



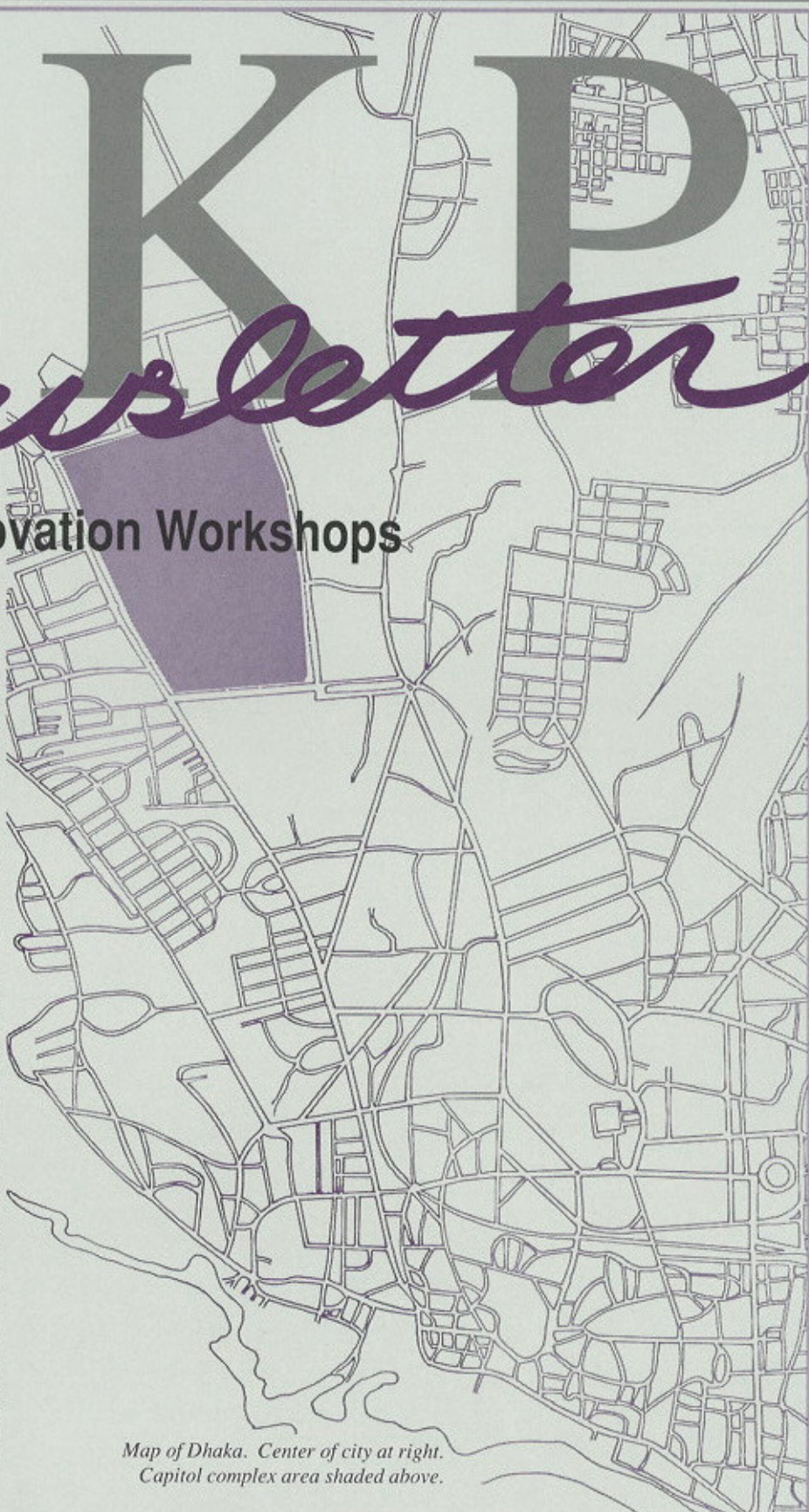
AKP newsletter

Environmental Innovation Workshops seek young talent

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, and the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture have jointly undertaken to recruit talented young architects for a series of workshops. The first in the series called the Environmental Innovation Workshops will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The subject of the workshop will be the completion and extension of Sher-E-Banglanagar, the capitol complex designed by Louis Kahn.

The aim of the series is to locate new, young talent and to provide a forum for the next generation to voice their ideas about architecture and its future. Says William Porter, director of the Environmental Innovation Workshops and cochairman of the Dhaka workshop, "It is terribly important to engage the next generation of thinkers, to find out what they are thinking about now, rather than what was thought about ten years ago." The Aga Khan Award, in recognizing buildings completed for at least two years, honors architects who are quite far along in their careers. By cultivating new talent, the series will pick up where the Award leaves off, complementing its role in clarifying the relationship between architectural thought and issues of social importance to Muslim societies.

Continued on page 4



*Map of Dhaka. Center of city at right.
Capitol complex area shaded above.*

1990 ENTERING STUDENTS

SMArchS degree *Design for Islamic Societies Unit, Department of Architecture, MIT:*

Saba Taher Al-Suleihi, from Yemen, holds a degree in architecture and environmental design from the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Before arriving at MIT, Saba was an architect in the Executive Office for the Preservation of the Old City of Sana'a. Saba is interested in research and teaching and hopes to return to the University of Sana'a after completing his studies at MIT.



Saba Taher Al-Suleihi

Saif-Ul-Haq received a BArch from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Dhaka (BUET). Since his graduation in 1986, he has worked with two architectural firms in Bangladesh and has been a lecturer at BUET's Department of Architecture. While at MIT, Saif is studying the diversity of culture and values as manifested in architecture, with thoughts of appropriate design for Bangladesh.

Aarati Kanekar received her diploma in architecture from the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology,

Ahmedabad, India, in 1989. After receiving her degree, she worked for the National Institute of Design in India on several development and conservation projects. She is interested in the Persian influence on Indian architecture.

Tao Li has degrees in both the history of architecture and architectural design from Tongji University, Shanghai. Tao has worked as a designer with the Jinan city government and as a lecturer on the history of architecture at Tongji University. Tao's main interests are urban design for non-Western cultures and urban rehabilitation in developing societies.

Radziah Mohamad is working toward a dual degree in the SMArchS and MArch programs at MIT. Radziah graduated from Arizona State University in 1988. She is concerned with the commercialism she sees as invading cultural values in countries such as her native Malaysia and plans to explore the issues of modernity and urbanization in developing countries.



Saif-Ul-Haq and Syeda Feroza Haq at the AKP's fall reception.

Chuan Wang enters the SMArchS program with a string of design awards and publications to his name. Chuan holds a masters of engineering degree in architectural design from Southeast University in Nanjing and has worked as both a practicing architect and lecturer in architecture. Just prior to arriving at MIT, he was the Deputy Secretary of the Zhejiang branch of the Architectural Society of China. Chuan hopes that his time at MIT will aid him in contributing to research in China and to improving conditions there.

PhD degree *History, Theory and Criticism Program, Department of Architecture, MIT:*

Imran Ahmed, from Karachi, Pakistan, just recently received an MArch in architectural design from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. While at Cornell, he was co-editor of the *Cornell Journal of Architecture* 4 and he organized a symposium on Le Cor-

busier's Chandigarh. Imran has worked professionally with Guillaume Jullian de la Fuente on projects and competitions in New York and Chile.



Imran Ahmed

PhD degree *Department of Fine Arts, Harvard University:*

Gauvin Bailey completed his BA in Islamic Civilization and his MA in Middle East languages at the University of Toronto. He worked for three and a half years at the Royal Ontario Museum as a research assistant on projects concerning late medieval Persian and Chinese ceramics and trade. With Lisa Golombek and Robert Mason, he has published a study on Timurid and early Safavid ceramics. He also has an article on the same subject to appear in *Muqarnas Studies* 6; another on Chinese ceramics in Yemen is in press.

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Constant transformation in Third World cities coupled with the rapid development of their urban fringes has made up-to-date record-keeping almost impossible. To address this problem, the Aga Khan Unit for Housing at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design has developed the Parcel-Based Land Management System (PALMS). PALMS is a computer software that provides an accessible and affordable way to analyze and manipulate maps based on the latest available data.

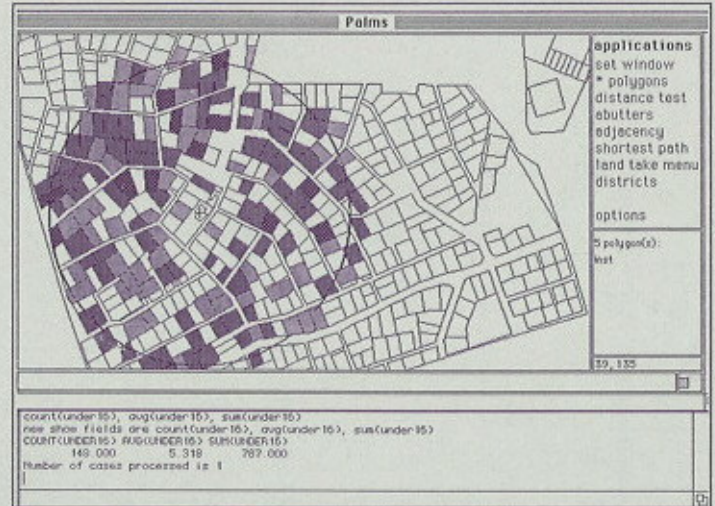
PALMS, the Unit's most ambitious project thus far, links a graphic, mapping program to a database. It is capable of creating, modifying and storing maps of land parcels, buildings, and infrastructure systems, while providing information about them. The program was developed by Jonathan Corson-Rikert, senior research analyst for the Unit, François Vigier, director of the Unit, and Kelly Chan, research associate for the Unit.

PALMS is designed to run on either an Apple Macintosh II or an IBM PC 386 and compatibles. Concerning its use and availability, Vigier says, "Our decision was to keep the cost of the system with its hardware as low as possible in order to make

Computer software to aid Third World urban planners

computer-assisted planning affordable to Third World users." To date, the program can process 5,000 plots of land; it can also divide geographic areas into sub-components, allowing the user to work more specifically within larger areas. A version suitable

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This PALMS screen shows plots with children under age 16 within 100 meters of a community center in a Palestinian refugee camp in Amman, Jordan. Plots are selected by query to the Oracle database and by location; values of selected plots are then summarized in the Oracle window at the bottom of the screen.

Hariri Foundation cosponsors workshop on the reconstruction of Beirut

Thanks to funds from the Hariri Foundation, the Design for Islamic Societies unit (DIS) was able to offer a two-month workshop on the reconstruction of Beirut as part of its fall studio workshop course.

The workshop is particularly timely. Recent cessation of fighting in Beirut has brought at least the possibility of reconstruction. Reconstruc-

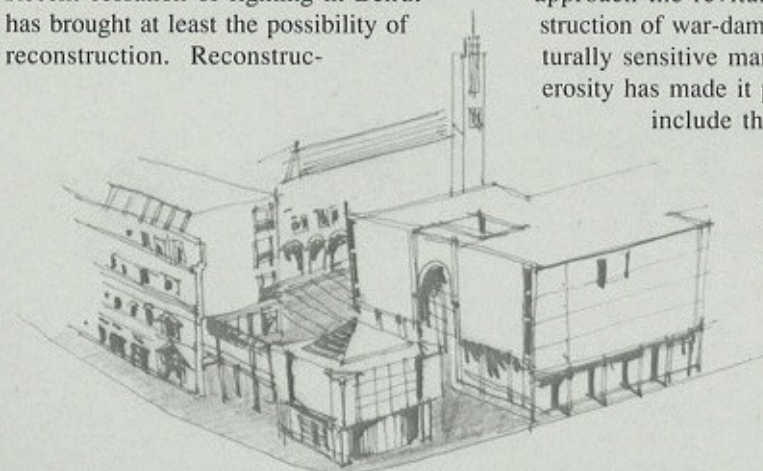
tion will also be a challenge for many other countries in the Middle East as they seek to erase the ravages of war over the next decade. Says Barbro Ek, AKP director, "Many of our students will return to countries destroyed by war. In a modest way, this workshop will encourage students to approach the revitalization and reconstruction of war-damaged areas in a culturally sensitive manner. Hariri's generosity has made it possible for MIT to include the subject of recon-

struction in its curriculum."

Rafiq Hariri, a Lebanese contractor who has built many public structures in Saudi Arabia, has used his wealth over the

years to almost single-handedly repair his war-torn country. His contributions to the education of the Lebanese is widespread and well-known. In the last fifteen years, the Hariri Foundation has given approximately 2000 students the chance to study in the US and Canada by providing tuition and living expenses. Of his many contributions to the American University of Beirut (AUB), Hariri converted a vacant university building into classrooms, offices, and language laboratories to strengthen students' English skills. He also subsidized faculty salary increases, faculty housing on campus, and the AUB's student loan program. His goal is clear: to counter the civil war's destruction with education. The DIS workshop is not Hariri's only involvement with MIT. At present, he is also partly underwriting a five-year, \$9-million, joint reconstruction project between the AUB and MIT's Science, Technology, and Society Program.

The DIS unit has long wished to offer a workshop on reconstruction in Lebanon, but the civil war precluded the necessary site visit in preparation for the course. A solu-



Proposed reconstruction of souk sketched by DIS student Chuan Wang.

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Workshops, Continued from page 1

Porter intends for the series to address "truly contemporary ideas," merging visionary thinking with specific practical problems. Porter also hopes that the workshop will encourage fresh ideas and open them up to the critical inquiry of those attending the workshop.

With the intention of developing what

The Workshop Challenge

Urban development in Dhaka has approached, and is now enveloping, the capitol complex. The first workshop will examine the zone of overlap between the capitol complex and the city. The fellows will be called on to consider how their ideas for the design of the urban fabric and the completion of the capitol complex

at the time he was designing the complex, architectural work in Bangladesh, urban issues in Dhaka today, and the Bengali city in general. The fellows will then be divided into six groups to begin work on the projects.

In the following five days each group's project will be developed and completed with the assistance of critics.

The workshop will conclude with a one-day review.

Participants from MIT will include Akhtar Badshah, lecturer, Department of Architecture (co-convenor); William Hubbard, associate professor, Department of Architecture (critic); Stanford Anderson, professor, Department of Architecture (reviewer); John de Monchaux, dean,

School of Architecture and Planning (reviewer); and Francesco Passanti, assistant professor, Department of Architecture (director of the workshop exhibit).

The workshop, originally planned for January, will be held later this year.



Panoramic view of Dhaka with Assembly Building

Porter calls "practical Utopias for Muslim societies," the series will combine ideas, practice, and dreams with the political, financial, ecological, and social conditions of a particular place. In a word, its "environment." The series will thus engage a wide range of philosophical, cultural, urban, and architectural issues, thus gathering together practitioners, critics, and teachers.

The Participants

The series provides fellowships covering travel and lodging expenses for a limited number of international and local participants who have been chosen to attend. The first in the series will be attended by 21 international and 20 Bangladeshi fellows, a group selected through an international competition attracting over 160 applicants. The fellows will be joined by international critics who will provide critique and guidance throughout the workshop, and guest reviewers who will preside over the final review.

Two of the critics will be Ahmet Gülgönen, professor at l'Ecole d'architecture in Paris, and Anant Raje, an architect from Ahmedabad, India. Reviewers include architects Muzharal Islam from Dhaka, Charles Moore from the US, and Fumihiko Maki from Japan.

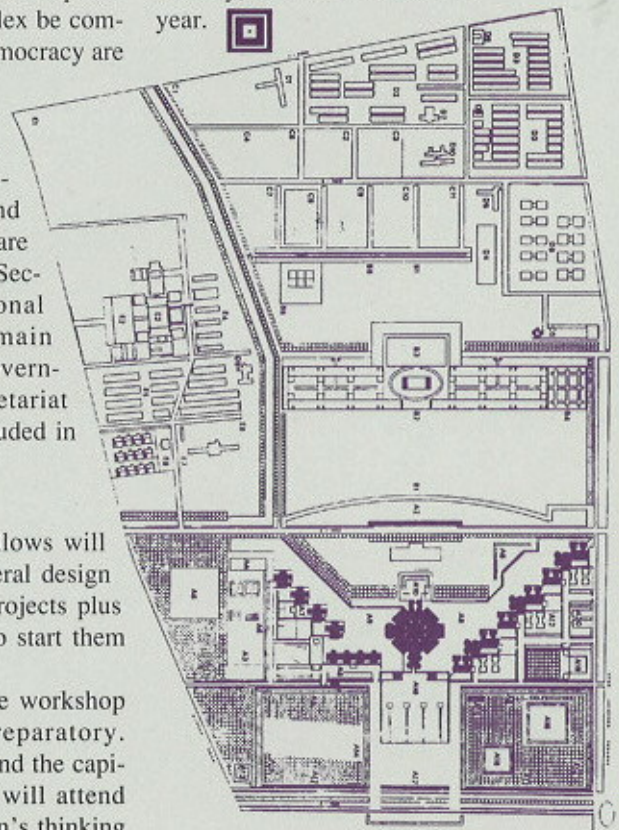
could contribute to visions of a new and evolving Dhaka. Says Porter, "We must frame the problem reciprocally: what sort of urban fabric can meet the requirements of everyday life and achieve the high ideals exemplified by the capitol complex? And how can the capitol complex be completed so that its symbols of democracy are integrated into the new city?"

The capitol complex area includes the assembly building and its service structures, residential dwellings, hospital and office buildings, all of which are almost finished. The National Secretariat plus other institutional buildings in the north remain unbuilt. The Bangladesh government plans to build the secretariat building, so it will not be included in the workshop.

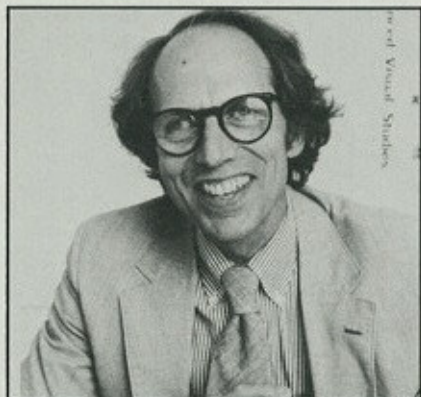
The Agenda

Prior to the workshop, the fellows will receive a brief presenting several design problems as suggestions for projects plus enough background material to start them on their way.

The first three days of the workshop will be introductory and preparatory. There will be tours of Dhaka and the capitol complex and the fellows will attend lectures on such topics as Kahn's thinking



Plan of capitol complex



Interview with Bill Porter, director of Environmental Innovation Workshops

Q: I'd like to talk about the Dhaka workshop challenge, the capitol complex, and the various dimensions of Dhaka. You said you'd like to see this workshop invent "practical utopias." What does that mean?

BP: It is a contradiction, and deliberately so. The idea of a utopia is to make people go beyond what might be possible or feasible and to think about an ideal social, and with that, architectural, condition. The idea of a practical utopia is an oxymoron, but one wants to be able to draw from these ideas implications for what really might be done. The play on words is an effort to engage those who are responsible for the architecture and urban planning in Bangladesh.

Q: What do you mean by the word "environment" in the title of the workshop series. For example, how does it relate to Dhaka and the capitol complex?

BP: It's usually a contextually limited word. By describing the workshops in terms of "environmental" rather than "architectural" innovation, we're trying to avoid isolating architectural efforts from the critical problems of the society toward which these ideas are directed. There is the responsibility in these workshops to have the ideas generated make some sense within the framework of Bangladesh, that is, to the pressing needs of an extremely poor society. That's why we use "environment" in the larger sense. We don't want these notions merely to be seen as amusing and peripheral to the social, political and economic times of the day. The call for work on the urban fabric is a call to address problems of urbanization in Bangladesh.

Q: You are asking participants to think about the complex contextually?

BP: Contextually in a very rich sense—politically, economically, and ecologically.

AM: Why was the capitol complex chosen?

BP: It has an interesting history, because it was first conceived when Pakistan and Bangladesh were a single country. The country was to be a democracy with the Secretariat in Pakistan and the Parliament and Assembly buildings in Bangladesh. After 1971, when Bangladesh was created, the new government continued the commission. Even after 1975, when a military government came to power, work was carried on. What is fascinating about the complex is that the people of Bangladesh view it not as the symbol of military dictatorship, but rather one of democracy. It's almost as if the assembly building were designed in such a way, for example in terms of its interior and even in terms of its urban design, so as to prevent it from being absorbed by a powerful authoritarian government. And in that sense, the strength, character, and determination of a society to achieve democracy is symbolized by that building.

Q: How does it do this?

BP: Well, if you look at its interior, the center of the building is an assembly hall, not the president's office. The access to it is essentially non-directional, and therefore doesn't establish any kind of hierarchical relationship. The plazas that it creates are not plazas that can be easily dominated by a single individual making pronouncements; they are in fact generous lanes that are easily populated, but as I say, not easily dominated. It's a very interesting contradiction in architecture vocabulary because while it looks, at a

Continued on page 10



Introducing: The Aga Khan Program Committee

Between 1990 and 1994, the AKP will undergo a period of transition. To guide the Program through this interim phase, a new Aga Khan Program Committee has been formed whose members for the current academic year are as follows:

John de Monchaux

Dean, School of Architecture and Planning, MIT (chair)

Barbro Ek

Director, Aga Khan Program (ex officio)

Oleg Grabar

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Philip S Khoury

Acting Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, MIT

Ronald B Lewcock

Aga Khan Professor of Architecture and Design for Islamic Cultures, MIT

Brendan A Maher

Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard

Gerald M McCue

Dean, Graduate School of Design, Harvard

Roy Mottahedeh

Chair, Islamic Studies Committee, Harvard

William L Porter

Head, Department of Architecture, MIT

John Shearman

Chairman, Department of Fine Arts, Harvard

STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

Akhtar Badshah, research associate for the DIS unit, delivered a paper this past October at the University of California, Berkeley, on land-sharing as an innovative approach to the squatter problem.

Julia Bailey, assistant curator of Islamic and later Indian art at Harvard's Sackler Museum, co-organized *Arabesque*, an exhibition of works from Egypt, Turkey, Iran, and India featuring arabesque patterning. Julia gave a gallery talk on the exhibition in January.

Barbro Ek, AKP director, attended the Adobe 90 International Conference on the Conservation of Earthen Architecture held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. After the conference, Barbro toured adobe sites in northern New Mexico and Chihuahua, Mexico.

Masood Khan, lecturer for the DIS unit, spoke on architecture and urban settlements in Pakistan at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, in November.



Barbro Ek

Omar Khalidi, AKP reference librarian at the Rotch Architecture Library, attended the MESA and MELA conferences held in San Antonio, Texas, this past November.

Ronald Lewcock, Aga Khan Professor of Design for Islamic Societies at MIT, on leave this

fall semester, was a visiting professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Kim Lyon, curator of the Aga Khan Program Archives at MIT, organized an exhibit of exemplary images from the Aga Khan Program Archives as part of MIT's Independent Activities Period, a month-long series of classes and activities held during the winter break.

Gülru Necipoglu, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities at Harvard, is on leave this academic year to finish her book on the Topkapi Palace and to work on her second book, which deals with geometric design. During her leave, she will be traveling to Germany and Paris to study in their manuscript libraries and to Rome where she will attend the first meeting of the editorial board of a new journal, *Historia dell' Architettura*, for which she will act as contributing editor for Islamic studies.



Students at AKP fall reception

Iftekhar Ahmed (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) received funding from the Getty Conservation Institute and the AKP to attend the Adobe 90 International Conference on the Conservation of Earthen Architecture held in Las Cruces, New Mexico, last October. Iftekhar was also a teaching assistant this fall for the DIS course, *Architectural Theory and Function in Islamic and Other Non-Western Societies*.

paper on cross-cultural interaction using late nineteenth-century Cairo and Rome as case studies at the Sixth International Seminar on the Italian Influence on the Architecture and Urban Planning of Muslim Mediterranean Cultures, held in Rome.



Iftekhar Ahmed

Khaled Asfour's (PhD candidate, HTC, MIT) article, "Architectural and Urban Planning by the Turn of the Twentieth Century," appeared in the September issue of *Mimar*. In October, Khaled presented a

Student Happenings

Naji Al-Hasani (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) was a teaching assistant this fall with the DIS unit.

Kara Hill (PhD candidate, HTC, MIT) was in Marseilles completing dissertation research and is now in Minnesota writing her dissertation.

Basel Kotob (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) was a teaching assistant this fall for the DIS studio workshop, *Architectural and Urban Contexts in Islamic Societies*.

Nasser Rabbat (PhD candidate, HTC, MIT) has been appointed assistant professor in MIT's History, Theory and Criticism program upon completion of his dissertation this fall.



Basel Kotob

András Riedlmayer, bibliographer for the AKP at Harvard's Fine Arts Library, organized the Third International Workshop on the Study of Ottoman Sources sponsored by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the American Council of Learned Societies. At the workshop the six Hungarian and five American participants planned a series of editions and translations of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Ottoman sources, the first volume of which will appear in early 1991. András was a panelist for a session on approaches to Ottoman tax farming at last fall's MESA meeting and he attended the concurrently held MELA meeting in San Antonio, Texas, this past November.



András Riedlmayer

Hafiz Sherali (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) was a teaching assistant this fall for the DIS studio workshop, Architectural and Urban Contexts in Islamic Societies.

Hatice Yazar (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) was selected to be one of twenty-one international fellows for the First International Environmental Workshop for Young Professionals and Teachers to be held in Dhaka. Hatice was also a teaching assistant this fall for the DIS course, Architectural Theory and Function in Islamic and Other Non-Western Societies.

Hariri, *Continued from page 3*

tion was found in bringing faculty from Beirut to teach at MIT.

The workshop took place in November and December, under the direction of Nabil Tabbara, chairman of the AUB's Department of Architecture, and with the assistance of Jamal Abed, DIS alumnus (1988), now a lecturer at the AUB. The workshop focussed first on Beirut's traditional fabric and then analyzed its changeover to a modern city after World War I. Secondly, the workshop dealt with the destruction of the city in the 70s and 80s through civil war and invasion and tackled the design of a small rehabilitation project.

Most students concentrated on the Bourj area which contains "Martyr Square," once one of the most popular sites in the city. Historically the Bourj area has been the administrative and civic quarters with a strong commercial character. Martyr Square, with its many shops and cinemas, was a gathering place before the war. Now it lies encircled by shell-damaged buildings, covered with weeds, and filled with landmines. The students' task in the workshop was to plan the revitalization of the area so that it might once again be a central gathering place. On the importance of such a task, DIS student Saif-Ul-Haq says, "Situated on the Green Line that divides Christian and Muslim Beirut, it is a no-man's land, but also very much an everyman's land."

DIS student Chuan Wang assumed the task of reviving the souk area, northwest of the Bourj area. The souk is the only area that retains the dense, medieval fabric of the traditional city, aside from its southern belt which was completely destroyed. The souk was inactive during the war, but is gradually resuming activity, although poor economic and sanitary conditions prevent it from presently serving a central role in the city. In his design, Chuan faced the multiple challenge of creating new buildings in the south, preserving and restoring the old fabric in the remaining area, while rejuvenating its role as a commercial center.

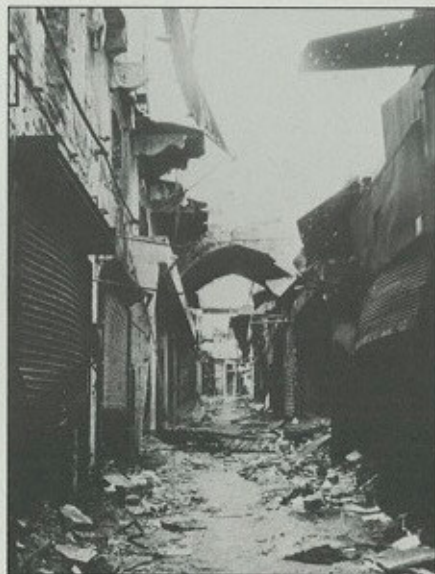
To further guide the students' design projects Leila Fawaz, a historian at Tufts University who is an expert on nineteenth-century Beirut, addressed the students. Various scenarios of intervention and rehabilitation were debated and discussed. In mid-December, a final review was held.



*Top: Street view of Souk Ayass, 1960.
Photo taken by Nabil Tabbara.*

Middle: Street view of war-damaged Souk Ayass, ca. 1980. Photo taken by Nabil Tabbara.

Bottom: Sketch of proposed reconstruction by AKP student Chuan Wang.



June 13, 1990

Wandering aimlessly, I rise to the top of Osmana Dikica. I walk up to the Church, but I cannot go further, for the gate is closed. Proceeding along the highway, I see Mostar spread out in the valley to my left, new homes of cinderblock and brick to my right. Laundry hangs in yards; two pillowcases, one pair of blue trousers, and three children's undershirts betray a family's domain within that particular clearing in the cypress trees.

Two women gaze at the view of valley-and-sunset from the edge of the highway. They wear sweaters, thinning and paled with years of wear. Small, sparkling eyes return my mistaken "Dobar Dan" with a childish giggle. I correct myself with "Dobar Veche." The smaller of the two women pinches my cheeks. She converses with me in Serbian and we somehow both understand that the world is a very small place. The two of them like my smile. I like their laugh, and we all like to watch sunsets.

On my way back down the hill I step from stone to stone almost mentally skipping along. I greet people in their backyards. A woman takes laundry off the line, children push a wheelbarrow, a boy stops as he sees me pass by.

A young girl asks, "Do you speak Engleska?" as I round the corner. "Yes, I do." We share a few polite phrases and then she hands me a hazelnut. I hold it awkwardly, and she,

seeing this, takes it back, kneels

down to crack it with a

stone, and pre-

sents me with

the nut meat. It

is the best snack

offered to

me since I

arrived.

Inside that

little shell

was a most

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ine offer-

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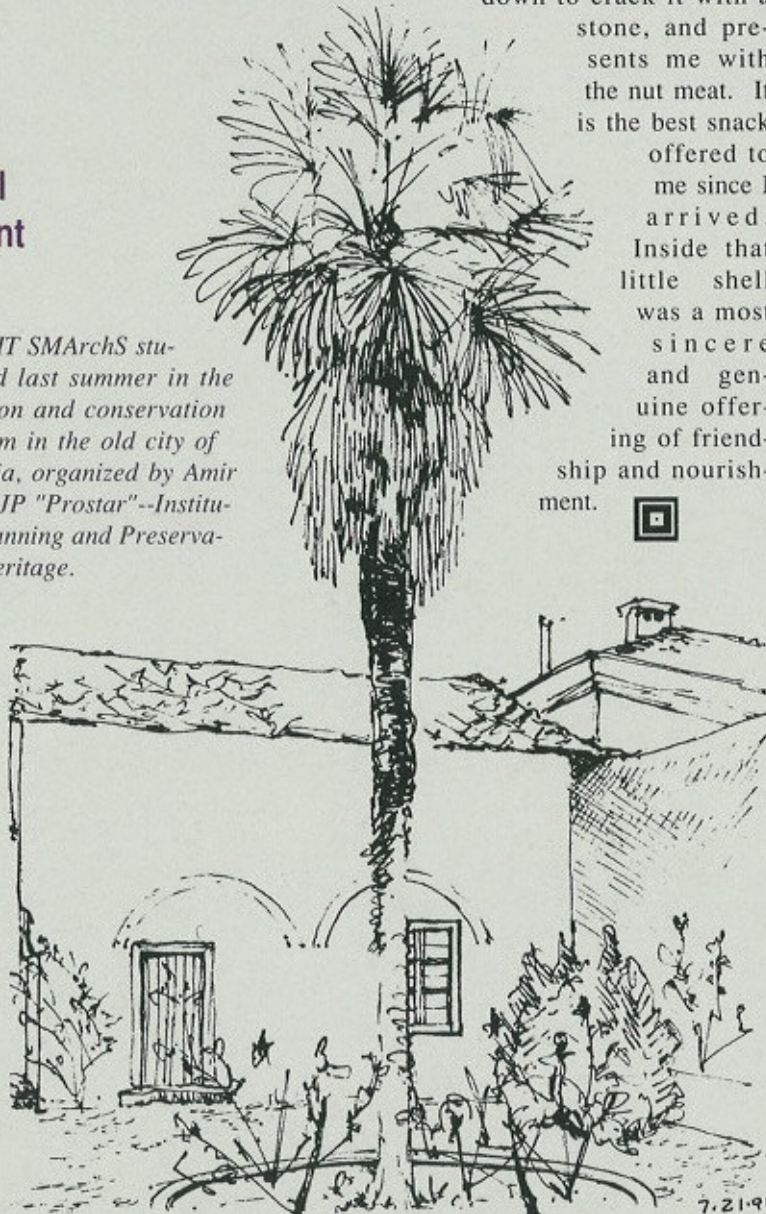
ment.



From the travel diary of 1990 travel grant recipient Kathy Chia

Kathy Chia, an MIT SMArchS student, participated last summer in the ongoing restoration and conservation internship program in the old city of Mostar, Yugoslavia, organized by Amir Pasic, director of JP "Prostar"--Institution for Urban Planning and Preservation of Cultural Heritage.

Rose garden of the Muslibegovic House, a nineteenth-century Turkish dwelling where students stay while in Mostar. Drawing by Kathy Chia.



NEW AFFILIATE

The AKP welcomes **Salma Khadra Jayyusi** as our newest Affiliate. Dr. Jayyusi is an internationally known poet, scholar, critic, and anthologist. In addition to her own collection of poems, *Return from the Dreamy Fountain*, Dr. Jayyusi has published her poetry and critical writings in many journals. In 1980, Dr. Jayyusi founded Project of Translation from Arabic Literature (PROTA) with the intention of better promoting and representing Arab literature. At present, Dr. Jayyusi is editing a large volume of essays on Islamic civilization in medieval Spain and has begun work on a new anthology of poetry, *Poets of the End of the Century*.

1990-91 VISITING SCHOLARS

Adil Mustafa Ahmad, an associate professor at the University of Khartoum, will be in Cambridge between February and May. His topic of study is, *Beyond the Arch: Whatever petrified Arab architecture?*

Mukkadima Muchtarowna Ashrafi is the chief scientific researcher at the Institute of History, Tadjik Academy of Sciences, USSR. From November to February, Professor Ashrafi will be studying twelfth- through seventeenth-century Islamic miniature painting and architecture.

Tarek Fadaak is chairman of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the College of Engineering, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Fadaak is researching low income housing policy guidelines for Saudi Arabia with the Aga Khan Unit for Housing.

Shakeel Hossain, a 1988 DIS alumnus, will be with us from January to June to continue work on his project, *Ta'zia: Ephemeral Architecture of the Shi'a*.

News from the Parallel Centers

In 1989, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, in conjunction with the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, established a teaching and research program within the departments of architecture at the University of Jordan at Amman and at Dawood College, Karachi, Pakistan. Known as the "Parallel Centers," the purpose of these programs is to assist and strengthen graduate-level architectural education in the Muslim world. To report on this growing partnership between the Aga Khan programs in Cambridge, Amman, and Karachi, this issue of the AKP newsletter inaugurates "News from the Parallel Centers" as a regular feature.

This past summer, Hasan Abu-Khadra, a librarian from the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan, and Murlidhar Dawani, a lecturer of architecture and photographer from Dawood College, visited the Aga Khan library collections at Harvard and MIT. While there, Mr. Abu-Khadra and Mr. Dawani attended orientation sessions with the AKP library staff who advised them on establishing book and visual collections. Mr. Abu-Khadra investigated slide classification schemes so that he could eventually develop a database for cataloguing slides. Mr. Dawani was interested in strategies for documenting Dawood College's Urban Area Conservation Studies photographic surveys and in developing an archive of student thesis projects and drawings. During his stay, Mr. Dawani exhibited his photographs "Colonial Buildings (ca. 1843-1947) in the Old City of Karachi, Pakistan" at the Rotch Visual Collections Library.

A **documentation cell** was established at the Aga Khan Program at Dawood College this past October. The documentation cell is supervised by faculty members from the Department of Architecture and Planning who, in turn, guide and organize a team of architecture students in collecting and classifying material. At the moment, the cell involves two projects: the first consists of organizing slides, videos, and photographs of specific areas of Karachi and the second deals with gathering measured drawings and visual documentation of indigenous houses around the Baltit Fort in the village of Karimabad, Hunza.

The programs at both Dawood College and the University of Amman hosted a student intern this past summer. Kausar Bashir Ahmad, dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at Dawood College, arranged for Harvard MARCH student Katherine Dunham to work for the architectural firm Nayyar Ali Dada and Associates in Lahore, Pakistan, a firm whose work is greatly admired both in Pakistan and abroad. DIS student Hafiz Sherali interned at the University of Jordan where he studied the architectural heritage of the city of Salt.

Correction: The Architectural Conservation Workshop at Karachi held last spring was organized by the Dawood College Aga Khan Program and supported by The Aga Khan Trust for Culture, The Aga Khan Cultural Service of Pakistan, and the Getty Grant Program, not the Aga Khan Foundation, as was stated in the spring 1990 issue of the AKP Newsletter.

1990-91 VISITING FACULTY

Jamel Akbar, a 1984 HTC alumnus who is now an associate professor of architecture and urban planning at King Faisal University,



Jamel Akbar (left) and Tarek Fadaak (right) at AKP Evening With series.

ty, was with us for the fall semester. He taught two courses: Tools, Conventions and the Everyday Environment, and The Structure of the Muslim Built Environment.

Doris Behrens-Abouseif, lecturer at the University of Munich, joins Harvard's Fine Arts Department for the academic year. This semester she taught Islamic Urbanism and Architecture. In the spring she is offering Introduction to the Arts of South and West Asia, and the Arts of Egypt and Syria During the Reign of Sultan Qaytbay, 1468-96.

Ahmet Gülgönen, professor of architecture at l'Ecole d'architecture, Paris-Belleville, taught the first half of the fall DIS studio workshop which focussed on Bursa, Turkey.

Nabil Tabbara, chairman of the Department of Architecture at the American University in Beirut, led the second half of the DIS studio workshop which dealt with the reconstruction of Beirut.



Doris Behrens-Abouseif (left) talks with AKP student Khaled Asfour (right).



Discussing student work. From left to right: Ahmet Gülgönen, professor of architecture at l'Ecole d'architecture, Paris-Belleville; Rabiul Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Architects; Abu Imamuddin, professor in the Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; Ahmet Evin of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture; and Masood Khan, lecturer in MIT's Department of Architecture.



Alumni Notes

'88 Hana S. Alamuddin (SMArchS, MIT) was selected to be one of twenty-one international fellows for the First International Environmental Workshop for Young Professionals and Teachers, to be held in Dhaka.

'87 Jamal Abed (SMArchS, MIT) spent two weeks at MIT in October to assist with the DIS fall studio workshop on Beirut's reconstruction, for which he prepared an extensive workshop brief.

Kazi Ashraf (SMArchS, MIT) will be teaching at Pratt Institute, New York City, this spring semester and is working on a monograph of the Bengali architect Muzharul Islam.

Shakeel Hossain (SMArchS, MIT) just returned from a three-month trip to India where he researched his project, Ta'zia: Ephemeral Architecture of the Shi'a. This spring, Shakeel will be a visiting scholar with the Program.

Abdul-Halim Jabr (SMArchS, MIT) worked at Comunitas, a Boston architectural, planning, and urban design firm on a project that won first prize in a competition sponsored by the government of Italy's Veneto region and the city of Venice.

Sikander Khan (SMArchS, MIT) is still trapped in Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion last August. His wife, Aziza, who is

expecting their first child in March, was able to return to her native Pakistan later in the fall after a harrowing journey from Baghdad to Jordan and London. We hope that they will be reunited soon.

'89 Beatrice St. Laurent (PhD, Fine Arts, Harvard) delivered a paper at the Sixth International Seminar on the Italian Influence on the Architecture and Urban Planning of Muslim Mediterranean Cultures, held in Rome last October. Also in October, Beatrice presented "Are All Orientalists Alike? Travelers' Images of Morocco," at Harvard University.

'90 Mohammad Al-Asad (PhD, Fine Arts, Harvard) traveled to Indonesia in October where he attended the international seminar, Contemporary Expressions of Islam in Building, sponsored by the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

Kayed Lakhia (SMArchS, MIT) is now working for the architectural and planning firm Leung, Hemmeler, & Camayd in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

TV Prasad (SMArchS, MIT) returned to Bangalore, India to join his father's architectural firm, VK Thyagarajan & Associates.

Ghada Qaddumi (PhD, Fine Arts, Harvard) was not in Kuwait at the time of the invasion. She is now living with her family in Cyprus.



Above: Margaret Sevcenko and John Driscoll at AKP fall reception.




Right: Cemal Kafadar and Gülrü Necipoglu attend Evening With lecture.

AKP

Interview, continued from page 5

glance, like a fortress, when one looks in detail it becomes, yes, a fortress, but it's a fortress for the people. Part of its greatness is that it is able to embody this in a stubborn sort of way that resists transformations.

Q: How would you like to see plans for the complex relate to the new urban developments in Dhaka?

BP: With the new urban fabric moving up to and around the complex, the center of Dhaka is shifting. My impression of Dhaka is that it is a tattered and poor city, but it still has a certain amount of the commercial exuberance that exists in a lot of cities in the Subcontinent. There's a kind of unevenness of investment in the city. I hope that some of the ideas for the new urban fabric surrounding the capitol complex would have inherent in them the notions that reach beyond the mere means of living in a city and toward something that the citizens of Bangladesh might aspire to. 



Suraiya Faroqhi, professor at the Nahost Institute, University of Munich, spoke on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century urban form in Mecca for the AKP Evening With series. Other lecturers were Richard Bulliet, professor of history at Columbia University, and Walter Denny, professor of art history, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

AKP student Aarati Kanekar (left) and visiting faculty Ahmet Gülgönen discuss Aarati's project at the DIS review of the workshop on Bursa.



Happenings

Computer, *continued from page 3*

for a more extensive work station accommodating much larger databases is also under development.

The mapping component

Geared toward the urban planner who, for the most part, relies on data entry, PALMS is quite easy to use. "It was designed for someone who is not a computer specialist," says Vigier.

PALMS arose from the search for more effective ways to use databases. Says Jonathan Corson-Rikert, "Conceptually, it's the idea of going to those who are using a lot of information on computers and who don't have a graphic way to look at it and saying, 'here is another window on your database that happens to be a map,' which is a very common tool in planning applications."

Maps have been used by planners since planning began, but they are typically very expensive and time consuming to draw and update. Areas of rapid expansion like urban fringes are places where traditional mapping approaches have not caught up. They are usually several years out of date by the time such expansion is recorded and in the hands of the urban planner. "What we're

trying to do," explains Corson-Rikert, "is speed up the process so that maps can be something a planner controls and generates."

Through the use of a digitizer, a traditional map is first manually transferred into PALMS. Once the map is recorded, however, any editing and updating can be done within PALMS. Says Corson-Rikert, "We feel that this updating is fairly intuitive. You point and click, you add a line, you plug in the value, and you see it on both the map and the database. Everything is confirmed for you."


The interface

There are essentially three ways to work with the program. One can, of course, work solely within the database. One can also query from within the database and see the result on the map. A simple query might be to ask for a plot number and have it appear on the map. PALMS can also handle more elaborate queries such as asking for all dwellings with more than one floor, or for dwellings whose number of floors changed from one to two within a certain period of time. All selections are shown as highlighted areas on the map that can be color-coded according to users' specifications.

The third feature draws upon both the map and the database, where one can, for example, divide a parcel in two by simply drawing a line between two points. The dimensions for these two new parcels will automatically register in the database. Other applications include a "distance test," where one can see all plots lying within a specified radius, the "landtake" operation, where one can draw lines across plots in order to redefine them, and the "buffer" application, which generates an offset from an existing line.

The database

PALMS uses the ORACLE relational database management system, chosen for its strong international distribution and reputation. ORACLE works through a database query language called "standard query language" (SQL) which is becoming standard among computer platforms and many database software companies. PALMS can access both local ORACLE database tables and those residing on a computer in another location using a network connection.

The Unit's current project with PALMS involves sustainable improvement strategies for lower income urban communities in Amman, Jordan. 

Selected Publications

Muqarnas 7 (to appear early 1991)

Articles on orientalizing art (Oleg Grabar), early funerary architecture (Thomas Leisten); a central Asian mausoleum (Sergei Chmelnizkij), Sufi shrine architecture (Sheila Blair); Islamic cities in Morocco (Michael Bonine), the Mirador (D. Fairchild Ruggles); Bengali epigraphy (M. Yusuf Siddiq); early Islamic lusterware (Ulrike al-Khamis); the Innsbruck plate (Scott Redford); sixteenth-century tiles (Gülru Necipoglu); Iranian carpet collecting (Leonard Helfgott); and the poetics of Arab-Islamic architecture (Jo Tonna).

1991

27 x 22 cm. clothbound. 197 pages.

Plans, drawings, and halftone illustrations.

Approx. \$45. Order from E. J. Brill, Postbus 9000, 2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands.

Al-Mustalahat al-Mi'mariyya fi al-Watha'iq al-Mamlukiyya (Architectural Terms In Mamluk Documents)
by **Laila A. Ibrahim and M.M. Amin**

This glossary combines lexicographic and architectural explanations. Each of its 489 entries includes a linguistic explanation of the term and an interpretation of its meaning as it appears in Mamluk waqfs. Many entries are illustrated by photographs or drawings. Some entries are concise; others are full-fledged essays on the changes of meaning the term in question underwent over time. This is an essential tool for Islamic architectural historians who seek to understand Mamluk architecture on its own terms. In Arabic with an English glossary.

1990

25 x 20 cm. clothbound. 130 pages.

ISBN 977-1424-234-3

£E 15. Order from The American University in Cairo Press, 113 Sharia Kasr el Aini, Cairo, Egypt

Urban Regeneration and the Shaping of Growth—Restructuration et Croissance Urbaine

Proceedings from a seminar held in Paris in 1988 by the Aga Khan Unit for Housing and co-sponsored by the Institut du Monde Arabe. Papers on the renewal of the Golden Horn, Istanbul; on the Olympic Village for Barcelona; development in Shanghai; on Marne-la-Valle, near Paris; the London Docklands; Algiers and Abidjan, among others; with supplementary comments. Publication in English and French.

1990

9 x 11 in. 128 pages

Many halftone illustrations.

ISBN 0-922673-12-8

\$15.00. Order from Aga Khan Unit for Housing, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 48 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.



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