"When I invited Professor Maki, a master of form and light, to design this building, I made a suggestion to him -- one that I hoped would help connect this place symbolically to the Faith of Islam. The suggestion I made focused on creating a certain mystique, centred around the beautiful mysteries of rock crystal.... It is because of these qualities that rock crystal seems to be such an appropriate symbol of the profound beauty and the ever-unfolding mystery of Creation itself -- and the Creator. As the Holy Qur’an so powerfully affirms, 'Allah is the Creator and the Master of the heavens and the Earth.' And then it continues: 'Everything in the heavens and on Earth, and everything between them, and everything beneath the soil, belongs to Him.' ... Using rock crystal’s iridescent mystery as an inspiration for this building, does indeed provide an appropriate symbol of the Timelessness, the Power and the Mystery of Allah as the Lord of Creation.

"What we celebrate today can thus be seen as a new creative link between the spiritual dimensions of Islam and the cultures of the West. Even more particularly, it represents another new bridge between the peoples of Islam and the peoples of Canada."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2008 speech at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat Opening Ceremony (Ottawa, Canada)

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