

# Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque

The **Nasir al-Mulk Mosque** (Persian: مسجد نصیر الملک *Masjed-e Nasir ol-Molk*), also known as the **Pink Mosque** (مسجد صورتی *Masjed-e Surati*), is a traditional mosque in Shiraz, Iran. It is located in Gawd-i Arabān quarter, near *Shāh Chérāgh Mosque*. It was built during *Qajar dynasty* rule of Iran.

The mosque includes extensive coloured glass in its facade, and displays other traditional elements such as the *Panj Kāse* ("five concaved") design. It is named in popular culture as the 'Pink Mosque',<sup>[1]</sup> due to the usage of a considerable number of pink-colored tiles for its interior design.<sup>[2]</sup>

Contents

History

Orsi: Persian Stained Glass

Gallery

See also

References

External links

## History

The mosque was built during the *Qajar dynasty*, and is still in use under protection by the Endowment Foundation of Nasir al Molk. Construction began in 1876 by the order of the late Hassan Ali Nasir al-Molk, one of the lords and aristocrats of Shiraz, the son of Mirza Ali Akbar Qavam-ol-Molk, the ruler of Fars and was completed in 1888. The designers were Mohammad Hasan-e-Memār, an Persian architect who had also built the noted *Eram Garden* before the Nasir al-Molk Mosque, Mohammad Hosseini Shirazi, and Mohammad Rezā Kāshi-Sāz-e-Širāzi.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Orsi: Persian Stained Glass

Although *stained glass* is mostly popular in churches nowadays, the earliest discovered was in Syria from the 7th century. We do have evidence of techniques and recipes for obtaining stained glass by the Arabic chemist Jabir ibn Hayyan in his book *Kitab al-Durra al-maknuna* (The Book of the Hidden Pearl) published in the eighth century CE.<sup>[4]</sup> Orsi windows are windows made of a mixture of wood and colorful glass in the Safavid and the Qajar dynasties. Orsi differs from stained glass used in many churches and Ottoman mosques which serve as illuminated images rather than a source of light. Light is a major feature in many mosques considering it being a major symbol of God in Islam. This is mentioned in a chapter in Quran:

"Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth"<sup>[5]</sup>

Orsi in Nasir al Molk mosque creates a major definitive feature that makes up the colorful spiritual feeling of awe in the visitor when entering. The main purpose of Orsi is creating colorful light on the interior of the building. The mosque has seven wooden doors with colorful Orsi connecting the interior mosque to the courtyard. Orsi windows are characterized for using geometric shapes in their designs due to the prohibition of images and icons in Islamic art.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Gallery

Nasir al-Mulk Mosque



Religion

Affiliation

Shia Islam

Province

Fars Province

Status

Active

Location

Location

Shiraz, Iran

Municipality

Shiraz County



Shown within Iran

Geographic coordinates

29°36′31″N

52°32′54″E

Architecture

Type

Mosque

Style

Iranian architecture

Completed

1888

Website

http://nasiralmulk.ir/

The roof of Nasir ol-molk mosque

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasir-ol-Molk\_Mosque

1/3





Winter prayer hall



Winter prayer hall



Outside of the mosque



Outside of the mosque at night



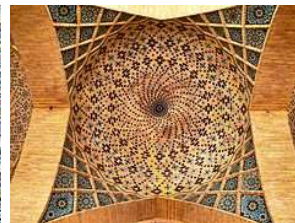
Muqarnas of Nasir-ol-molk Mosque



Ceilings of the winter prayer hall



Decoration of the mosque



Mosaic dome interior



interior



Panoramic view from outside.



Panoramic view from interior.

## See also

- List of mosques in Iran
- Architecture of Iran

## References

1. *Mosque of Whirling Colours: A Mixture of Architecture and Art in Nasir al-Mulk Mosque in Shiraz, Iran* (<http://muslimheritage.com/article/mosque-whirling-colours-mixture-architecture-and-art-nas%C4%ABr-al-mulk-mosque-shiraz-iran>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160511161559/http://muslimheritage.com/article/mosque-whirling-colours-mixture-architecture-and-art-nas%C4%ABr-al-mulk-mosque-shiraz-iran>) 2016-05-11 at the *Wayback Machine*, Cem Nizamoglu, MuslimHeritage.com

2. CNN: *Why your next vacation could be in Iran* (<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/07/09/travel/iran-tourism-persepolis/>), Frederik Pleitgen – 14 July 2015
3. "A Mixture of Architecture and Art in Nasir Al-Mulk Mosque in Shiraz, Iran." Nasir Al-Mulk Mosque, <http://nasiralmulk.ir/>.
4. Al-Hassan, Ahmad Y. "AN EIGHTH CENTURY ARABIC TREATISE ON THE COLOURING OF GLASS: KITĀB AL-DURRA AL-MAKNŪNA (THE BOOK OF THE HIDDEN PEARL) OF JĀBIR IBN ḤAYYĀN (c. 721–c. 815)." *Arabic Sciences and Philosophy*, vol. 19, no. 1, 2009, pp. 121–156.
5. The Qur'an [24:35]
6. Faghihi, Parinaz, et al. "Architectural Glass in the 18th to 20th Centuries in Iran ." *Proceedings of the 5th GLASSAC*, 2017, pp. 43–45.

## External links

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- Nasir ol Molk Mosque on *Art-Days.com* (<http://www.art-days.com/nasir-al-mulk-mosque-iran/>)
  - Nasir ol Molk Mosque on *Albert-Videt.eu* ([http://www.albert-videt.eu/photographie/carnet-de-route/iran\\_10-2006/mosquee-nasir-ol-molk\\_00.php](http://www.albert-videt.eu/photographie/carnet-de-route/iran_10-2006/mosquee-nasir-ol-molk_00.php)) (in French)
  - BBC Persian: Nasir ol Molk ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/interactivity/2008/11/081124\\_userphoto\\_shirazmosque.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/interactivity/2008/11/081124_userphoto_shirazmosque.shtml)) (in Persian)
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