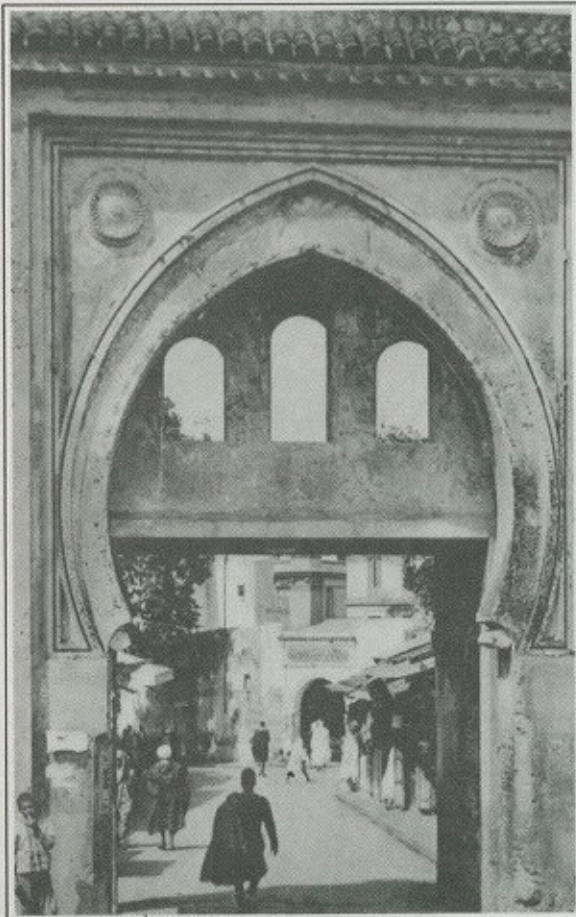




AKP

newsletter



"Tanger, Porte du Grand Socco," a vintage postcard, circa 1912, from Harvard's Fine Arts Library.

The AKP Library Collections

Thanks to Aga Khan Program funds, Harvard's and MIT's library collections in Islamic art, architecture, and urbanism have grown considerably in the past ten years. Program funds enabled the Rotch Library at MIT to first initiate and then build a collection. And Harvard's already unique collections have been extended under Program auspices, making them what might well be the most complete collections in Islamic art, architecture, and urbanism in the world. Below is a profile of each collection.

The AKP Collections at Harvard

The focus of Harvard's collection is primarily art historical, spanning the period since the rise of Islam and covering scholarly material in the field of Islamic art and architecture, as well as related fields of study. Both the print and non-print collections are especially strong in the Islamic Middle East, the Mediterranean world, Iran, India, and Central Asia.

The collection's size is difficult to determine. AKP bibliographer, András Riedlmayer, nonetheless roughly estimates printed material at 16,000 volumes—to which 545 items have been added in the past year. Noteworthy acquisitions include the *Procès-Verbaux* of meetings of the Comité de conservation des monuments de l'art Arabe (Cairo, 1883-1951), an illustrated compendium of early conservation work on the Islamic monuments of Egypt, and *Thirty Six Views of Ancient and Modern Egypt* (London, 1887), a rare and beautiful book featuring Islamic monuments of Egypt as they were in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Visual documentation is estimated at 120,000 images, almost half of which have been acquired under the aegis of the AKP. This year a total of

Interview with Margaret Sevcenko, AKP editor

Mrs. Margaret Sevcenko has been involved with the AKP since "even before it began." In the words of Professor Oleg Grabar, "The Program would not have existed without her. She was the midwife and the pediatrician who was present at the Program's birth and helped it in its youth." After depositing our first funds, setting up our first accounts, and ordering our first desks, "Margie" handled the AKP's administration until 1984, when she focused strictly on Program publications. Given her insight, sense of history, and sense of humor, Margie remains indispensable to the AKP.



Q: What is your relation to the publisher?

M: Our publications are produced essentially in two ways. First there are those that the Program produces and then distributes itself, or through some other distribution agency. These include bibliographies, proceedings of conferences, annual reports and the like and tend to be rather informal in format. Recently the Unit for Housing has also begun work on a set of teaching materials, which will also be produced in this way. Secondly, we sponsor an annual collection of article-length studies on the history of Islamic art and architecture called *Muqarnas* and a series of longer studies on the same topics known as the *Muqarnas* supplements. Both of these are edited here but published by the firm of E.J. Brill in Leiden. In the future I think we may try publishing more ourselves—especially sourcebooks and other translations of important primary and secondary sources, which seem to fill a particular need—and use other agencies for distribution. It is a much quicker way of publishing, and though it involves a heavier initial investment than the subventions we normally provide to publishers, it may in the long run prove to be more economical as well.

Q: What about your most recent work?

M: Our two most recent projects have been sourcebooks. Both were prepared in conjunction with special exhibitions. The first is a collection of Timurid sources by Professor W.M. Thackston, Jr., of Harvard, entitled *A Century of Princes*;

Continued on page 5

Urban Growth: Economic Opportunity or Hardship?

The Aga Khan Unit for Housing and Urbanization at the Harvard Graduate School of Design cosponsored the workshop, "Urban Strategies for Economic Development: Towards an Agenda for the 90s" with the World Bank this past September. It was attended by fifty-five participants, among them officials from the Ministries of Housing and Public Works of Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Congo, Gabon, and Guinea. The three-day workshop dealt with the development of new urban strategies for the 1990s, with a particular emphasis on public and private sector cooperation and the challenges facing Africa. According to Alfredo Soto, chief of the Infrastructure Operations Division at the World Bank's Department of Central Africa, rapid urban growth coupled with a grim economic picture in Sub-Saharan Africa makes the development of new urban strategies particularly urgent. The workshop covered three major themes—infrastructure and land development; housing and municipal services; and urban institutions and decentralization—exploring how various urban development models and institutional frameworks "can influence the direction or quality of urban growth at a time when public resources are shrinking," according to François Vigier, Director of the Unit for Housing and Urbanization. ■

Q: Can you talk about the publications component of the AKP? What are the goals and presuppositions guiding your work?

M: The stated goal when the Program first began was to publish research on Islamic art and architecture and to disseminate it broadly, especially in the Islamic world, but we immediately ran into many practical problems. Just to give two very mundane examples: it costs twice as much to mail a book as to print it, and most countries do not allow the export of dollars so we had no way of getting repaid; on the other hand, we were not funded to hand out free volumes airmailed to some far-off land. Very soon then we found ourselves falling back to more traditional means and markets, and it is only recently that we are beginning to turn up avenues that might lead to at least some limited publication in a few third-world countries, if not in the area as a whole. So perhaps we will be able to get closer to that original purpose in the future.

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1989 Entering Students

S.M.Arch.S. degree

Design for Islamic Societies Unit, Department of Architecture, MIT:

Iftekhar Ahmed has had much experience in vernacular and ecologically sensitive design. After completing his B.Arch. at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur in 1987, Iftekhar engaged in "Earth Architecture" studies in West Germany and New Cuyama, California. While at MIT, Iftekhar hopes to expand his exposure to the social and cultural dimensions of design.



Naji Maher Al-Hasani

Naji Maher Al-Hasani, after graduating from the University of Beirut with a degree in Archaeology and Architecture, came to the U.S. to study historical preservation at Columbia University. Since then, he has worked for the Landmarks Preservation Commission in New York City and for the Hariri Foundation. Naji has organized fieldwork in rural community development in Lebanon and has

published an article, "Methodology for Conservation of War-Damaged Structures in Downtown Beirut" in *ICOMOS* (April/June 1988).

Basel Kotob, from Damascus, Syria, completed a year-long, pre-engineering course at Beirut University College before coming to the U.S. to study architecture at the University of Arizona. He graduated with a B.Arch. this past May.

Hafiz-Ur-Rehman Sherali was a recording engineer for His Highness the Aga Khan Ismaili Association for Pakistan, as well as a member of the audio recording team for the Karachi Seminar sponsored by the AKP in 1981. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1988, Hafiz worked at Design Synthesis Inc. of Vancouver for a year. Hafiz plans to study Islamic issues in a global context at MIT.

Hatice Yazar graduated from the School of Architecture at Carleton University, Ottawa. Before joining the AKP, Hatice worked for a Toronto-based architectural firm and co-authored a paper entitled, "Implicit Intentions and Explicit Order in Sinan's Work."



Hatice Yazar

Ph.D. degree

History, Theory and Criticism Program, Department of Architecture, MIT:

Shirine Hamadeh has worked with Grassroots International here in Cambridge and has helped house refugees in Beirut. She received a B.Arch. from the American University of Beirut and an M.Arch. in Urban Design from Rice University in Texas. Her professional experience spans the distance between Beirut and California.



DIS Studio Workshop Review

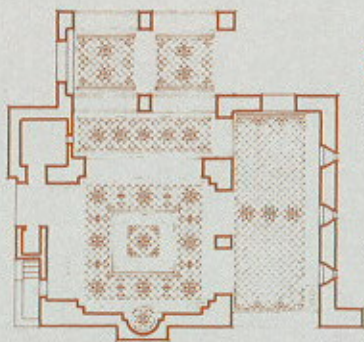
Ph.D. degree

Department of Fine Arts, Harvard University:

May Farhat received her B.A. in history from the American University of Beirut and an M.A. in art history from the University of Victoria, Canada. She is interested in the development of Islamic architecture in relation to rituals, institutional evolution, and political and social changes.

Cigdem Kafescioglu received an B.A. in history and M.A. in art history from Bogazici University in Istanbul. She is interested in Ottoman art and architecture, particularly its conceptualization by the Ottoman artist, patron, and society.

Leslie Poe received a B.A. in international affairs from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Virginia. He will work on a joint degree between the Department of Fine Arts and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, concentrating on symbolism in Islamic art and its relation to other forms of cultural knowledge.



*Corniche Mosque, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Architect, Abdel Wahed El-Wakil, London*

Restoration and Rehabilitation

- Restoration of the Great Omari Mosque (*Sidon, Lebanon; client, The Department of Islamic Awqaf, Sidon; architect, Saleh Lamei Mostafa, Cairo; patron, Rafiq al-Hariri, Paris*).
- Rehabilitation of Asilah (*Asilah, Morocco; client, Local Population and the Municipality of Asilah; patrons, Al-Mouhit Cultural Association, Asilah*).

Social Development

- Grameen Bank Housing Programme (*Bangladesh; clients, Landless Members of Grameen Bank; planners, Grameen Bank, Dhaka*).
- Citra Niaga Urban Development (*Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia; client, Municipal Government, Samarinda; developer, PT Pandurata Indah, Samarinda; architects, Antonio Ismael, PT Triaco and PT Griyantara Architects, Jakarta; sponsor, Institute for Development Studies, Jakarta; users, Koperasi Pedagang Pasar, Samarinda*).

Architecture

- Gürel Family Summer Residence (*Çanakkale, Turkey; client, Gürel family, Istanbul; Architect, Sedat Gürel, Istanbul*).
- Hayy Assafarat and Al-Kindi Plaza (*Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; client, Arriyadh Development Authority, Riyadh; landscape architects, B.B.W., Düsseldorf; architects, Beech Group Consultants*).



Sidi el-Aloui Primary School, Tunis, Tunisia, Association de la Sauvegarde de la Médina

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture Recipients, 1989

1989-90 VISITING SCHOLARS

Tulay Artan received her Ph.D. this past June from MIT's History, Theory and Criticism program. She is now a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard's Fine Arts Department for this academic year, working on architecture and its patronage in eighteenth-century Istanbul.

Nusret Çam, a member of the Faculty of Divinity at Ankara University, will be here in the spring term to work on his project, "Ottoman Turkish Cities in Gravures, Paintings and Photographs."

Rifat Chadirji, architect, critic, and teacher from Iraq, received the Aga Khan

Chairman's Award in 1986. While in Cambridge, he will develop a theory of architecture and architectural aesthetics.

Lauro Olmo Enciso is an assistant professor and archaeologist at the University of Madrid, specializing in Islamic and Christian medieval archaeology in Spain. He arrived in September under the auspices of the Fulbright program.

Mohammad-Reza Haeri, an Iranian architect and urban planner, joined the Program in December. He describes his project as "Recovering the Architectural Legacy of Kashan."

Deborah Howard is a member of the Department of Architecture at the University of Edinburgh. While at Harvard for the spring semester, she will be working on the architectural impact of the Eastern Mediterranean tradition on Venetian architecture.

Luo Xiaowei is a professor of architecture at Tongji University, Shanghai. This spring semester she is studying the theory and methodology of architectural comparison.

Hugh O'Neill, an architect from Australia, when he arrives in April will continue work on his book, "Islamic Architecture in Indonesia," which he began

last spring as a visiting scholar with the Aga Khan Program.

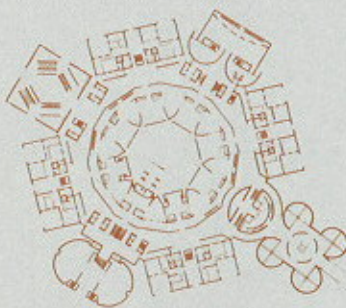
Hamman Tukur Saad is a Reader in architecture at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. While at MIT this spring semester, Professor Saad intends to revise his dissertation, which studies the aesthetics of Hausa mud architecture, in order to publish it as a book.

1990-91
Application
Deadline
March 1

For guidelines and application forms contact:
AKP Central Office

- Sidi el-Aloui Primary School (*Tunis, Tunisia; clients, Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique and Ministère de l'Equipement et de l'Habitat, Tunis; architect, Association de la Sauvegarde de la Médina, Tunis*).
- Corniche Mosque (*Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; client, Jeddah Municipality; architect, Abdel Wahed El-Wakil, London*).
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; client, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Riyadh; architect, Henning Larsen, Copenhagen*).
- National Assembly Building (*Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh; client, Public Works Department, Dhaka; architect, Louis I. Kahn, Philadelphia*).
- Institut du Monde Arabe (*Paris, France; client, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; architects, Jean Nouvel, Gilbert Lezénés and Pierre Soria with Architecture Studio, Paris; architectural consultant, Ziyad Ahmed Zaidan, Jeddah*).

For further information on the above awards, contact the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, 32, chemin des Crêts-de-Pregny, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.



National Assembly, Dhaka, Louis Kahn

Thoughts on the 1989 Award Ceremony by Nasser Al-Rabbat

The celebration in Cairo, Egypt, that marked the announcing of the 1989 Aga Khan Awards for Architecture began on the evening of October 14 with a welcoming reception given by His Highness the Aga Khan, followed by a marvelous dinner in the garden of the Manial Palace Hotel, a most appropriate structure for a celebration of Islamic architecture. The hotel was built in the early twentieth century by Prince Muhammad Ali, a cousin to King Farouk of Egypt, as an expression of his vision of the architecture of Andalus and other Islamic regions. The Award ceremony itself took place at the Citadel of Cairo in the space bounded on the south by the imposing mosque of Muhammad Ali, and from the east, by the serene mosque of al-Nasir Muhammad, two great monuments spanning six centuries of Islamic architectural achievement. The banquet, a refined blend of Arabic and European cuisines, was held on the west terrace of the mosque of Muhammad Ali, so that the guests had a breathtaking view of the spectacular city of Cairo, stretching all the way to the pyramids of Giza.

Two days later, on October 16, a seminar was held in the Marriott Hotel, a converted nineteenth-century palace whose decoration, it is believed, is owed in part to the nineteenth-century English designer, Owen Jones. At the seminar, the winning projects were introduced by a member of the technical review

committee, explained by the respective architect, and evaluated by patrons. These presentations were followed by discussions and debates. That evening, the participants were invited by Mr. Farouk Husni, Egypt's Minister of Culture, to dine at the Mena House Hotel, the famous nineteenth-century resort facing the Pyramids of Giza.

Nasser Al-Rabbat, a Ph.D. candidate at MIT's History, Theory and Criticism Program, attended the 1989 Aga Khan Award ceremony in Cairo. He is the author of The Citadel of Salah al-Din, a booklet produced especially for this year's ceremony.



Interview, continued from page 2

the second, just released, is a collection of sources on the Taj Mahal by Professor W.E. Begley of the University of Iowa. Both, as it happens, were produced almost entirely by their authors, who turned out to be skilled designers and typesetters as well as scholars and linguists. The first we are distributing ourselves; the second will be distributed in this country through the University of Washington Press and separately by another distributor in India. If this second form of distribution proves successful it may well provide a model for future projects that will enable us to reach a far broader market than we have managed thus far.

Q: What is your role in getting manuscripts published?

M: For all publications my task is to edit and prepare text and illustrations for production. In the case of in-house publications I also work closely with Peter Clemons, our local design-and-layout person. In the case of outside publications, production is left to the publisher, and

my tasks are restricted to the more traditional editorial ones of making texts readable, marking copy, reading proof, and running herd on authors.

Q: What would you like to see happen with the publications program?

M: First, I wish we could find more interpretive and synthetic work to publish. Most of the work submitted to us is intensely specialized. It would be nice occasionally to deal with a broader picture. I also hope that slowly we will be able to fulfill our obligation of helping to provide the Third World countries with information about their artistic heritage. There are still many schools and universities out there that lack both printed and visual material, and we have not done as much as I would have liked to remedy that. Aside from the few books taken along by travelers, our publications have yet to reach a large part of the audience for which they were intended. □

News from Faculty and Staff

Stanford Anderson, chair of the Department of Architecture's History, Theory and Criticism Program at MIT, was recently awarded the Graduate Student Teaching Award in the Department of Architecture by the Graduate Student Council. This March, he will chair a session entitled "Historiography and Architecture" at the Society of Architectural Historians' annual meeting in Boston.

Akhtar Badshah, a research associate and lecturer with the DIS unit, was a coordinator for an international collaborative workshop, The Southeast Asian City of the Future, held in Jakarta this January.



Rafique Keshavjee

Rafique Keshavjee, research associate for the Aga Khan Unit for Housing and Urbanization at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, has been appointed Associate Dean for Programs at the Institute for Ismaili Studies in London, starting January 1, 1990. Rafique's new post entails, among other things, assistance in developing the Aga Khan University's Faculty of Islamic Humanities. We wish him all

the best and look forward to future collaboration.

Omar Khalidi, reference librarian for the AKP at the Rotch Architecture Library, has been busy attending the following conferences: the Congress of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists held in Istanbul last May, the Middle East Studies Association and Middle East Librarians' Association annual meetings held concurrently in Toronto this past November, and the International Seminar on the Persian Gulf, held in Tehran this past November.

Masood Khan, a lecturer in the Design for Islamic Societies unit at MIT, served as a discussant at the Islamic Environmental Design Research Center's Fifth International Seminar, held at the University of Rome this past June.

Gülru Necipoglu receives our congratulations on her promotion to associate professorship by Harvard University's Fine Arts Department and her appointment by the Governing Board of Harvard University as the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities, a six-year appointment recognizing outstanding achievement in teaching, research, and departmental citizenship. She has finished preparing her dissertation for publication (by the Architectural History Foundation and MIT Press). In addition, her article "Sultan Süleyman and the Representation of Power in a Context of Ottoman-Hapsburg-Papal Rivalry" appeared in this September's *Art Bulletin*. Professor Necipoglu is currently

researching Timurid architectural drawings and design conventions based on scroll fragments found in Istanbul and Tashkent.



Gülru Necipoglu

William Porter, director of the AKP's Information Services and Technology unit and the head of MIT's Department of Architecture, has been reorganizing the Architecture Department. By subdividing it into five official 'clusters'—Design; Building Technology; History, Theory and Criticism; Environment and Method; and Visual Arts—Professor Porter aims to expand and enrich the context for the theory and practice of architecture, thus providing stability while cultivating excellence. In addition, Professor Porter served as a member of the Master Jury for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture this year, published an article, "Caring About Places: Future Places," in *Places* [1988; 4(3):2], and was the principal

in charge of "Tanglewood, A Planning Study," prepared for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His current work involves a workshop on Louis Kahn's Capitol Complex, to be held in Dhaka next year.

András J. Riedlmayer, bibliographer for the AKP at Harvard's Fine Arts Library, participated in a workshop, "Ottoman Sources for the Period 1580-1650," held this past June in Vörösbény, Hungary. His presentation "Inshâ: Ottoman Copybooks of Correspondence as a Historical Source" will form part of a bibliographic handbook on Ottoman sources to be published early this year. In addition, Mr. Riedlmayer attended the Middle East Studies Association and Middle East Librarians' Association annual meetings held concurrently in Toronto this past November.

Mona Serageldin, associate director of the AKP Unit for Housing and Urbanization, presented a paper, "Financing Upgrading Programs" in Cairo at a December 1989 conference co-sponsored by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and Helwan University.



Ikem Okoye (Ph.D. cand., HTC, MIT), left, and Ronald Lewcock, right, at AKP Fall Reception

Student Happenings

Khaled Asfour (Ph.D. cand., HTC, MIT), passed his oral exams, and is now collecting information for his dissertation on a grant from the American Research Center in Cairo for this academic year. When the Aga Khan Awards ceremony was taking place in Cairo this past October, Khaled acted as a tour-guide for some of the participants.

Khalil Assassa (S.M.Arch.S., DIS, MIT) is still recovering from a back operation he underwent last spring.

Rebecca Foote (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) participated in the University of Chicago's excavation at Aqaba in December.

Kara Hill (Ph.D. cand., HTC, MIT), has a Fulbright for study in France this academic year.

Sabri Jarrar (S.M.Arch.S., DIS, MIT) spent the summer in Egypt as an intern for Jordanian architect Rasem Badran.

Basel Kotob (S.M.Arch.S., DIS, MIT) was an intern with the local architectural firm, Akira Yamashita and Associates, this past January.

Kayed Lakhia (S.M.Arch.S., DIS, MIT) was an intern for the Stari Grad project in Mostar, Yugoslavia this past sum-

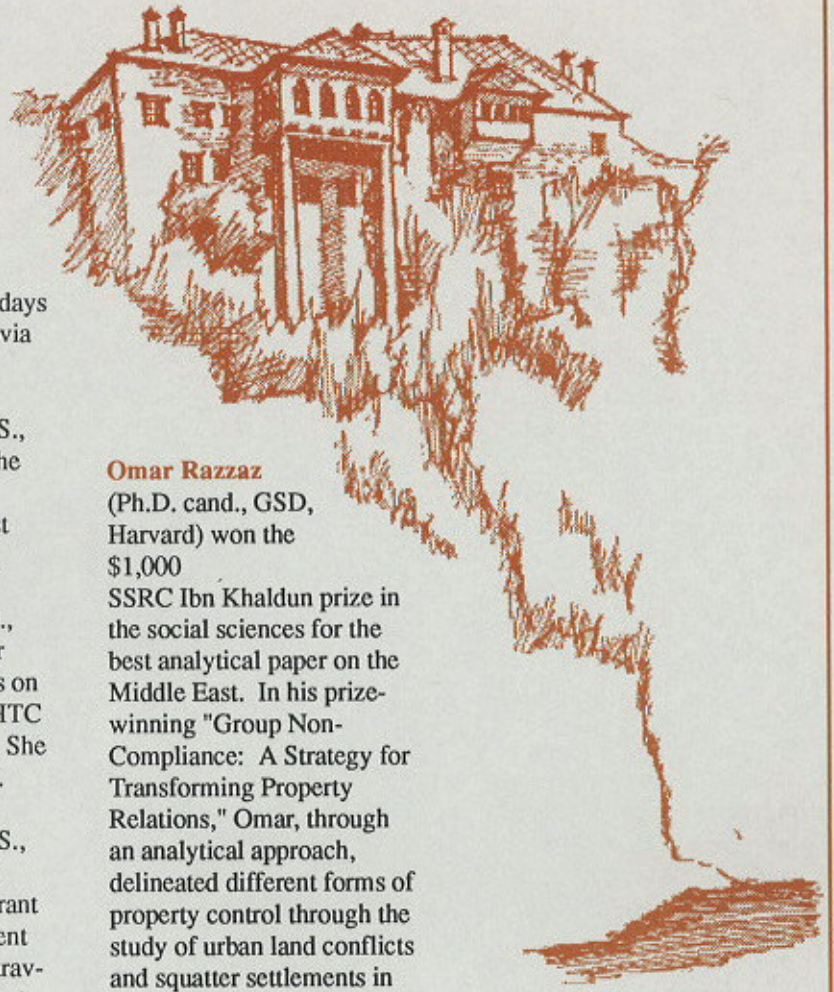
mer. He also spent ten days touring parts of Yugoslavia and northern Italy.

Jalal Mejel (S.M.Arch.S., DIS, MIT) worked for the summer at the firm of M.V. M. Design, in West Hollywood, California.

Iffet Orbay (Ph.D. cand., HTC, MIT) receives our warmest congratulations on her marriage to fellow HTC student, Marc Grignon. She is now living in Canada.

Samia Rab (S.M.Arch.S., DIS, MIT), received an AKP Summer Travel Grant jointly with fellow student Anuradha Joshi. They traveled throughout northwest China collecting information for their project, "Tradition and Transition: A Study of Traditional Urban Form in China—Ürumchi."

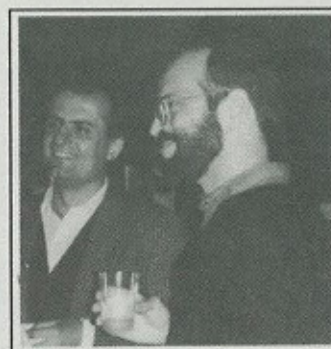
Nasser Rabbat's (Ph.D., cand., HTC, MIT) article, "The Iwans of the Madrasa of Sultan Hasan," was published in the American Research Center in Egypt's newsletter. He also wrote and prepared a booklet on the Citadel of Cairo for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture ceremony, held this past October in Cairo. Our warmest congratulations on his engagement to Randa Shedid of Egypt.



A Turkish house in Mostar drawn by AKP student Kayed Lakhia

Omar Razzaz (Ph.D. cand., GSD, Harvard) won the \$1,000

SSRC Ibn Khaldun prize in the social sciences for the best analytical paper on the Middle East. In his prize-winning "Group Non-Compliance: A Strategy for Transforming Property Relations," Omar, through an analytical approach, delineated different forms of property control through the study of urban land conflicts and squatter settlements in Jordan. He also explored the various strategies used by the poor to force change in property rights and property relations.



Nasser Rabbat and Omar Razzaz

Leslie Schick (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) received a 1989-90 fellowship from the Institute of Turkish Studies.

Aladeen Shawa (S.M.Arch.S., DIS, MIT) returned home to Gaza this past summer for thesis research.

"the only early twentieth-century photographs of the view from the Hôtel Villa de France, where Matisse stayed on both of his visits to Tangier, were discovered among the postcards in the Aga Khan Documentation Center. Matisse painted two of his most beautiful and significant Moroccan paintings and sketched several drawings of the view from his hotel window. These cards helped us to determine precisely the landscape and topography of Tangier around the time of Matisse's visits and allowed us to compare these views with Matisse's interpretations."

Jack Cowart

*Curator of Twentieth-Century Art
National Gallery of Art*

Library Collection, continued from page 1

4,115 images have been added. Noteworthy is a microfilm copy of the monumental *Turkestanskii Al'bom*, photographic documentation of the architecture, archaeology, and ethnography of Central Asia (of which only seven originals exist), and a gift of slides, photographs, and negatives from the estate of the late Mr. Stephen Nyman, a pioneer photographer of Iran who documented Persian crafts and architecture in the 1930s.

Cataloguer Jeffrey Spurr, among other projects, has innovatively revamped the catalogue system, bringing together for the first time scenes depicting such contemporary activities as building techniques, the making of arts and crafts, the practice of religion, commercial scenes, and domestic activities—images often lost under traditional art and architecture classifications.



House restoration in Shela, Kenya, Aga Khan Program Archives, donated by James de V. Allen

The AKP Book Collection at MIT

Housed in the Rotch Library of Architecture and Planning, the AKP book collection at MIT comprises material concerning architectural design and history, city planning, housing, land use planning, and urban design in Muslim societies since the 1900s. Since the establishment of the AKP, Rotch has acquired over 5,000 books, reports, and journals, and the collection grows steadily at a rate of approximately 400 new titles per year.

Recent book acquisitions were marked by great diversity, with many titles purchased from Islamic countries themselves. In addition, newly developed contacts with Japanese institutions specializing in Asian, African, and Middle Eastern studies revealed previously unknown Japanese-published works in English. Unusual items purchased include the *Final Report of the Fintas Center* in Kuwait and *The Arab Architect Series* published in Arabic by the Centre for Planning and Architecture Studies in Cairo, Egypt, which introduces the work of modern Arab architects.

"we are producing a photographic collection titled "Islamic Architecture—Its Decoration and Formative Art" in six series. Very little of Islamic architecture and decoration have been known to Japanese people, except from a few specialized books for researchers and architects...This collection will be the first comprehensive material in Japan...We ask your kind permission to let us use some pictures from the program's stock to make our collection complete."

Tokyo Kikaku Co., Ltd.

Advertising and Publishing Consultants

August, 1989

AKP librarian Omar Khalidi has just completed a survey of literature on modern Islamic architecture and his findings show the emergence of small presses in the Islamic world and among Muslim communities in the West. These findings will consequently enable Rotch to buy books not available through large wholesalers in the U.S. A second component of the survey tracks articles published in festschrifts, commemorations, and collections of essays not indexed in American databases.



Librarian Kim Lyon at AKP visual archives

The AKP Visual Collections at MIT

The AKP's teaching collection, visual archive, and videodisc are located at the Rotch Visual Library.

Totalling 29,000 fully catalogued 35mm slides, the teaching collection contains images of architecture from such places as Istanbul, Dhaka, Tunis, Cairo, and Marrakech. These images are available to the AKP's students and faculty for study, lectures, and presentations.

The Visual Archives hold to date 70,000 images documenting a broad spectrum of historic and contemporary Islamic archi-



Mosque in Witu, Kenya, Aga Khan Program Archives, donated by James de V. Allen

ecture. Generated by research activities of individuals, institutions, firms, and the Program, the Archive predominantly consists of 35mm slides (for which reproductions are available at a cost of \$3 per slide), but also includes black and white photographic negatives, drawings, plans, and supporting written documentation. Recent acquisitions include student Khalil K. Pirani's slide collection, "Pakistan Handicraft Elements in the Architecture of Pakistan," and a donation of 1,466 slides taken by author James de V. Allen entitled "Islamic Architecture and Sites from Kenya and Southern Somalia."

The Program's video-disc, *Images of Islamic Architecture: The Aga Khan Collection* is available for use in the Rotch Visual Library. Arranged geographically for ease of browsing, any of the 30,000 images can be retrieved and displayed by entering search requests on the system's computerized index.

Kim Ruoff Lyon, curator, assists students, teachers, and researchers in locating images to illustrate lectures, design solutions, and research topics. She also demonstrates the use of the videodisc system for those who request it.



From the travel diary of AKP student, Samia Rab

Samia Rab and Anuradha Joshi received an AKP Summer Travel Grant to gather information in Ürumchi, northwestern China, for their project, "Tradition and Transition: A Study of Traditional Urban Form in China—Ürumchi." From Hong Kong, Samia and Anuradha embarked for Kuangchou (Canton) by train. From Kuangchou they flew to Xian, where they visited the Great Mosque and its Imam. They then took a three-day train ride to Ürumchi. Once there, they contacted the Dean of the University of Xinjiang and began their work immediately, drawing and photographing the city's Muslim quarters. Below are excerpts from Samia's travel diary.

July 26

I said my prayers in a small neighborhood mosque, where we met *Yousaf*, whose "English name" was *Sebastian* and "Chinese name" was *Mayoni*. He took us to the Great Mosque [of Xian]. It is a fascinating mosque and defies the preconceptions and metaphors attached to "a mosque." It is no doubt a Chinese form with a series of "gardens" leading to the main prayer hall. I could not perceive these spaces as courtyards because they do not engage in a dialogue with the rooms flanking them, and instead are used as a series of transitional spaces to reach the main prayer hall. The *Imam* of the Mosque was an extremely generous person and presented us with a beautiful scroll painting showing an axonometric view of the Mosque.

July 28

The train is now moving through Lanzhou. The countryside is beautiful. The combination of shingled lean-to roofs and adobe walls is very unique....As the train moves northwest, the landscape is changing distinctly. The rugged mountains of Tibet are giving way to hills with mustard, cultivated in patches. To every square mile of cultivated land there is a settlement of mud houses. The angle in the lean-to roofs of these houses is getting less steep. The setting just perfect—velvet green mountains and integrated mud settlements!

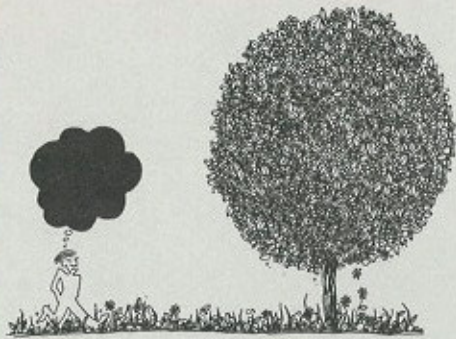


Chinese scroll depicting the Great Mosque of Xian

1989 Ph.D.s

- Tulay Artan**, (History, Theory and Criticism Program, MIT), "Architecture as a Theatre of Life: Profile of the Eighteenth Century Bosphorus."
- Zahra Faridani**, (Fine Arts and Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard), "The Problem of the Moghul Manuscript of the Hamza-nama, 1562-77; A Reconstruction."
- Scott N. Redford**, (Fine Arts, Harvard), "Sultan Alaeddin Keykubad and the Cycle of Seljuk Palaces in Anatolia (1219-1243)."
- Beatrice St. Laurent**, (Fine Arts, Harvard), "Ottomanization and Westernization. The Architecture and Urban Development of Bursa and the Genesis of Tradition, 1839-1914."

Alumni Notes



'80 **Sheila Blair** (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) and **Jonathan Bloom** (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) are area editors for Islamic art for the *Dictionary of Art*, a thirty-volume encyclopedic dictionary of the arts to be published in 1994. In addition, they are writing *The Art and Architecture of Islam: 1250-1800* for the Pelican History of Art series.

'81 **Sheila R. Canby** (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) will be guest-editing an issue of *Marg* entitled "Persian Painters" due to appear in late 1990. Sheila, who had been living in Bahrain for the last two years, is now settled in London.

'82 **Eva R. Hoffman**, (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) is teaching Islamic art at the Harvard Extension School and pursuing research projects relating to the classical tradition in Islamic art.

'83 **Oruç Cakmakli** (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is a practicing artist and gallery owner in California's Bay Area. His recent show, "ORUÇ: Recent Paintings and Drawings, and Graphic Works," was exhibited last May in his own Contrary Contemporary Gallery.

'84 **Perween Hasan** (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) presented two papers recently: "Temple Niches and Mihrabs in Bengal" was read at the conference, *Regional Varieties of Islam in Pre-Modern India* (ca. 1100-1750) and "Old Churches and Cemeteries of Dhaka" was given at an international symposium, *Dhaka: Past, Present, Future*. Perween has also been commissioned to write a chapter

on "Art and Architecture" for a three-volume history of Bangladesh.

'87 **Akel Ismail Kahera** (S.M.Arch.S., DIS, MIT), is now the Chief Architect and Director of Architecture at ENPPI (Engineering for the Petroleum and Process Industries) in Cairo. He is also designing furniture.

'88 **Kazi Ashraf** (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) has recently had an article published in *Mimar* 31 entitled "Muzharul Islam, Kahn, and Architecture in Bangladesh," and is now organizing a workshop on Dhaka with Professor William Porter.

Maria Luisa Fernández (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) is a consultant for, and co-designer of, an Islamic center in Caracas, now under construction. The center will be the only one of its kind in Latin America.

Shakeel Hossain (S.M.Arch.S., MIT), besides remodeling a house in Somerville, Massachusetts, is designing an Indian Haveli for Dillon Ripley, the former director of the Smithsonian Institution. With funds from the Smithsonian Institution and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Shakeel is working on a research project entitled "Beliefs, Rituals, Art and Architecture: Muharram in India."

Sikander Khan (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is office manager and senior designer at Heritage Center, Kuwait—a firm founded by Basil Hassan (formerly of TAC). His current projects are located in Kuwait, Cairo, and Cyprus.

Amer Moustafa (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is working for Kunz Associates in Boston.

'89 **Tawfiq Abu Hantash** (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) has accepted a job with Pan Arab Consultants in Kuwait. He will be moving there with his family.

Mohammed Ali (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is a lecturer in the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan. He is also working with Rassem Badran.

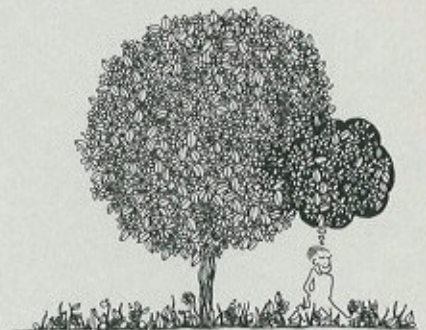
Tulay Artan (Ph.D., HTC, MIT) is a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard's Fine Arts Department, where she is researching eighteenth-century female patrons in Istanbul. Tulay presented a paper, "The Patronage of Khayraddin al-Tunisi in Istanbul," at a conference of Ottoman political scientists in Tunisia this past January.

Alfred F. De Costa (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) has recently accepted a position with the architectural firm Notter, Finegold, and Alexander in Washington, D.C., as part of his eighteen-month practical training period following graduation.

Khadija Jamal (S.M.Arch.S., MIT), a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Architecture and Planning at Dawood College, Karachi, is teaching architectural design and assisting Dr. Sümer Gürel, the new Aga Khan Visiting Professor at Dawood College, in setting up local research projects.

Scott Redford (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) is an assistant professor in the Fine Arts Department at Georgetown University, where he has been appointed resident director for Georgetown's McGhee Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, located in Alanya, Turkey.

Beatrice St. Laurent (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) divided her summer between research in Morocco and teaching the survey of art history course in Harvard's summer session. She is a half-time Assistant Professor at Wellesley College's art department, and participated in a seminar on the Ottoman city in the nineteenth century in Paris this past January.



"Artwork by Oruç"

MESA's Annual Meeting, 1989

Timurid and Turkmen Societies in Transition Iran in the Fifteenth Century

An interdisciplinary symposium, *Timurid and Turkmen Societies in Transition: Iran in the Fifteenth Century*, was held in Toronto, November 15-18 as part of the twenty-third annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America.

The symposium was organized by Lisa Golombek, curator at the Royal Ontario Museum and Maria Subtelny, professor at the University of Toronto, and was funded in part by the Aga Khan Program.

During the four days of the meeting, over two hundred scholars gathered to listen to more than thirty papers presented by scholars from Europe, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, Turkey, Canada, and the United States on a wide variety of topics.

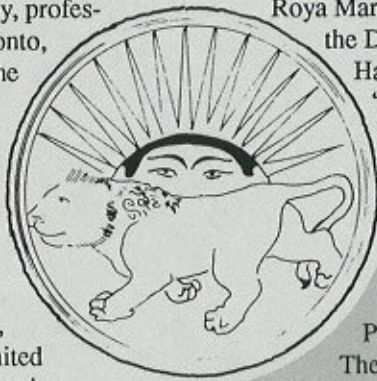
Eleven panels reconstructed aspects of the empire of Timur and his successors, including trade relations, court life, and religious, artistic, and architectural expression. The effects of the establishment of the Naqshibandi *tariqat* on the extension of Timur's empire into south Asia, the dual loyalties between the empire's sedentary population and its nomadic tradition, its literature, both prose and poetry, its patronage of the arts, and its court life in both tent and town were other subjects the speakers dealt with. A special workshop held at the Royal Ontario Museum described new approaches and materials for the study of Timurid-Turkmen ceramics.

Speakers at the symposium included professors Oleg Grabar and Gülru Necipoglu of Harvard. The latter presented a paper at a panel entitled "The Ethos and Praxis of the Timurid Artisan," in which she examined some design scrolls from the Topkapi Palace Library in Istanbul as evidence for the use of drawings in architectural practice in Timurid times. Professor Grabar chaired a panel on "The Evolution of Timurid-Turkmen Attitudes toward the Arts," and participated in the summary discussion.

Several speakers in other panels at the MESA conference who are also associated with the Aga Khan Program included Mina Marefat (Ph.D., MIT, 1989), whose paper

was entitled "Monuments of the State: The Making of Modern Tehran," her sister, Roya Marefat (a graduate student in the Department of Fine Arts at Harvard), who spoke on "Samarqand and the Legacy of Timur" (both at a panel dealing with patrons and

symbols in architecture for which Professor Grabar served as discussant), and Omar Razzaz (graduate student, GSD, Harvard), who spoke on "Legality and Illegality as Strategies in Urban Land Conflict: The Case of Jordan," at a panel on the urban poor in Egypt and Jordan. □



EMPEROR TIMUR...and the MULLA

The Emperor Timur asked Mulla Nasreddin to prepare himself to exchange wits with a visiting Roman scholar.

Prepared with a number of fake tomes, the Mulla proceeded to the court. There, the visiting savant, deciding to test Mulla's knowledge of symbology and theory, held up one finger.

Mulla, in reply, held up two fingers.

The Roman showed three fingers.

Mulla showed four.

The visitor showed the whole palm.

Mulla held up a clenched fist.

The visitor reached into his cloak and produced an egg.

Mulla took an onion from his pocket and held it up likewise.

Upon seeing the onion, the Roman said: "What is your evidence?"

Mulla pointed to the fake tomes stacked against the wall. The scholar was so impressed that he immediately admitted his defeat.

Not having understood anything that went on, the emperor asked the Roman: "What did all that mean?"

"He is a brilliant man, this Mulla," the Roman answered. "When I held up a finger, meaning there is only one God, he held up two to say that He created the two worlds. I showed three fingers, meaning the conception-life-death cycle of man, to which Mulla replied by showing four fingers, that the human body is composed of four elements, namely, earth, water, fire, and air. The egg was the symbol of the earth (the yolk) surrounded by the heavens. But when Mulla produced an onion, signifying the layers of the heavens surrounding the earth, I protested, asking him to support his claim. Your Mulla is indeed a very learned man."

After the visitor's departure, Timur asked Mulla the same question.

Mulla replied: "It was quite simple, Your Majesty. When he lifted a finger of defiance at me, I held up two, meaning that I'd poke both his eyes out. When he held up three fingers, it was plain that he meant to deliver me three kicks. I returned his challenge by giving four kicks. His whole palm of course, meant a slap in the face, to which I showed my clenched fist. Then, seeing that I meant business, he began to be friendly and offered me an egg. To reciprocate I reached into my pocket and offered him an onion."

Adapted from: *Another Way of Laughter*, A collection of Sufi Humor by Massud Farzan (New York: E.P. Dutton & Co.) 1973.

Recent Publications

Taj Mahal: The Illumined Tomb

Compiled and translated by W.E. Begley and Z.A. Desai.

An anthology of 17th century Mughal and European documentary sources. 8 1/2 x 11. 340 pp. (approx.). 20 colorplates 62 full-page halftone illustrations. Numerous plans and figures.
ISBN 0-295-96944-X (clothbound)
ISBN 0-295-96945-8
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Order from University of Washington Press, P.O. Box 596, Seattle, Washington 98145-5096

Islamic Architecture of Cairo

by Doris Behrens-Abouseif

A historic survey of the Islamic architecture of Cairo.
ISBN 90-040-08677-3
\$75.00
Order from E.J. Brill, Postbus 9000, 2300 PA, Leiden, The Netherlands.

A Century of Princes

Selected, introduced and translated by Wheeler Thackston.

A representative selection of original sources on Timur and his successors, including history, biography, foreign-mission reports, autobiography, literature, and texts on art and calligraphy, published in conjunction with the exhibition, *Timur and the Princely Vision*, at Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. 8 1/2 x 11. 398 pp.
Maps, genealogies, and frontispiece.
ISBN 0-922673-11-X
\$20.00 plus shipping
Order from The Aga Khan Program.

Muqarnas 6 (in press)

Articles on Ottoman art, the Dome of the Rock, early Muslim towns, the Cairene *sabil*, geometric ornament in the Alhambra, architectural genotypes, Sultanate mosques in Bengal, two Mughal monuments of Bayana, jeweled ceramics, and Ottoman wedding costumes. It will also publish four articles on Qajar art from a symposium at the Brooklyn Museum.

Order from E.J. Brill, Postbus 9000, 2300 PA, Leiden, The Netherlands

Ordering information: All orders from individuals for books distributed by the Aga Khan Program must be prepaid in US dollars, by check drawn on an American bank or by international money order or banker's draft, payable to MIT/Aga Khan Program. All titles are available to trade customers and booksellers. Please send for discount information. Address orders and inquiries to: The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, MIT, Room 10-390, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA



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