

Qarabağ – irsimizin əbədi yaddaşı

**GARABAKH – THE ETERNAL
MEMORY OF AZERBAIJAN HERITAGE**



MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Garabakh

the eternal memory of Azerbaijan heritage

Aghdam Juma Mosque

When Aghdam City became an important regional trade center, one of examples of the 19th century's Garabakh religious architecture was built there.

This site, the Aghdam Juma Mosque, was built by the time's leading Garabakh architect, Kerbalayi Sefi Khan Garabakhi, in 1868–1870.

A traditional four-column-square makes up the prayer hall of the mosque. Three deep niches built both on the eastern and western sides of the square enlarge the hall area and make it rectangular. In the southern wall of the hall, there is a deep mehrab alcove. The top of the side niches represent verandas considered for women to pray. The hall is lighted through windows in the middle of the side verandas and near the mehrab. Very severe, the hall interior attracts attention with an artistic effect of perfect tectonic composition. The decorator's name (Muhammed Neggash Tebrizi, son of the deceased Kerbalayi Neggash Tebrizi) and the repair date (1331 Hijra/1913 AD) are written on the simplistic mehrab niche.

The mosque entry is located in the northern side, within a deep veranda; near the open veranda, there are two-floor rooms. Minarets built in the corners of the northern façade accomplished the mosque symmetry as a square. The mosque has a plan distinguished for its classical simplicity and geometrical pureness and fully meeting functional requirements.

Its inner spaces covered with a dome, beams and beam links, the mosque stone body has a 4-slope solid shield, traditional for the Garabakh zone. Brick minarets rise from edges coming out to the northern façade. The subtle cylindrical volumes of the minarets are divided with horizontal belts, and each part has simple patterns made from brick laying. In this artistic way, the dominant role the minarets play in the mosque composition gets even stronger. The mosque volume composition is entirely simple and severe. Keeping on with the tradition of double minarets Juma mosques, widely spread in medieval Azerbaijan architecture, the architect introduced an original image meeting the time's demands and Garabakh traditions of architecture and construction.