an example of the Kolumba museum by Peter Zumthor or Castelvecchio museum by Carlo Scarpa!</p>	<p>A1: <u><i>Al Nouri Prayer Hall:</i></u> <i>Existing remains will be preserved and will be reshaped with the new structure; according to the Architectural Brief: "this new building, although a replica of the previous one, is expected to skillfully integrate the consolidated remains and use improved materials and constructive techniques, which are physically compatible with the existing ones. Some improvements in the interior organization of the space are expected to be achieved as part of this reconstruction. Such are the creation of dedicated spaces for women, VIPs and Quran readers, as well as a storage and electrical rooms, (detailed in the Chapter "Building Requirements" – please refer to page 40). The remaining still standing structure of the Prayer Hall, will be conserved, consolidated and integrated into the new building. As the Prayer Hall of 2017 was entirely rebuilt in the '40s – constructed with concrete and modern materials, these were not recuperated. The important fragments, and of interest for the participants in the competition, are the pieces of alabaster – octagonal alabaster columns and their capitals. These fragments have been recuperated, documented and stored. For the competition design, participants will take into consideration that these historical fragments – column bases and capitals, will be reused as much as possible. Furthermore, we recall competitors that the Prayer Hall should be integrated with the new Summer Prayer Hall, whose design is part of the competition's building program.</i></p>
<p>Q2: We have a doubt about what the contest is really about, I am going to expose what we have understood and you confirm if it is so or we are wrong. We have understood that this is a rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Mosque complex from the</p>	<p>A2: A2.1: <i>The rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Mosque Complex calls for a conceptual design for the:</i> <i>(A) Construction of new buildings with diverse functions – see them enumerated below.</i> <i>(B) The rehabilitation of all three of its historical buildings (house no.8, 9 and 10) and their integration into the new designs;</i></p>

<p>construction of new buildings: Al Nouri Secondary School, a Higher Institute of Islamic Art, and Architecture and a festival hall, in addition to the rehabilitation of its three historic buildings and landscaping design around the site (Q2.1). The size is 7,500 m2, which represents the limit of the complex and an area of 3,500 m2, the latter destined to a garage, car repair shop and about 10 housing plots. Are we right? (Q2.2). We do not understand very well about the houses ... do we have to build schools and houses within the complex? (Q2.3).</p>	<p>(C) <i>The landscaping design of the entire site, containing the summer praying area, a minimum of one ablutions pavilion, Mohammed Al-Nuri tomb and shrine* area, a minimum of 20 parking lots for employees, booths for guards, gates, fences and others.</i></p> <p><i>New buildings: Al Nouri Secondary School, Higher Institute of Islamic Art and Architecture, Festivities Hall, Administration building(s) and Ablutions and Toilets facilities.</i></p> <p>A2.2: <i>The Complex included in the scope of the competition is made up of: the area of 7,500 m2 – called historic area, plus the area of 3,500 m2 – called expansion/extension area. Thus, the total area is about 11,000 m2. The 3,500 m2 had functioned in the past as garages and car repair shops. These functions will not be retained. The area of 3,500 m2 will host the new proposed functions of the Mosque Complex – see point (A) above. In this same area, houses no.8, no.9 and no.10 – see point (B) above, will be rehabilitated and integrated in the new proposed functions and designs.</i></p> <p>A2.3: <i>No. You do not have to build any houses or schools other than the schools mentioned at point (A) - Al Nouri Secondary School and Higher Institute of Islamic Art and Architecture.</i></p>
<p>Q3: Where is the position of qibla-wall in the mosque? Please mark it in the site plan.</p>	<p>A.3: <i>The Qibla wall is the South wall of the Prayer Hall, the wall containing the 3 niches for prayers – Mihrabs. See attached plan – 3Q&A Qibla wall @ Al Nouri Prayer Hall</i></p>
<p>Q4: Page 28, <u>The al-Nouri tomb and shrine</u> Does the shrine and tomb require rehabilitation, redesign, relocation?</p>	<p>A.4: <i>The Mohammed Al-Nuri tomb and shrine does not require relocation. This area is located on the same place as it was at the beginning of the 20th century, when it appeared on the first recorded plan of the Mosque (plan of Ernst Herzfeld and Friedrich Sarre)</i> <i>This area is open for competitors to be improved, re-designed and/or landscaped.</i> <i>Competitors should also design a fence to separate the tomb and shrine area from the main space of the mosque's courtyard.</i></p>
<p>Q5: I have some questions about Building Requirements:</p>	<p>A5: A5.1: <i>For this question, please consult BR.A-100 Al Nouri Mosque Complex – Demolitions plan. The buildings mentioned by you, such as the Imam room, Modern Ablutions and Toilets – found on MC.A-101 Al Nouri Mosque Complex as Existing in 2017, are proposed for demolition according to BR.A-100.</i></p>

Q5.1: there is an area of “MODERN ABLUTIONS AND TOILETS” by the left side of the pray hall, and also an area of “MODERN ABLUTIONS AND TOILETS” and “Imam’s room” on the north side of the site, but the AutoCAD drawing 10.BR.A101 of the building regulations does not show them; are there two areas included? Also, if these two areas are both included, what is the max height of the two areas?

Q5.2: There is a Multi-purpose Hall, the Mainspace Hall is required 300 sqm, and it also said that “If the Festivities Hall is designed located in the proximity of the complex’s WCs (+ablutions)”, but I calculated the AutoCAD drawing of the building regulations, in terms of the “MAXIMUM CONTOUR OF PROPOSED BUILDINGS” on the drawing, the area in the proximity of the complex’s WCs is difficult to accommodate a space of 300 sqm with a regular shape, the general area for a regular-shaped space in the proximity of the complex’s WCs is around 245 sqm.
So my question is: are all the required area sqm of the programming just estimated values? If yes, how much area sqm can we reduce or add for each space of all the program?

Q5.3: For building 8, 9, and 10, my understanding is, even they are considered as part of the competition area, we are not going to do any design on them, is my understanding right? And what is the construction material for their rehabilitation? And can there any space

A5.2: *With regard to the location of the Complex’s ablutions and toilets (WCs), we reiterate that the participants will have to re-design these facilities and re-locate them, as we propose the demolition of the existing ablutions and toilets (WCs).*

According to the Architectural Brief, “these facilities will be designed so that they are located on the main path towards the prayer hall. Possible location: west or north-west of the Prayer Hall. The ablutions and toilets may be designed together or as separate spaces. The toilets facilities must be far from the entrance to the Prayer Hall, and any opening of these facilities directly to it should be avoided. Toilets can be designed to take the influx of people hosted by both the Prayer Hall and the Festivities Hall, if situated in direct or close connection to the latter one. If another design will be adopted, then separate toilet facilities should be proposed for both functions.”

Indicated sqm are an estimation; hence, minor adaptations are allowed, given the overall respect of indicated building program and identified design goals & aims.

A5.3: *Buildings House no.8, no.9 and no.10 will be rehabilitated and integrated in the new designs and functions.*

The walls of these houses are made of stones with gypsum and lime mortars. Many of the ceilings, wherever still present, have been rebuilt with concrete – reinforced concrete slabs, substituting the original ones.

The construction materials to be used for the proposed rehabilitation design should be possibly those traditionally used in the local context, and new materials should ensure minimum compatibility with original ones still preserved.

For materials used in Mosul throughout its history and materials employed in the construction of historic houses, please refer to the Historical Context – Main Features of the Islamic City and Parallels with Mosul, Mosul’s Public Architecture and Mosul’s Residential Architecture.

<p>designed above the rehabilitated buildings 8, 9, and 10?</p>	
<p>Q6: I would like to inquiry about these questions regarding the competition regulations. The first one Q6.1: Is it possible to place the ablution areas on the eastern side of the prayer hall? The second one Q6.2: Is it possible to change the location of the hall outside the expansion? The third one Q6.3: Is the parking areas mentioned in regulations plan meant for visitors or service parking?</p>	<p>A6: A6.1: <i>We would not recommend placing the ablution area on the eastern side because it will be far away from the main entrance in the mosque complex. This ablutions should be situated on the main entrance path from the main access gate to the Prayer Hall.</i> A6.2: <i>We understand you mean the Festivities Hall. In this case, this building should be situated in the Expansion/ Extension area of the Mosque Complex (the area of 3,500m²), on its north side or on its south side. We cannot locate the Festivities hall outside of the Complex area, as defined by the scope of the Competition.</i> A6.3: <i>The parking mentioned in the regulations is the parking dedicated to mosque's employees – see page 37 of the Architectural Brief for more information.</i></p>
<p>Q7: We have some questions regarding the Al Nouri Complex brief, listed below: Q7.1: when you make reference to the new fence that has to be designed, can it be a wall (for example made by brick) or does it have to be a light-construction fence (a metallic one for example)? Q7.2: in the “Deliverables” section, on page 43, what do you mean by “summary statement of the Client’s objectives and the primary factors to be considered by the jury?” Q7.3: Can we propose new functions for the existing buildings, houses no.8, no.9 and no.10, or do they need to be integrated within the Al Nouri secondary school/ Higher Institute of Art and Islamic Architecture?</p>	<p>A7: A7.1: <i>The design of the fence is the choice of the competitor; we recommend this is done with a view and due consideration of the historical surrounding context.</i> A7.2: <i>This will be a brief summary stating the understanding of Client’s objectives, and which are the primary factors that jurors might considered in evaluating the proposed design, based on the given evaluation criteria & goals and aims for the Rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Complex (ref. to p. 23 & 24 of the Architectural Brief).</i> A7.3: <i>No, you cannot propose other functions than the ones specified in the Buildings regulations. The houses no.8, 9 and 10 must be integrated in the new designs and functions, as identified in the building program.</i> A7.4: <i>Yes, access to the upper floors can be made with lifts for the proposed new buildings. However, stairs should be considered as well as lifts cannot replace stairs and they cannot be considered as means of evacuation in case of fire. Participants should make sure that enough stairs (in number, width, location) are designed for evacuation purposes, for all new proposed buildings.</i></p>

<p>Q7.4: “All buildings must be accessible to persons with disabilities, following the general requirements for international disability guidelines.” – can the access to the upper floors of the secondary school and higher institute be made by lift?</p> <p>Q7.5: Does the Higher Institute of Art and Islamic Architecture need to have different classrooms for boys and girls, like in the secondary school?</p> <p>Q7.6: Regarding the summer praying area, does it need an exterior mirahb?</p>	<p>A7.5: <i>No, the Higher Institute of Art and Islamic Architecture does not need to have classrooms segregated on gender. Please, consider that this Institute is for students at the MA/PhD degree levels.</i></p> <p>A7.6: <i>The summer area can have a space for the Imam.</i></p>
<p>Q8: We have some questions about the competition:</p> <p>Q8.1: Will the exterior of the reconstructed Prayer Hall looks the same in volume and material as the 2017 Prayer Hall? Or we can restore (rebuild as 2017) the part resisted from the explosion and re-design the rest of the Prayer Hall? What will change are also the interior spaces, integrated with new functions and the Structure, which will be connected to the existing one. For the interior is planned a complete reconstruction as it was in 2017? The same for the interior decorations?</p> <p>Q8.2: Will the Mosque Garden be re-designed in the same position as the old Garden (2017) or can it be located elsewhere?</p> <p>Q8.3: Houses n.8, 9, 10 can be integrated into the new buildings and functions, or they will only be reconstructed (and re-functionalized) as in the 2017 drawings (as independent buildings).</p>	<p>A8:</p> <p>A8.1: <i>Existing remains will be preserved and will be reshaped with the new structure; according to the Architectural Brief: “this new building, although a replica of the previous one, is expected to skillfully integrate the consolidated remains and use improved materials and constructive techniques, which are physically compatible with the existing ones. Some improvements in the interior organization of the space are expected to be achieved as part of this reconstruction. Such are the creation of dedicated spaces for women, VIPs and Quran readers, as well as a storage and electrical rooms, (detailed in the Chapter “Building Requirements” – please refer to page 40). Furthermore, we recall competitors that the Prayer Hall should be integrated with the new Summer Prayer Hall, whose design is part of the competition’s building program.</i></p> <p>A8.2: <i>We understand that, as Mosque garden, you mean the Green Area present in the 2017 plan of the Mosque Complex; then the location of this garden may be changed and may be split into several green area, depending on the design of the competitor.</i></p> <p>A8.3: <i>The houses no.8, 9 and 10 must be integrated in the new designs and functions, as identified in the building program.</i></p> <p>A8.4: <i>A parking for a minimum of 20 cars should be designed inside the complex area for mosque’s employees. Page 37 of the Architectural Brief reads: “Provide the space for a minimum of 20 parking lots for the complex’s employees. This space is situated inside the complex and should be integrated in</i></p>

<p>Q8.4: We should design a viability network inside the area? And do we have to think about a parking area inside the complex? Or is the whole complex pedestrian?</p>	<p><i>the overall landscape design. The parking can be situated in the extension area entirely, or partially in the expansion and partially in the historic sector of the complex (eastern side), preferably in its northeastern sector.”</i> <i>The complex is pedestrian with the exception of the traffic from the few cars, which will have access inside the complex.</i></p>
<p>Q9: Q9.1: Is there a possibility to change the architectural functions / masses to oblige the given functions? Q9.2: Is there a flexibility in creating different masses, shapes etc.? Q9.3: What are the remaining resources? How many? Q9.4: Is there a possibility of building a basement? Q9.5: Is there a possibility in expanding the prayer zone? Q9.6: Is it possible for other team members; interior design, landscape design to be a part of the team?</p>	<p>A9: A9.1: <i>Functions are those indicated in the Building Program and cannot be changed. It is unclear what the term “masses” stands for; we recommend to reformulate the question</i> A9.2: <i>With regard to the term “masses”, please refer to A9.1. For the maximum proposed contour of new proposed buildings and functions and their maximum heights, please refer to BR.A-101 Al Nouri Mosque Complex Building Regulations drawings.</i> A9.3: <i>It is unclear what the term “resources” refers to. We recommend the competitor to reformulate the question.</i> A9.4: <i>We recommend competitors not to propose new buildings with basements.</i> A9.5: <i>No. The Prayer Hall area is not meant to be expanded</i> A9.6: <i>Yes, team members can be added to the core team even after the registration deadline.</i></p>
<p>Q10: Kindly clarify a couple of concerns for us. Under the Building Regulations guidelines: Q10.1: What exactly is meant by “only two story buildings with maximum three story accents should be proposed for the new buildings”? Q10.2: What is required to be done on Houses no 8, no 9 and no 10 at this stage by the competitors?</p>	<p>A10: A10.1: <i>By two story (English US)/ storey (English UK) buildings we mean a building with ground floor and 1st floor and with 3 story accents – as the 2nd floor.</i> A10.2: <i>The houses no.8, 9 and 10 must be integrated in the new designs and functions, as identified in the building program.</i></p>
<p>Q11:</p>	<p>A11:</p>

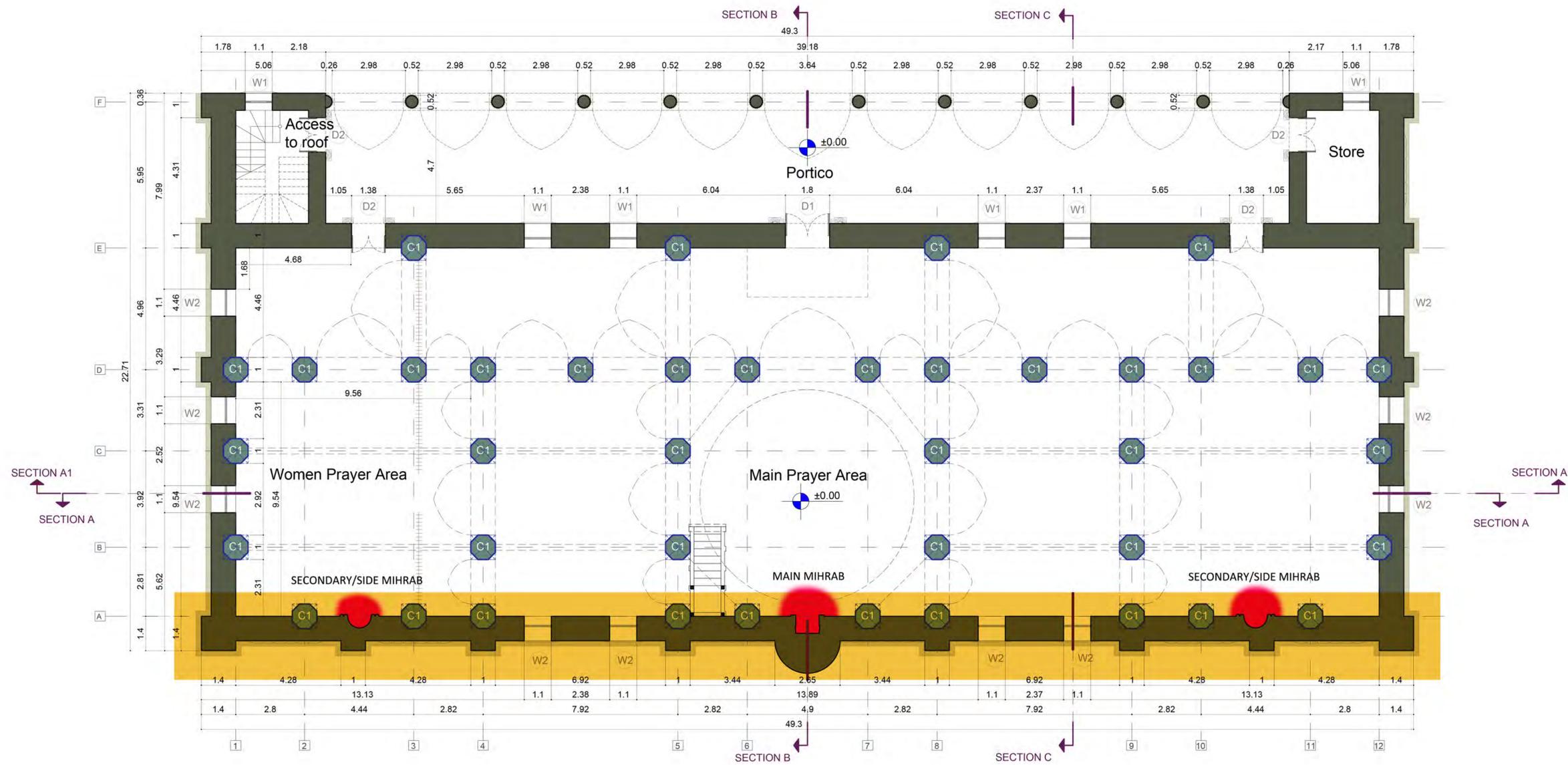
<p>Q11.1: Is there an inventory of the materials or the sources of the materials used on site or in Mosul in General?</p> <p>Q11.2: Is there an inventory of accepted materials suppliers that are active quarriers, brickmakers or stone fabricators in the area.</p> <p>Q11.3: What is the current paving system in Old Mosul? (Internal Research)</p> <p>Q11.4: What will happen with the debris from the bombing?</p> <p>Q11.5: (See attached diagram with site specific questions)</p>	<p>A11.1: <i>For materials used in Mosul throughout its history and materials employed in the construction of historic houses, please refer to the Historical Context – Main Features of the Islamic City and Parallels with Mosul, Mosul’s Public Architecture and Mosul’s Residential Architecture.</i></p> <p>A11.2: <i>The recent history of the country and of the city of Mosul in particular, has negatively impacted on the preservation of some traditional skills, with subsequent absence of such official inventories at the moment. However, traditional materials can be still locally sourced.</i></p> <p>A11.3: <i>For streets being more than 10 m. width, paving is asphalt. For streets of lower width (such as alleys), paving is currently cement mortar.</i></p> <p>A11.4: <i>The debris resulted from the collapsing of structures has been carefully removed, and important historic fragments have been catalogued and stored by the SBAH – State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Iraq. Important fragments – such as the ones of octagonal alabaster columns will be re-used and re-positioned on their previous location inside the Prayer Hall.</i></p> <p>A11.5: <i>See your attached Diagram with answers in red – 11 Q&As</i></p>
<p>Q12: <u>the main entrance of the Mosque has to be situated at an original place ? or we can propose a new main entrance?</u></p>	<p>A12: <i>Please, refer to provisions indicated in BR.A-101 Al Nouri Mosque Complex Building Regulations.</i></p>

ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS:

1. Competitors are informed that the tomb and shrine referred to at p.28 of the Architectural Brief is the one of Mohammed Al-Nuri (ref. also to p.74 for more historical information);
2. With regard to the secondary school for boys and girls, the design should ensure separation by gender. In this regard, it is suggested that the separation happens through horizontal functional distribution (ref. to p. 30 of the brief). Competitors might propose alternative solutions, as far as the segregation is ensured;



3. Competitors are informed that the Complex is meant to be mainly pedestrian and parking lots included in the competition Brief are for employees. However, the Sunni Endowment is planning to arrange a parking space in the area located nearby, south-west to the Complex and at the corner between Farouq and Great Mosque streets.
4. The Al-Hadba Minaret is not included in the scope of the competition. However, competitors are invited to consider this important landmark as a fundamental element of the overall proposed design for the complex.



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Rehabilitation of Al Nouri Mosque Complex and the Reconstruction of Al Nouri Prayer Hall
Architectural Competition - Appendix A

 AL NOURI PRAYER HALL - As Existing in 2017(before the destruction of ISIL)
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1:100 PH.A-100

DESIGN COMMENTS

- ①②③④⑤⑥⑦ houses 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 are all out of our design scope, correct?
- ⑧⑨⑩ houses 8,9,10 are to be redesigned (should be redesigned to be identical to the previous design (in material, elevation and exterior design) or can we proposed a design that can speak to the remaining standing structure?
- ⑪ are all the area indicated in (note 11) suggested for the new functions? Can we suggest new areas for the function to be compatible with the urban design?
- ⑫ Is the rehabilitation of prayer hall (note 12) should be identical to the previous design (in material, elevation and exterior design) while preserving the remaining standing structure? Or can we do a new design for the destroyed prayer hall. A design that can speak to the remaining standing structure?
- ⑬ Is the rehabilitation of structure 13 should be identical to the previous design (in material, elevation and exterior design)
- ⑭ should we design the new building on the North street with 5 meter setback?
- ⑮ should we design the new building on the Farouq street with No setback?
- ⑯ should we design the new building on the Great Mosque street with No setback?
- ⑰ Our design will consider that the temporary structures shall eventually be removed from the site, correct?
- ⑱ To be sure. Hadbaa minaret is out of our design scope, correct?
- ⑲ Can we suggest new landscape/connectivity to the out of scope area (meaning the Hadbaa minaret and the historical dwellings (1-7)?



Al-Nouri Complex layout plan

- 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 - Do not make part of the present architectural design competition.
- 8, 9, 10 - Please see the answers to the other participants questions.
- 11 - NO. Some of the areas marked by you on the plan with no.11, are proposed for demolition, while some are proposed for new functions. Please refer to Appendix B: BR.A-100 Demolitions Plan and BR.A-101 - Building Regulations plan, sections and elevations.
- 12 - Please see the answers to the other participants questions.
- 13 - Represents the Hexagonal Ablutions pavilion which dates from the beginning of the 20th century (around 1925). The structure of this pavilion was reinforced probably in the 1950s, when a concrete supporting structure was added around it. This later intervention will be removed and the Ablutions pavilion will be consolidated and rehabilitated.
- 14 - The building(s) on the North street may be designed with no setback from the street. However, we recommend the portion of the building facing the street not to be higher than 6 meters.
- 15 - The building(s) on Farouq street may be designed with no setback from the street.
- 16 - The building(s) on the Great Mosque street may be designed with no setback from the street.
- 17 - Temporary structures will be removed from the site.
- 18 - Al Hadba minaret is not part of the present architectural design competition.
- 19 - Yes, you can propose connections with the Al Hadba minaret and the northeast dwellings.