

House of Peace

Harmony through Imagery



Detail, Circle of Peace



The Western Wall



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre



The Dome of the Rock

The House of Peace project centres on five paintings but also uses photography and cinematography to illustrate peace. Jeremy Hunter's photographs of religious celebrations show the importance of faith in people's lives. This is also true of the Faith Shorts film clips made by young people, provided through The Maimonides Foundation's association with The Tony Blair Faith Foundation.

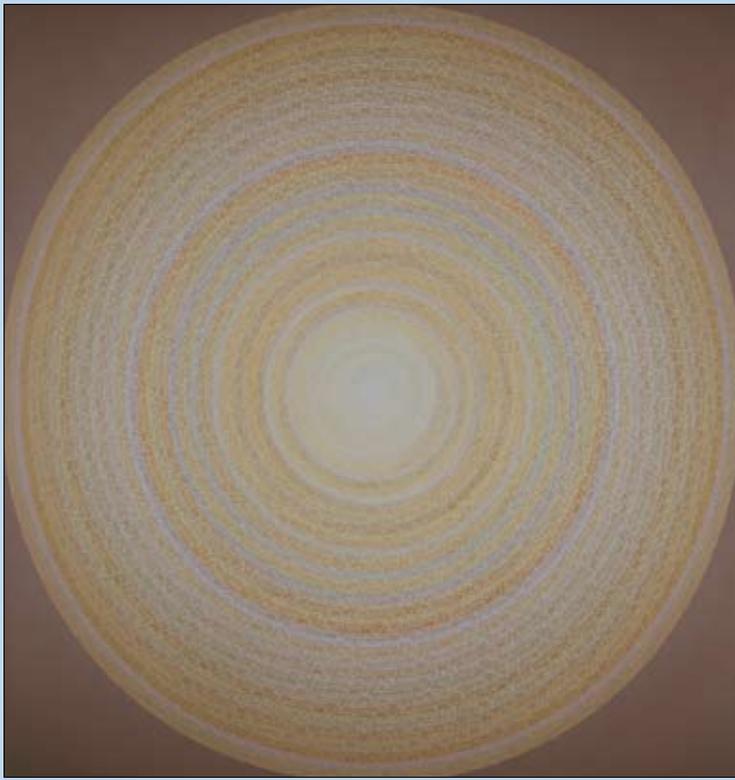
The five paintings will be on display in London during the Olympics in 2012, inside a circular pavilion designed by Sir Michael Hopkins. The paintings will illustrate to the visitor that Jerusalem has been shared by the people of 'The Book', as a pinnacle of peace, tolerance and harmony

Peace and harmony among the three great monotheistic faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – has always been my dream. As a patron of the arts, I have wanted to make a statement that expresses interfaith understanding through art. For this reason I initiated The House of Peace project in 1998, commissioning five large paintings from the artist Ben Johnson which, when shown together, create a vision of peace among the three Abrahamic faiths. The largest painting is a 4 x 2 m panoramic view of Jerusalem. Three others, each 2m², depict holy sites in Jerusalem: the Western Wall; the Christian Quarter, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; and the Dome of the Rock. The fifth painting, the Circle of Peace, which I designed, is a kaleidoscope of the word peace in Hebrew, English, and Arabic. It centres on the eternal light surrounded by the name of God in these three languages. I hope that by exhibiting this 'House of Peace' around the world it might, in some small way, bring Jews, Christians, and Muslims together and demonstrate that there is far more that unites them than divides them.

Professor Nasser D. Khalili, KCSS, KCFO
Chairman
The Maimonides Foundation



Jerusalem - The Eternal City

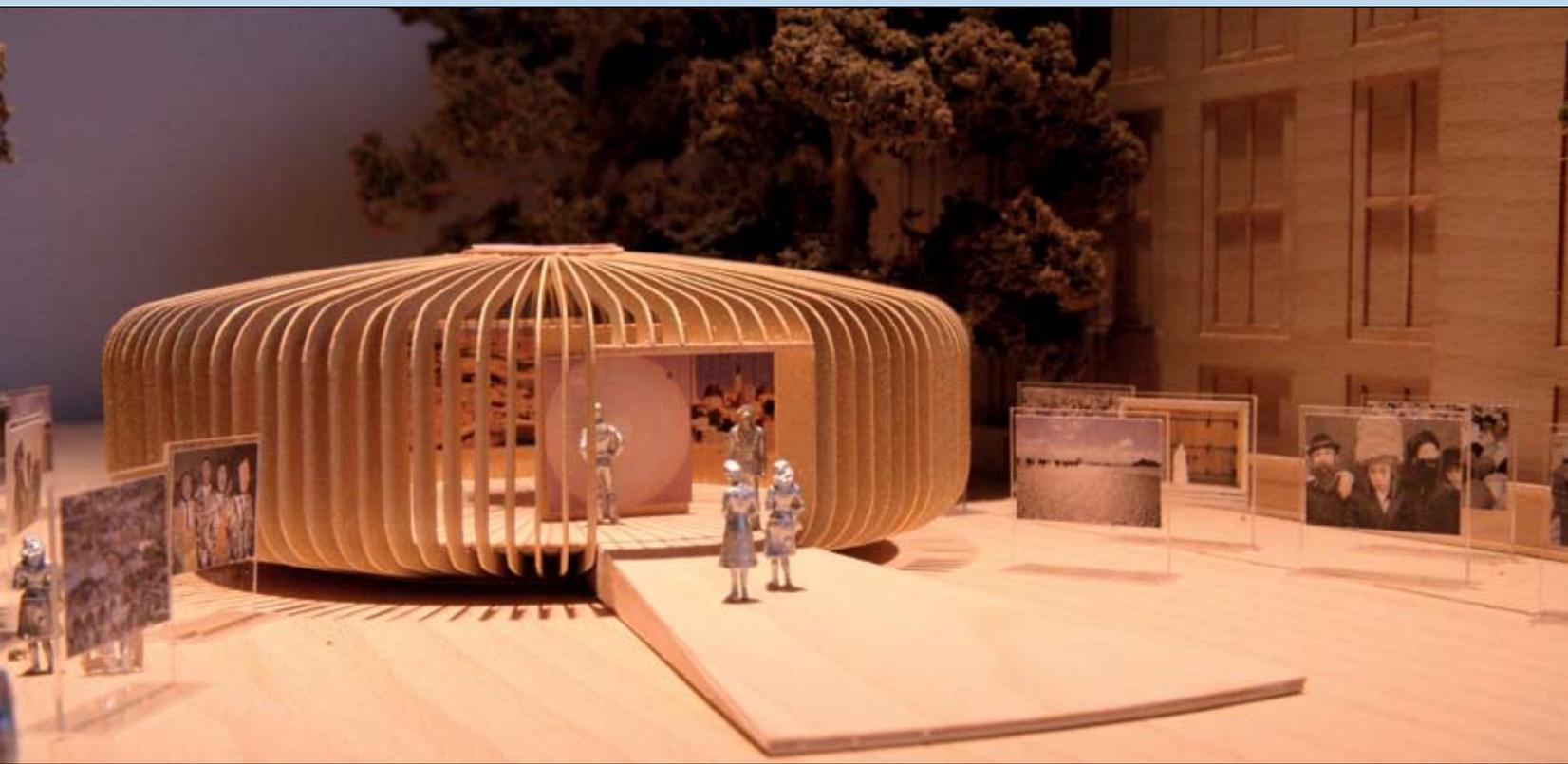


Circle of Peace

Moses Maimonides was a major Jewish philosopher, theologian, and leader of a Jewish community in the 12th century. He was born in Cordoba, the greatest centre of Jewish learning and Islamic culture at the height of the Golden Age of the Jews and Muslims in Spain. During his life he worked in the court of the Muslim leader Saladin in Egypt, where he was not only tolerated but became the court physician.

Maimonides' life is a symbol of the best of our common past and of human kind's ability to transcend and overcome intolerance, hatred, bigotry, and ignorance. He was the product of an era of enlightened religious tolerance; these are ideals which we in the Maimonides Foundation try to emulate. Albert the Great and St Thomas Aquinas read Maimonides' works, and still today he proves immensely important in both theological and philosophical circles.

Since 1995 The Maimonides Foundation has fostered understanding and co-operation between Jews, Christians, and Muslims through cultural, academic, and sporting programmes. The foundation is committed to creating opportunities where these communities can meet and interact because we believe that dialogue is the only positive means of living in harmony in a multi-religious and multi-cultural society.



Sir Michael Hopkins' design of the House of Peace pavilion.



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