

"Entrance to the Sala de las Hermanas," Lewis's Sketches and Drawings of the Alhambra, 1833-1834.

The Making of the Discourse on Islamic Architecture

With the recent integration of the Design for Islamic Societies (DIS) program into the broader area of study of Architecture and Culture, MIT Department of Architecture's student newsletter, *Thresholds*, invited students and faculty to present their opinions on the East-West discourse and its relevance to a rereading of architectural history. The following article by Sibel Bozdogan, assistant professor of architecture, and Nasser Rabbat, assistant professor in the history of Islamic architecture, is a reprint from that December 1992 issue. AKP Newsletter readers are invited to send letters to the editor with their own reactions and responses.

The other day, we were contemplating a hypothetical academic setting in an Islamic country. We imagined lecture courses covering the history of architecture from prehistory to the present from an Islamic perspective, as well as advanced seminars on individual works, architects and themes. We came up with titles such as "Introduction to History of Architecture from the Ziggurat of Mesopotamia to Critical Regionalism," "Classical Revival in the Medieval Period" (in Anatolia and Syria that is), "The Works and Writings of Mimar Sinan," "Architecture and Ideology in the Early 20th Century" (again in Turkey and Egypt), etc. For the intellectually curious, we thought there could be one course on "Western Architecture" (from Classical Greece to Deconstruction) occupying a place among *area/cultural studies*.

The seeming absurdity of this picture, structuring and categorizing the history of architecture from a specific, unusual perspec-

tive is not unlike the way in which the history of Western architecture is commonly portrayed as history of architecture *par excellence*—a paradigm that we have all thoroughly internalized to the point that we rarely question it. These reflections gave us the initial inspiration to develop a course that we decided to call "The Making of the Discourse

on Islamic Architecture." It is a course not about Islamic architecture, but about the texts, representations and mental attitudes that construct it and assign it a particular place in knowledge and scholarship.

Such a critical reading of the study and representation of Islamic architecture provides the vehicle to unveil the dominant paradigm of traditional Western scholarship. This paradigm affirms and legitimizes a self-conscious and historically evolving identity for the West by casting other cultures in anthropological and ahistorical categories, while the very ideals of scholarship, intellectual curiosity, and quest for knowledge are themselves frequently portrayed as exclusively Western attributes. Thus, for example, inquiries into the indebtedness of Greek architecture to Mesopotamia, the common classical heritage of architecture in

1993 Entering Students into the Aga Khan Program at MIT

Concentration in Architectural Studies of the Islamic World/SMArchS Degree

Fatima Hirji, a graduate of the University of British Columbia School of Architecture, intends to investigate the relationship between ideology and the built environment focusing on Muslim societies living in the East and the West. Hirji received an honors degree in philosophy from Concordia University in Montreal where she concentrated on the Western philosophical tradition in the modern period.

Adnan Morshed is a graduate of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Dhaka where he also taught last year. He believes that every city has its own intrinsic image and the "memory" of this image is a complex process worthy of investigation. Morshed intends to study how memory is implanted in the perceptual universe of the people, and how architects and planners can incorporate this language of memory in their approaches to design and city planning.

Manu Sobti is interested in the characteristics and evolution of urban centers in Islamic cities and will continue his study of Bhopal (central India) and the factors that create the typical Islamic city. Sobti is a graduate of Center for Environmental Planning and Technology's School of Architecture in Ahmedabad, India, and has worked with architect J. P. Kleihues in Berlin and later with B. V. Doshi on the Diamond Bourse in Bombay.

Beginning this year, second year students who have fulfilled required courses offered by the concentration in Architectural Studies of the Islamic World may apply to the AKP for assistance in completing their degree.

Salvatore Autorino, **Arunjot Bhalla**, and **James Carr** are all returning SMArchS students who are joining the AKP this fall. Autorino received a professional degree in architecture from Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II" in Naples, Italy, where he also taught for one semester. His proposed thesis title is "Fragments of Mudejar: The Islamic Memory in Spanish Colonial Architecture in Peru." Bhalla received his degree from Chandigarh College of Architecture, Panjab University, in India and will focus his research on Islamic Cairo. Carr received his BA in political science and anthropology from Columbia College in New York City, and plans to write his thesis on the development of architecture in old urban settings with mixed cultural heritage.

Architectural History, Theory and Criticism

Kishwar Rizvi, originally from Pakistan, received her BA from Wesleyan University and her MArch from the University of Pennsylvania. She recently taught building technology and environmental control classes at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and has written a book with David Leatherbarrow and Nadir Lahiji called *Le Corbusier's Homer*. At MIT, Rizvi plans to explore the role of art and architecture in the Islamic world focusing on the shrine. ♦

1993 SMArchS Theses



1993 graduate Wael Al-Masri playing the oud at the AKP holiday party.

Vivek Agrawal, "Reading Context in Design"

Wael Al-Masri, "Architecture and the Question of Identity: Issues of Self-Representation in Islamic Community Centers in America"

Tarek Beshir, "Architecture Beyond Cultural Politics: Western Practice in the Arabian Peninsula"

Asiya Chowdhury, "The Persistent Metaphor: Gender in the Representations of the Cairene House by Edward W. Lane and Hassan Fathy"

Mahbub Rashid, "Process Bearing on City Form: The Case of the North End, Boston, 1860-1930"

Pratap Talwar, "Incremental Development Schemes: An Evaluation of Evolving Land Tenure Options in Khuda ki Basti, Hyderabad"

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Parallel Center Highlights

Dawood College, Karachi

This fall, a Master in Urban Design degree program has been initiated, with twenty students enrolled. Assisting the start-up program is Fulbright Professor Dr. Derek Bradford, from the Rhode Island School of Design, who has joined the faculty for the 1993-1994 academic year. Visiting Aga Khan Professor Dr. Sümer Gürel has finished his three-year assignment at Dawood College of Engineering and Technology, but will continue to assist DCET's Aga Khan Program as Visiting Professor through next

June. Four Dawood students and faculty member Fahimullah Khan joined the MIT design studio team in the Northern Areas during June and July. *FOLIO*, a department journal covering the fields of architecture, the arts, and development, was recently launched with faculty members Khadija Jamal (SMArchS, MIT) and Ashraf Shanjer as editors. It is the first academic journal of its kind in Pakistan. To continue its efforts to upgrade facilities, Dawood College has initiated a fundraising campaign called the "DCET Development Decade." One of the first results of this campaign has been the establishment of a

1993 AKP Summer Travel Grants

Six graduate students at MIT and nine at Harvard were awarded 1993 summer travel grants through the Aga Khan Program. The grants were given to conduct research in Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Tanzania, Kenya, Peru and

Ecuador; participate in a design studio held in the Northern Areas of Pakistan; and support internships with architects in Pakistan.

Five Harvard students used the grants for dissertation research. **Steven Nelson** (Fine Arts) investigated the Husuni Kubwa, a 14th-century Islamic palace in Kilwa, Tanzania. **Hülya Findikçioğlu** (History) traveled to Gaziantep in eastern Anatolia to study monuments from the 16th and 17th centuries supported by *waqfs* and then to Ankara to

conduct research in the court register archives.

Elizabeth Hermann (GSD) studied palace and country estate siting, layout and design in the late 14th-century Nasrid Kingdom of Granada and the Castilian capital city of Seville. **Andre Kikoski** (GSD) studied typology and ornamentation in 19th-century Aleppine houses.


Ahmet Ersoy (Fine Arts) studied colonial architecture in the Maghreb.

Five MIT students in the SMArchS program were awarded individual research grants. **Arunjot Bhalla** and **Meng Howe Lim** studied the processional route of the Mamluk sultans in an attempt to

gain insight into the urban design principles of the Mamluks in medieval Cairo (A.D. 1240–1520). Principal Mamluk monuments along the route were examined for their impact on the historic and contemporary urban settings. **Salvatore Autorino** studied “Mudejar Influences in Colonial Architecture of Peru and Ecuador.” Many Mudejars (Muslims who lived in Spain under Catholic rule) migrated to the New World as craftsmen, and their influence in the architecture of the South American Spanish colonies is not well documented. Autorino visited areas of Peru and Ecuador with an abundance of colonial architecture. **Panayiota Pyla** and **Zisong Feng** chose the area between the Fatih and Suleymaniye Mosques to explore the Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern cultural, socio-historical, and formal influences that create Istanbul’s urban form.

Christiane Pein (MARCH, MIT), **Jeung Seok Hyun** (GSD, Harvard), and **Georgia Sarkin** (GSD, Harvard) participated in an eight-week design studio in Gilgit and Karimabad that included a two-week travel tour to study Pakistan’s architectural heritage. The trip was led by Arizona architect Jody Gibbs and focused on problems of design and construction particular to the Hunza Valley, located high in the Karakorum mountains of northern Pakistan. Lectures, field research, and consultation with local planners and architects were incorporated into the studio exercises.

Finally, two grants were awarded to students to support them as interns in Pakistan. **Gregory Oliveri** (GSD, Harvard) worked with architect Nayyar Ali Dada, recently awarded the Arcasia Award for Architecture for his design of the Al-Hamra Arts Centre Complex in Lahore. **Stephen Dietz** (GSD, Harvard) will go to Karachi in September for a two-month internship with Arif Hasan, who is working on the Orangi Pilot Program, a slum upgrading project. ♦



Byzantine chapel, St. Saviour in Chora, built in the 11th century and converted into the Ottoman mosque Ayasofya Camii during the 16th century. Sketched in Istanbul by travel grant student Zisong Feng.

computer center with 30 terminals, audio-visual equipment and a laser printer. Dean Kausar Bashir Ahmad took on the task of coordinating and analyzing the findings of a survey on architectural education in the Islamic world initiated by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in Geneva.

University of Jordan at Amman

During the 1992-93 academic year, the department implemented its revised master’s degree curriculum, emphasizing urban design and housing in the Arab countries, architectural

design in Islamic contexts, and architectural and urban conservation. In June, it co-sponsored a conference on “Amman: The City and its Society” with the Amman office of CERMOC (Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain) and in November it will sponsor an international symposium, “Conservation of Architectural Heritage in Jordan and the Arab World.” Last fall, department faculty assisted the above-mentioned survey on architectural education by coordinating the Arab region, visiting some 31 schools in 11 countries. The upgrading of architecture library facilities con-

tinues and a satellite unit has been set up within the department, which includes all architectural journals and theses and has computer access to the entire architectural collection in the main library; a computerized visual collection has also been set up at the satellite location and thousands of slides have been catalogued over the past year and a half. Finally, Aga Khan Visiting Professor Elmar Dittmann has completed his stay at the University of Jordan and is returning to his former position at the Technical University of Munich. ♦

Fall 1993 AKP Visiting Faculty and Scholars

Visiting Faculty

Howda Al-Harithy, graduate of both the Design for Islamic Societies unit at MIT and the Fine Arts Department at Harvard, joins the MIT Department of Architecture faculty where she will teach the History, Theory, and Criticism course "Religious Architecture and Islamic Culture" during Assistant Professor Nasser Rabbat's leave. As a student at Harvard, Al-Harithy concentrated on the Mamluk Period (1250–1517), receiving a Mellon Foundation fellowship to complete her dissertation, "Urban Form and Meaning in Bahri Mamluk Architecture." After receiving her PhD in 1992, she returned to Saudi Arabia where she resumed her position as Adviser of Architecture to the president of Riyadh Development Authority, High Commission for the Development of Riyadh. Next spring, she will teach an undergraduate seminar in the Fine Arts Department at Harvard called "The Concept of Space in Islamic Cities."

D. Fairchild Ruggles joins the faculty of Harvard's Department of Fine Arts as a visiting assistant professor teaching "Islamic Architecture of the Western Mediterranean" and "Seminar in Islamic Architecture: Garden and Landscape" while Professor Gülru Necipoğlu is on leave. Ruggles received her undergraduate degree from Harvard in Visual and Environmental Studies and her doctorate in Islamic art and architecture at the University of Pennsylvania in 1991. She has taught in the Department of Art History, Ithaca College, and the

Southwest Asian and North African Studies Program, State University of New York at Binghamton. Next spring, she will join the faculty at the Department of Architecture at Cornell University.



1954 photo of Suwayqat Saruja, Damascus, by former director of historical monuments Khaled Moaz, father of visiting scholar Abd al-Razzaq Moaz.

Abd al-Razzaq Moaz, an urban and architectural historian and researcher from the Institut français d'études arabes de Damas (IFEAD) and associated with the Belleville School of Architecture in Paris, will spend six months working on a book about Suwayqat Saruja, a quarter of the old city of Damascus. In 1991, Moaz completed his dissertation on the madrasas of Damascus and Salhiyya and received his PhD from the University of Aix-en-Provence. Upon returning to Syria, he began research and fieldwork on the Suwayqat Saruja supported by the Max van Berchem Foundation. Moaz also coordinated and participated in two photographic exhibits at the Arab Cultural Center in Damascus, one of which displayed the Saruja quarter.

Amir Pašić is an architect from Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina and a winner of the 1986 Aga Khan Award for the conservation of Mostar's Old Town, since destroyed by the civil war. He will come to MIT in October to work on a book that will present flexible and integrated conservation processes applicable to a variety of cultures and countries.

Pašić left Mostar for Istanbul in 1992 and joined the staff of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture as a restoration expert; he is also an associate professor at Yildiz Technical University. He organized a traveling exhibition on Mostar, "Mostar: Before-During-After Restoration," to draw international attention to the destruction of the city. ♦

Visiting Scholars

Intellectual exchange has always been an integral part of the Aga Khan Program's effort to promote thinking and research in all fields that are pertinent to a better understanding of Islamic architecture and urbanism and for a more creative interpretation of this inheritance in contemporary environments. This fall, two new scholars, Abd al-Razzaq Moaz and Amir Pašić, will visit the AKP.

Faculty and Staff News

In June, Gülru Necipoğlu, formerly John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities, was promoted to full professor in the Department of Fine Arts at Harvard. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities through the American Research Institute in Turkey, she will take leave from Harvard for the 1993-94 academic year to do research on a book about the Ottoman architect Sinan and fieldwork on Islamic architecture in Turkey, Iran, Syria, and the Crimea. Last January, Necipoğlu presented a talk entitled "Early Modern Islamic Palaces" as part of the Rudelson Lecture series at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. In

March, she attended a meeting in Istanbul to plan the International Symposium on the Iconography of Ottoman Sultans, which will take place at the Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani in Venice on October 5–9, 1993.

Stanford Anderson, MIT Department of Architecture Head, served as chair of History, Theory and Criticism for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) 81st Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, last March. Sibel Bozdoğan, assistant professor of architecture at MIT, presented a paper entitled "Modern Architecture and the Project of Cultural De-Colonization"

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AKP Outreach and Research Grants

The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture's Outreach and Research Grant Program offers research grants periodically, as funding permits, to faculty at Harvard University and MIT. Proposals must fit into the general purposes of the AKPIA, and priority is given to those that contribute to the improvement of architectural teaching and training in the Muslim world and to projects that involve landscape architecture and design of public spaces, appropriate technology for disaster mitigation, and environmental improvement. The AKPIA awarded four grants in the last competition:

Professor Sibel Bozdogan of the MIT Department of Architecture received a grant for "Rethinking the Project of Modernity in Turkey," a colloquium that will bring

together scholars from a wide spectrum of disciplines to debate the success or failure of the modernist experience in light of the architectural manifestations in Turkey of the last forty years. It will take place March 10-13, 1994, at MIT.

Associate Professor Cemal Kafadar of Harvard University's History Department received a grant for "Ottoman Istanbul through its Court Records," a project that will computerize information in Turkish shar'a court archives and then map it in a way that will allow students and researchers to study the urban fabric and administration of Istanbul (1550-1920). A Harvard-sponsored workshop on the topic is to be held in May 1994.

Professor William Porter of MIT's Department of Architecture received a grant for "Northern Areas of Pakistan Design Studio," a field

research and design studio that took place this summer in Gilgit and Karimabad for students from Dawood College in Karachi, the University of Jordan, MIT and Harvard. One of the objectives of the design studio is to assist local agencies, which are under increasing pressures brought by rapid development, to come up with guidelines for design and construction suitable for future building.

Professor Ralph Gakenheimer and **Omar Razzaz**, of MIT's Department of Urban Studies, received a grant for "Real Estate Holding Companies in the Middle East," which proposes to devise creative solutions to the problems of land ownership in the Middle East by developing case materials, implementation strategies, references on financial management, and a legal structure that can be used for training local bureaucrats and decision makers. ♦

Future Symposia

The Unknown Territory: Art and Architecture of Albania in the Balkan Context, a symposium examining the art and architecture of Albania's multicultural richness and identity, is

planned for April 1994 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Arben Arapi, AKP visiting scholar and director of the Institute of Cultural Monuments in Albania, and AKP alumna Kara Hill (PhD, HTC, MIT), who is studying and teaching in the department of architecture at the University of Minnesota, are two of the planning committee members. For more information, contact Diane Katsiasicas at the University of Minnesota Art Department office, (612) 625-8096.

Rethinking the Project of Modernity in Turkey, an AKP-sponsored colloquium to be held March 10-13, 1994, at MIT, is being organized by Sibel Bozdogan, assistant professor in the MIT Department of Architecture, and Resat Kasaba, associate professor of international studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. Inquiries can be directed to Professor Bozdogan at MIT by fax (617 253-9407) or electronic mail (sibel@mit.edu).

Symposium on the Conservation of Architectural Heritage in Jordan and the Arab World will take place November 20-25, 1993, in Amman. It is sponsored by the Department of Architecture and the Aga Khan Unit at the University of Jordan. Dr. Kamel Mahadin, chairman of the architecture department at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Jordan, can be contacted by fax, (962) 6-848558, for more information.

International Symposium on the Iconography of Ottoman Sultans in Venice will take place at Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani in Venice, Italy, on October 5-9, 1993. Gülru Necipoğlu, professor of Islamic art and architecture at Harvard, is one of the symposium's organizers and will be presenting a paper on the text and images in Ottoman royal portrait albums. Direct inquiries to Hans Georg Majer or Jürg Meyer Cur Kapellen at (39) 41-520-6355 in Venice. ♦

Projects In Progress

"Mosque, Gallery, and Festival: Making Space for Contemporary Islamic Arts in Indonesia"

Kenneth George

Department of Anthropology, Harvard University

"Simulating the Thermal Performance of Pakistani Building Materials"

Timothy Johnson and William Porter

Department of Architecture, MIT

"Publication of Symposium Proceedings: Pre-Modern Islamic Palaces"

Gülru Necipoğlu

Fine Arts Department, Harvard University

"Parallel Centers Library and Faculty Resource Development"

William Porter, Department of Architecture, MIT

"Sustainability of Urban Improvements in Older Districts (Cairo and Tunis),"

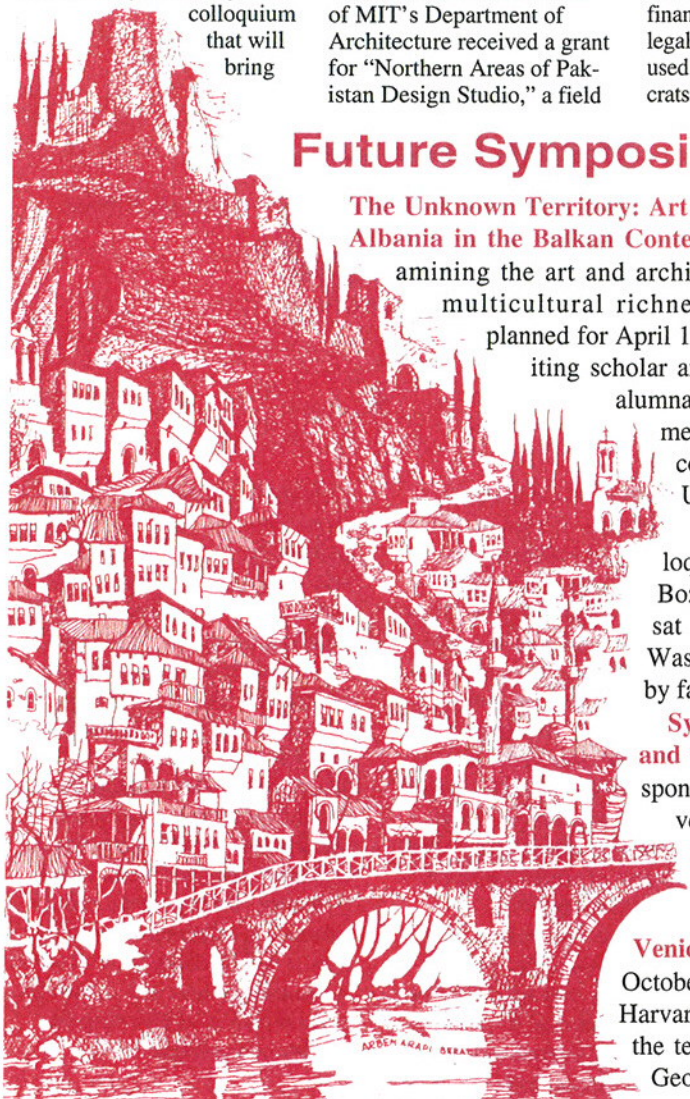
"Sustainability of Environmental Improvements Undertaken as Community Participatory Projects in Cairo"

"Sustainability of Housing and Environmental Improvements in Housing Upgrading in Amman, Jordan,"

"International Training Program Scholarship Funding"

Mona Serageldin and François Vigier

Unit for Housing and Urbanization, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University



Berat, Albania, sketched by visiting scholar Arben Arapi

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and Nasser Rabbat, Aga Khan Assistant Professor in the History of Islamic Architecture at MIT, spoke on "European Architects and the Invention of a Neo-Mamluk Style in 19th-Century Egypt" at the same meeting.

In May, Bozdogan traveled to the Middle East Technical University in Ankara to present "Comfort, Hygiene and Simplicity: Republican Ideology and Discourse of Modernity in Architecture" at

the Turkish History Foundation's conference, Economic and Social History.

Rabbat has been awarded a J. Paul Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Art and Humanities, and will be on leave from MIT during the 1993-94 academic year to complete his book on militarization of architectural and artistic expression in the Medieval Middle East. Rabbat also received MIT's Humanities, Arts and Social Science (HASS) Award for his research on British and French architects in Egypt during the 19th and 20th century. His spring presentations, other than that at ACSA, were "The Mosques of Cairo" at the Center for the Creative and Performing Arts, Salem State College, Massachusetts; "Inter Textuality and Early Islamic Architecture" at the College of Architecture at the Virginia Institute

of Technology in Blacksburg; and "An Architectural Biography of al-Azhar Mosque" at the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt in Baltimore, Maryland.



Professors Masood Khan and William Porter

William Porter, Leventhal Professor of Architecture and Planning at MIT, flew to Cyprus in June to judge the final stage of a competition for the master plan of a new university in

Nicosia. He then continued on to Pakistan where he joined AKP student Maha Yahya (HTC, MIT) in a research and field expedition to Gilgit and Karimabad. Discussions were held with the Karimabad Planning Support Services (KPSS) to coordinate work being done by the AKP and the KPSS.

This summer, Masood Khan, visiting associate professor at MIT, began work on a plan for Karimabad for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's Historic Cities Program (HCP). Last February, he presented "Islamic Architectural Heritage: Preservation and Revitaliza-

tion" at a conference in Lahore sponsored by the Pakistani government.

Last winter, AKP Director Barbro Ek and Professor William Porter met with representatives from Karachi and Amman in an overview committee meeting of the Parallel Centers held in Geneva. At the same time they attended a meeting on architectural education in the Islamic world sponsored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

Congratulations to Kim Lyon who gave birth to a healthy daughter, Tess Rachel Hallinan, on May 25, 1993. Lyon has resigned from her position as AKP archivist at the MIT Rotch Visual Collection so that

she may complete her graduate studies at Simmons College and devote time to Tess. She has been assisting students, teachers, and researchers since 1983, initially as an indexer for the AKP images database/videodisc project and then as the archivist for the AKP collection. She will be greatly missed.



Kim Lyon and her daughter, Tess

Deborah Kreuze, senior staff assistant in the AKP central office, had her first short story, "roadholebird," accept-

ed for publication in the *Boston Literary Review*. ♦

Continued from page 1

the Islamic Middle East and Christian Europe, the rich and fruitful interaction between them in the medieval period, and their similar historicizing attitudes in the pre-modern era are usually neglected, and sometimes negated, simply because they could not fit within the politically accepted construct of an evolutionary history of architecture in the West. Instead, traditional Western scholarship adopts an epistemological framework based on well-known binary oppositions like East/West, static/dynamic, sensual/rational, decorative/tectonic, traditional/modern, etc. This model reduces Islamic architecture to a set of prevalent characterizations, static and decorative being the favorites, and establishes its

prescribed slot in the chain of architectural evolution.

In addressing the various ways in which Islamic culture and architecture were represented, codified, and reproduced, we were informed and inspired by recent literature in cultural criticism that is less about the cultures and histories of the Other (whether they are Orientals, women, blacks) than about their anthropological appropriation of hegemonic forms of knowledge. Our greatest debt is obviously to Edward Said's seminal work, *Orientalism*, for extending the connection between knowledge and power to the study of the Orient, and exposing how, from being a geographical and cultural entity, the Orient was systematically trans-

formed into an object of research and scholarship, of display, and, ultimately, of domination and exploitation. At the same time, deriving our examples from Turkey and Egypt as representative contexts in which the Orientalist project manifests itself, we sought to introduce Islamic architecture as an "invented tradition" in the sense that historian Eric Hobsbawm uses the term, i.e. invented by Western experts as well as local nationalist elites as part of specific political and ideological agendas.

The sharp dichotomy between what we perceive to be the discipline of architecture (derived from Western architectural history and texts) and what is generally delegated to *area/cultural studies* (institu-

tionalized in Middle East Centers, Departments of Asian and Oriental Studies, etc.) is only one manifestation of the binary structure, rooted in the legacy of Orientalism, which largely accounts for the enormous intellectual challenge facing any attempt that claims, implicitly or explicitly, to negate this polarizing construct. The location of an Aga Khan Program for "Islamic Architecture" within the Department of Architecture at MIT is an instance of such tension and therefore opportunity. Whether in the end it serves to reaffirm the construct or pose a critical challenge to it would determine the next step in the continuous project of rewriting the history of architecture. ♦

Alumni/ae News

'93 Vivek Agrawal (SMArchS, MIT) received an honor award for excellence in design for his thesis, "Reading Context in Design," from the Boston Society of Architects. In June, he began a professional training program with the Boston architectural firm, Wallace Floyd Associates, Inc.

Wael Al-Masri (SMArchS, MIT) consulted for the Kuwaiti Engineers Office, through the Boston landscape architect and planning firm of Brown & Rowe, on the design for the war memorial setting that is to be erected by the government of Kuwait to honor those who died in the Persian Gulf war.

Akhtar Badshah (DIS, Urban Housing & Planning, MIT) has been appointed the deputy director of Mega-Cities Project Inc. in New York City, a non-profit organization whose mission is to reduce the time lag between urban innovation and implementation. His firm, Badshah and Luke Consulting, has been working on urban redevelopment and housing projects in Massachusetts and was awarded a 1993 Graham Foundation grant. On a more personal note, Akash, Akhtar and Alka's third son, was born April 12, 1993.

Kate Dunham, a Harvard GSD graduate who participated in several AKP summer internship and field research projects in Pakistan, will live in Bangladesh for ten months as a Fulbright scholar investigating housing for low-income women working in factories.

'92 Saif-Ul-Haq (SMArchS, MIT) was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Architecture at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Dhaka.

Andre Tchelistcheff (SMArchS, MIT) is working for architect Eric J. Smith in New York City designing private houses. This past winter, his essay "Jingo Science: USS Intrepid Museum of Patriotism," an analysis of the role the aircraft carrier museum USS Intrepid has had as a monument/memorial in NYC, was published in *Documents*, a journal of art and social commentary.

'91 Iftekhar Ahmed (SMArchS, MIT) taught a fifth-year design course and a fourth-year housing course in the Department of Architecture at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, last spring. He presented a slide lecture, "Old Dhaka," at a conservation

seminar and papers, "Tall Buildings at Ground Level" and "Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh: Any Scope for Architects?" at international conferences. Ahmed is also involved with designing a six-story housing project.

Naji Maher Al-Hasani (SMArchS, MIT) visited Mexico City and Villahermosa in Tabasco to do research on the work of contemporary Mexican architect Francisco Serrano. He also contributed several articles on architectural technology to *Architectural Record*, including one on Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House in Mt. Vernon, Virginia, and another on the new design for the Wabasha Bridge in St. Paul, Minnesota by James Carpenter.

Omar Razzaz (PhD, Urban Planning, Harvard) was awarded the 1993 Graduate Student Council Graduate Teaching Award for outstanding teaching in the School of Architecture and Planning at MIT. He has been a lecturer in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning since 1991. Razzaz was selected by the World Bank to participate in their prestigious Young Professionals Program, and will begin working

on land tenure problems in southern Africa this fall. Two of his articles published were: "Contestation and Mutual Adjustment: The Process of Controlling Land in Yajouz, Jordan" in the *Law and Society Review* and "Examining Property Rights and Investment in Informal Settlement: The Case of Jordan" in *Land Economics*.

'90 Kayed Lakhia (SMArchS, MIT) continues to work for Leung, Hemmler, and Camayd in Scranton, Pennsylvania. His present projects include the Steamtown National Historic Site, a project for the National Park Service, and the restoration of a former Masonic Temple, now used as Scranton's cultural center. He is also teaching introduction to design at Marywood College in Scranton.

'89 Tawfiq Abu-Hantash (SMArchS, MIT) has left the Women's College in Amman to set up a private practice with the college's former dean of the Faculty of Architecture. He is now working on a competition in association with architect Rasem Badran.

'88 Shahnaz Arshad (SMArchS, MIT) recently established her

own architecture and design consulting firm called Naqshgarin in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, has completed an interior design project, and is currently working on a small hospital.

Maria Luisa Fernández (PhD, FAS, Harvard) recently wrote "Second Flowering: Art of the Mudejars," for *Aramco World* and "Jardines, Patios y Agua in la Arquitectura Islámica y Mudejar," for *Revista Argos*, published by Universidad Simon Bolivar where she teaches. In April, she attended the opening of the Mosque of Shaykh Ibrahim Bin Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim in Caracas, the first mosque built in Venezuela and the largest in Latin America, for which she was a consultant to the architect, Oscar Bracho.

Shakeel Hossain (SMArchS, MIT) is in India with a grant from the Smithsonian Institution to complete research on "Ta'zia: Ephemeral Architecture of Shi'a—Belief, Rituals, Art and Architecture: Muharram in India."

Sikander Khan (SMArchS, MIT) remains in Kuwait where he is working part-time with Kuwaiti Engineers Office on the Kuwait University and Honda showroom projects. The remainder of his time is devoted to his private practice.

Amer Moustafa (SMArchS, MIT) has been working on his PhD in urban design at the University of Southern California since 1990 and is employed at a planning firm in Santa Monica, California.

'87 Hana Alamuddin (SMArchS, MIT) presented "Urban Design Studies: The Mamluk City of Tripoli" at a seminar on architecture and development in the Islamic world sponsored by the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, York University, England, in April. She will soon move to Qatar where she has accepted a new position.

'81 Stephen Urice (PhD, FAS, Harvard) was appointed director by the trustees of the Rosenbach Museum and Library in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 1, 1993.

'80 Nancy Pyle Nichols (PhD, FAS, Harvard), now a vice president in international planning and development in New York for the American University of Beirut, was married to Rodney Nichols, the chief executive of the New York Academy of Sciences, on March 13, 1993. ♦

AKP Reunion

Alumni/ae have responded enthusiastically to the idea of an AKP reunion to be held in Cambridge during the period between MIT and Harvard's commencement ceremonies. The tentative dates are June 1 and 2, 1994, and activities will include social gatherings, a seminar, and a planning meeting for future reunions in other countries. (The following day, June 3, the MIT Alumni Association will hold Technology Day, which focuses on the arts at MIT, including architecture.) The AKP central office will send more information and applications later this fall once we have found volunteers to coordinate the seminar program. If you would like to volunteer assistance, please contact Barbro Ek: telephone, (617) 253-1400; fax, (617) 258-8172; Internet e-mail, barbroek@mit.edu.

Recent AKP Publications

Muqarnas 9: An Annual on Islamic Art and Architecture

edited by Oleg Grabar

Articles on topics ranging from Egyptian funerary architecture to Islamic art in the 20th century. Contributors include Christopher Taylor, Nuha Khoury, Doris Behrens-Abouseif, Mohammad Al-Asad, Marilyn Jenkins, Robert Mason, Ronald Farquhar, Patrick Smith, A. Ghouchani, C. Adle, Summer Kenesson, Massumeh Farhad, Barbara Finster, Robert Hillenbrand, Subhash Parihar, and Wijdan Ali.

1992

27.5 x 21.5 cm, clothbound, 240 pages.

61 figures, 177 photos.

ISBN 90 04 09625 6

NLG 79 (US\$ 45.25)

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2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands

Muqarnas 10: Essays in Honor of Oleg Grabar

Thirty-nine articles contributed by former and present students of Professor Grabar, who retired in 1992 after a decade as editor of *Muqarnas*, have been published in this volume to honor him. Subjects covered in these contributions range in time from early Islam to the 20th century and in place from the Mediterranean to Malaysia. The majority are devoted to aspects of mainly Islamic architecture, but there are also contributions on painting, ceramics, the arts of the book, and textiles. The volume also includes a bibliography of Professor Grabar's published works. To mark the tenth anniversary of *Muqarnas*, a cumulative index of articles published from volume 1 (1983) to volume 10 (1993) is provided.

1993

27.5 x 21.5 cm, clothbound, 390 pages.

Plans, drawings, and halftone illustrations.

ISBN 90 04 09748 1

NLG 110 (US\$ 63)

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