The Sultan Ahmed Mosque is a historic mosque in Istanbul. It was built from 1609-1616, during the rule of Ahmed I. It’s the largest mosque of the classical period. It acts as both a religious centre and a tourist attraction.
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATION

Architect: Sedefkâr Mehmed Ağa
Architectural type: Mosque
Architectural style: Islamic, Late Classical Ottoman

Capacity: 10,000
Length: 72 m (236 ft)
Width: 64 m (210 ft)
Dome height (outer): 43 m (141 ft)
Dome dia. (inner): 23.50 m (77.1 ft)
Minarets: 6
Minaret height: 64 m (210 ft)
Sultan Ahmed I decided to build a huge mosque following the Peace of Zsitvatorok (1606) and the unfavourable result of the wars with Persia.

He used money from the treasury as he had not acquired any war booty.

The mosque faces the Hagia Sophia.

He appointed Sedefkar Mehmed Agha a pupil and senior assistant of the famous architect Mimar Sinan to be in charge of the Mosque construction.

The building was not yet finished in the last year of his reign, as the last accounts were signed by his successor Mustafa I.
The Blue Mosque’s exterior is characterized by the following distinguishable features;

1) facade similar to the Suleymaniye mosque except for additional turrets on the corner dome.

A **turret** is a small **tower** that projects vertically from the wall of a building such as a **medieval castle**. Turrets were used to provide a projecting defensive position allowing covering fire to the adjacent wall in the days of **military fortification**. As their military use faded, turrets were used for decorative purposes, as in the **Scottish baronial style**.
2) A small fountain
3) A court as large as the mosque
4) A hospice
5) One main dome used as a prayer hall
6) Eight secondary domes
7) Ablution facilities
8) Heavy chain that hangs in the upper part of the court entrance on the western side of the mosque
9) 6 minarets
court
Heavy chain on the entrance
6 minarets
Courtyard and ablutions
THE INTERIOR

- Contained tomb of the founder and madrasa..

- The tiles at lower levels are traditional in design, while at gallery level their design becomes flamboyant with representations of flowers, fruit and cypresses.

- The upper levels of the interior are dominated by blue paint.

- The decorations include verses from the Qur'an

- The floors are covered with carpets

- The mosque has been designed so that even when it is at its most crowded, everyone in the mosque can see and hear the imam.

- The many lamps inside the mosque were once covered with gold and gems.
Mehmed was born around 1540. He was believed to be originating from the city of Elbasan in what is now present day Albania. He went to Istanbul in 1563 (possibly to join the janissary corps). After six years as a cadet he began the study of music. During a period of twenty years he specialized with in 'lay in mother-of-pearl', giving him the surname Sedefkâr (worker in mother-of-pearl).

Later he also switched to architecture. He became a pupil of architect Mimar Sinan, Turkey's most celebrated architect, becoming his first assistant.

When Sinan died in 1588, Mehmed Agha, was ironically not appointed as the royal architect.

When in 1591 Mehmed Agha gave the sultan a richly decorated quiver, he was promoted to Chief Bailiff. In the same year he even became lieutenant-governor of Diyarbakır and Inspector of Works.
In 1597 he was appointed Master of the Waterways by Sultan Mehmed III.

He became a royal architect and later in 1606 Mehmed Agha was finally named chief imperial architect to the Ottoman court.

Mehmed Agha had a book on architecture theory written for him by Cafer Efendi where he explained his methods of work and the architectural training of the period.

Mehmed Agha died in 1617 at about the same time as his sultan having completed his mission by adding brighter, colourful architectural style to that of his master teacher, Mimar Sinan.
In 1583-1585, MURADIVE MOSQUE, MANISA

The building was designed by Mimar Sinan but built by Sedefkar Mehmed by order of Murad III, Manisa’s governor.

The mosque is made of cut stone, it has one large central dome and three halfdomes covering the prayer hall. It has a portico covered by five smaller domes and two minarets.

The interior is decorated with Iznik tiles. The mosque is part of a larger complex consisting of a madrasa (Islamic school) and himaret (public charity kitchen).

Most of historic Manisa was destroyed during the Greek army retreat from the city in 1922, the mosque was one of the few buildings to survive. The himaret is now the Manisa Museum.
In 1597
He was given commission for the building of a walnut thrown, in laid with nacre tortoise shell, for Ahmed 1 in the Topkapi palace.
Islamic; Late Classical Ottoman

Islamic architecture: Simple buildings with extensive decorations.

The late classical Ottoman. Introduction of vaults, domes, semi domes and columns. Aimed at technical balance and elegance.
REFERENCE

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Thank you!