

PRESS RELEASE - for immediate release

Amsterdam, September 15th 2015

Renovation of Kocatepe Mosque, Rotterdam (Netherlands)

On September 12th 2015, Ms. Jet Bussemaker, Minister of Education, Culture and Science (OC & W) visited the Kocatepe Mosque in Rotterdam as part of *Sustainability National Monuments (Verduurzaming Rijksmonumenten)*, a pilot program aiming to stimulate sustainability in Dutch monumental buildings. For the pilot program with a total budget of 10 million Euros, 18 buildings were selected including the Kocatepe Mosque in Rotterdam.

The mosque was established in 1995 however the building dates back to 1926. Also present at the event was prof. Mr. Pieter van Vollenhoven, the former Chair of the Dutch National Restoration Fund (*Nationaal Restauratiefonds*). He remains involved in the renovation, restoration and relocation of monumental buildings in the Netherlands. Current Chair of the National Restoration fund Ms. Willemijn Maas also attended.



Ms. Bussemaker (middle) and Mr. Van Vollenhoven (left) at the Kocatepe Mosque in Rotterdam.

AS Architecture

Recently, the activities for the renovation of the mosque have started. *AS Architecture* has been chosen as the lead architect for the renovation project. Director Ms. Arzu Senel presented the guests on the efforts to turn the mosque into an innovative and sustainable entity. Following the completion of renovations, the energy efficiency of the building will improve dramatically. Additionally, 22 apartments for Rotterdam elderly Turkish community will be established within the building complex, an innovation of its own. Also the outdoor area surrounding the complex will be renovated by *AS Architecture*.

Iznik Tiles

Iznik Tiles and Ceramics (Iznik NL) were asked to participate and present their activities to revive and promote the Art of Iznik. The company produces fully handmade tiles and ceramics in the ancient tradition of Iznik tile-making. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Iznik quartz tiles have been applied to prominent mosques built during the Ottoman empire.

Today, Iznik Tiles and Ceramics is proud to have completed many successful hand-made tiling projects in mosques worldwide. Mr. Mehmet Akbaygil, Director of Iznik NL talked about the way the organization collaborates with knowledge institutions such as the Eindhoven *Design Academy* to further stimulate the revival of the Iznik ceramic art.



Al Aqsa Restoration tiles

As a gesture, the Board of the Kocatepe Mosque presented each of the three main guests a limited edition tile that were part of the restoration of the Al Aqsa Mosque complex in Jerusalem in 2010. Iznik Tiles and Ceramics has been asked to restore one of the buildings at the Al Aqsa Mosque complex, one of the most sacred Muslim places in the world.

For more information on the Kocatepe project, please visit the [website](#) of the Mosque or the [website](#) of AS Architecture.



Note for the editor: Not for publication: for questions or additional information please contact Iznik Tiles and Ceramics (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Mr. Floris Meijer (floris.meijer@iznik.nl) / +31 6 1914 47404).