

Exotic Dramatic Fashion Inspired by the Form of Mosque Domes

Sartika, Mirda Aryadi, Novina Yeni Fatrina, Dini Yanuarni

Program Studi Desain Mode, Institut Seni Indonesia Padangpanjang, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

The final project entitled “Exotic Dramatic Style by Applying the Shape of a Mosque Dome” presents a fashion collection inspired by the architectural form of a mosque dome in an exotic dramatic style. This style emphasizes unique, ethnic, and dramatic characteristics through a strong visual appearance using maroon, black, and gold. The dome design is inspired by the areca nut-shaped dome of the Terapung Samudera Ilahi Mosque in Painan. The collection consists of ready-to-wear, ready-to-wear deluxe, and haute couture garments made from bridal satin, silk taffeta, Yamaha satin, and lurik woven fabric. Decorative tassel embroidery, created from circular fabric pieces shaped into cones and combined with beads, emphasizes the three-dimensional dome form while enhancing the garments' aesthetic value. The creative process included field exploration, literature studies, and design development based on the Loud Luxury and Regenerative Craft trends (2025/2026). The final collection comprises Kubahana, Dome of Majesty, and The Golden Arch.

Keywords: *Exotic Dramatic Style, Mosque Dome, Fashion Design.*

Corresponding author

Name: Sartika

Email: sartikap795@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Fashion is not only a basic human need but also a medium for expressing identity, culture, and aesthetic values. Along with the rapid development of the fashion industry, designers continuously explore cultural heritage as a source of inspiration to create innovative works while preserving local identity. One fashion style that has attracted increasing attention is the exotic dramatic style, which combines bold silhouettes with strong ethnic and cultural elements to produce visually striking designs. According to Made et al. (2021), exotic dramatic style is characterized by unique, distinctive, and dramatic forms that integrate cultural influences into contemporary fashion. This approach demonstrates how fashion can function simultaneously as an artistic expression and as a medium for communicating cultural values.

Mosques represent one of the most important architectural symbols in Islamic civilization. Besides functioning as places of worship, mosques also serve as centers of education, social interaction, and cultural development (Apiah et al., 2023). Over time,

mosque architecture has evolved considerably, particularly in the design of domes, which have become the most recognizable visual identity of Islamic architecture. Elliza (2023) explains that a mosque dome is an architectural element positioned at the top of a mosque and commonly designed in a hemispherical or curved form. Mosque domes exist in various forms, including hemispherical, onion-shaped, and areca nut-shaped domes, each reflecting different cultural and regional influences while maintaining symbolic and aesthetic significance.

Among these architectural forms, the areca nut-shaped dome offers a distinctive visual character because of its elongated and pointed silhouette. This form is represented by the dome of the Terapung Samudera Ilahi Mosque in Painan, which creates an elegant and monumental appearance despite its coastal location. Although mosque architecture has been widely discussed from architectural, historical, and religious perspectives, its potential as a source of inspiration for fashion design remains relatively unexplored. Previous studies have mainly focused on ethnic textiles, traditional ornaments, and local motifs as sources of fashion inspiration (Made et al., 2021; Elliza, 2023), leaving limited discussion regarding the transformation of mosque architectural forms into contemporary fashion designs, particularly within the exotic dramatic style.

Based on this gap, this creative research aims to design and realize an exotic dramatic fashion collection inspired by the form of the mosque dome, specifically the areca nut-shaped dome. The collection applies the principles of the Loud Luxury and Regenerative Craft trends for 2025/2026 by transforming the dome's architectural characteristics into garment silhouettes, structural forms, and decorative details. The collection consists of three fashion categories: ready-to-wear, ready-to-wear deluxe, and haute couture, each developed to reflect different levels of complexity while maintaining a consistent design concept.

The contribution of this study lies in presenting an alternative approach to fashion creation by translating mosque architectural elements into contemporary fashion without diminishing their cultural significance. The application of woven fabrics combined with handcrafted tassel embellishments reinforces the three-dimensional interpretation of the mosque dome while enriching the aesthetic value of the garments. This study demonstrates that architectural heritage can serve as an innovative source of inspiration for fashion design, contributing to the preservation of cultural identity while expanding the discourse on culture-based contemporary fashion design.

METHOD

This study employed a practice-based research approach with a qualitative design that emphasizes the process of artistic creation in fashion design. The research focused on transforming the architectural form of the mosque dome into contemporary fashion through the Exotic Dramatic style. This approach was selected because the primary outcome of the study was the creation of fashion works inspired by the areca nut-shaped dome of the Terapung Samudera Ilahi Mosque in Painan. The object of this study was the mosque dome form, particularly the areca nut-shaped dome observed at the Terapung

Samudera Ilahi Mosque in Painan. The dome served as the main source of inspiration for developing three fashion categories: ready-to-wear, ready-to-wear deluxe, and haute couture. Supporting references were obtained from literature on mosque architecture, exotic dramatic fashion, fashion design principles, and contemporary fashion trends, including Loud Luxury and Regenerative Craft for 2025/2026. Data collection was conducted through field observation, literature study, visual documentation, and the creative design process. Field observation focused on examining the visual characteristics of the mosque dome, including its proportions, curvature, pointed apex, and overall structural composition. Literature study was carried out to review previous research related to mosque architecture, cultural aesthetics, and exotic dramatic fashion design. Documentation included photographs, sketches, design references, and records of the production process. The creative process consisted of exploration of the dome form, concept development, fashion sketching, material selection, pattern making, prototype construction, fitting, couture sewing, and the application of tassel embellishment techniques.

The data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis through an artistic design approach. The visual characteristics of the mosque dome were interpreted and transformed into fashion elements such as silhouette, layering, structural details, color composition, and decorative techniques. The analysis process involved evaluating the compatibility between the architectural form and the fashion design concept before realizing the final garments. The final outcomes comprised three fashion collections—ready-to-wear, ready-to-wear deluxe, and haute couture—that represent the adaptation of mosque architectural forms into contemporary exotic dramatic fashion.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

RESEARCH RESULT

Table 1: Design Characteristics

NO	Aspect	result
1	Source of inspiration	<i>Pucuak Rabuang</i> Motif
2	Fashion Style	Exotic Dramatic
3	Silhouette	A-line
4	Dominant Colors	Maroon and Gold
5	Main Materials	Bridal satin, silk taffeta, Yamaha satin, lurik woven fabric
6	Decorative Techniques	Tassel embroidery

Source: Sartika, 2026



Figure 1: Ready to Wear

Ready-to-Wear Collection

The ready-to-wear garment, entitled "Kubahana," was created in the exotic dramatic style and inspired by the architectural form of a mosque dome. The design applies an O-line silhouette, expressed through voluminous shapes and asymmetrical cutting that create a dynamic appearance. The curved form of the mosque dome is translated into the maroon outer garment, combined with lurik woven fabric as a supporting aesthetic element. The back hem of the outer features an asymmetrical diagonal cut, producing a more dynamic visual composition.

The garment consists of three main components: black trousers, a gold inner top, and a maroon outer with lurik woven fabric accents. The mosque dome form is represented through the application of the tassel embellishment technique, which is positioned along the curved sections of the outer garment. Gold thread embroidery is added to complement the tassel decoration. The embellishment creates a raised surface texture that can be both seen and physically felt.

The dominant color palette consists of maroon, gold, and black, reflecting the design concept. The materials used include bridal satin, Yamaha satin, silk taffeta, and lurik woven fabric. Bridal satin is applied to the trousers because of its firm and relatively thick texture. Yamaha satin is used for the inner garment due to its smooth, soft, and glossy surface. Silk taffeta is incorporated to support the structured silhouette, while lurik woven fabric functions as a cultural textile accent within the overall composition.



Figure 2: Ready to Wear Deluxe

Ready-to-Wear Deluxe Collection

The ready-to-wear deluxe garment, entitled "Dome of Majesty," combines modern luxury with inspiration from the architectural form of a mosque dome. The design applies an H-line silhouette, characterized by a structured vest with defined shoulder lines that create a strong and authoritative appearance. The mosque dome is represented through an asymmetrical hemline and gold thread embroidery on the back of the garment, reinforcing its visual identity and decorative elements.

The garment consists of four main components: a black shirt, gold trousers, a maroon vest, and an obi belt made of lurik woven fabric. The distinctive feature of the design is the application of tassel embellishments arranged along the curved lines of the garment, creating a visually textured surface inspired by the mosque dome. Additional decorative techniques include bead embroidery and gold thread embroidery, producing a raised texture that is both visible and tangible. The dominant color palette consists of maroon, gold, and black.

The materials used include Yamaha satin and lurik woven fabric. Yamaha satin provides a smooth, soft, and glossy surface that enhances the garment's elegant appearance. Lurik woven fabric contributes a distinctive woven texture created through traditional weaving techniques, strengthening the cultural character of the design while complementing the luxurious aesthetic of the ready-to-wear deluxe collection.



Figure 3: Haute Couture

Haute Couture Collection

The haute couture garment, entitled "The Golden Arch," presents the characteristics of the exotic dramatic style through the transformation of the architectural form of a mosque dome. The design applies an L-line silhouette, expressed through a long trailing cape, an oversized hood covering the head, and symmetrical curved cuts on the maroon outer garment at both the front and back. The cape also incorporates a mosque dome pattern, emphasizing the architectural inspiration that serves as the central concept of the design.

The garment consists of four main components: a gold mermaid skirt, a black inner garment, a maroon outer, and a cape made of lurik woven fabric. The mosque dome form is represented through the application of tassel embellishments, bead embroidery, and gold thread embroidery. Tassel embellishments are positioned along the curved sections of the garment, while the back of the cape is decorated with gold thread embroidery and the sleeves of the outer garment are enhanced with dangling bead embroidery. These decorative techniques create a raised surface texture that is visually prominent and tactile. The dominant color palette remains gold, maroon, and black, consistent with the previous collections.

The materials used include Yamaha satin and lurik woven fabric. Yamaha satin provides a smooth, soft, and glossy surface that enhances the luxurious appearance of the garment, while lurik woven fabric contributes a distinctive texture produced through traditional weaving techniques. The combination of these materials supports the premium quality and handcrafted characteristics of the haute couture collection..

DISCUSSION

The findings demonstrate that the architectural form of the mosque dome can be successfully transformed into fashion designs through the exotic dramatic style without losing its original visual identity. The application of dome-inspired curved forms, asymmetrical cuts, voluminous silhouettes, and decorative techniques such as tassel embellishment, bead embroidery, and gold thread embroidery produced three fashion

categories—ready-to-wear, ready-to-wear deluxe, and haute couture—with distinct characteristics. The combination of maroon, gold, and black, together with Yamaha satin and lurik woven fabric, reinforced the luxurious and ethnic appearance while preserving the cultural inspiration behind the design.

These findings are consistent with previous studies stating that the exotic dramatic style emphasizes unique forms, strong silhouettes, cultural identity, and expressive decorative details (Moray et al., 2022; Windari et al., 2023). The transformation of architectural elements into fashion design also supports the concept that cultural and architectural heritage can become valuable sources of creative inspiration (Maulana, 2020). Furthermore, the use of embroidery and bead embellishment as decorative techniques is in line with studies highlighting their contribution to enhancing the aesthetic value and surface texture of fashion products (Sofariah et al., 2022; Adini & Hidayati, 2024). Unlike previous studies that mainly explored traditional motifs and cultural ceremonies, this work introduces the mosque dome as the primary design inspiration, offering a different approach to developing architectural forms into contemporary fashion.

This study has several limitations. The creative process focuses primarily on the visual transformation of the mosque dome and does not evaluate consumer perceptions, garment comfort, production efficiency, or market acceptance. In addition, the collection consists of only three prototype garments, limiting the generalization of the design approach to broader fashion production.

The results provide practical implications for fashion designers by demonstrating that architectural heritage can serve as an innovative source of inspiration for contemporary fashion design. Future studies may investigate consumer responses, ergonomic performance, sustainability of materials, and commercial feasibility, as well as explore other architectural or cultural elements as inspirations for fashion collections with different stylistic approaches.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that the architectural form of the mosque dome can be successfully transformed into contemporary fashion through the exotic dramatic style. The creative process resulted in three categories of garments—ready-to-wear, ready-to-wear deluxe, and haute couture—each incorporating dome-inspired forms through silhouette development, asymmetrical structures, and decorative techniques, including tassel embellishment, bead embroidery, and gold thread embroidery. The use of Yamaha satin, bridal satin, silk taffeta, and lurik woven fabric, combined with a maroon, gold, and black color palette, successfully created garments that reflect both luxurious aesthetics and cultural identity.

This work contributes to the development of fashion design by demonstrating that architectural elements can serve as a valuable source of creative inspiration for contemporary clothing. Future research is recommended to explore other forms of Islamic or traditional architecture as design inspiration, evaluate user perceptions and market

acceptance, and investigate sustainable materials and production techniques to support the development of culturally inspired fashion collections.

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