

AKPIA AKTC

JANUARY 2010

THE AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE &
THE AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

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AKPIA

Established in 1979, the Aga Khan Programs for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA) at Harvard University and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are supported by endowments for instruction, research, and student aid from His Highness the Aga Khan. AKPIA is dedicated to the study of Islamic architecture, urbanism, visual culture, and conservation, in an effort to respond to the cultural and educational needs of a diverse constituency drawn from all over the world.

Along with the focus on improving the teaching of Islamic art and architecture and setting a standard of excellence in professional research, AKPIA also continually strives to promote visibility of the pan-Islamic cultural heritage. This goal was recently recognized in December 2009, when the Aga Khan Programs at Harvard and MIT were awarded the Bridge Builders Award from Partners for Livable Communities. Professors Gülru Necipoğlu and James Wescoat attended the awards ceremony on December 7 in Washington, D.C. The event program notes that the award was given to AKPIA for its “commitment to promoting, creating, and preserving Islamic culture through architecture.”

AKTC

Buildings and public spaces are physical manifestations of culture in societies both past and present. They represent human endeavors that can enhance the quality of life, foster self-understanding and community values, and expand opportunities for economic and social development into the future. The Aga Khan Trust for Culture is an integral part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a family of institutions created by His Highness the Aga Khan with distinct yet complementary mandates to improve the welfare and prospects of people in countries of the developing world, particularly in Asia and Africa.

Though their spheres of activity and expertise differ—ranging from social development to economic development to culture—AKDN institutions share at least three principles that guide their work. The first is dedication to self-sustaining development that can contribute to long-term economic advancement and social harmony. The second is a commitment to the vigorous participation of local communities in all development efforts. Finally, all Network institutions seek shared responsibility for positive change.

AGA KHAN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

2009-10 AKPIA HARVARD LECTURE SERIES: A FORUM FOR ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE

All lectures are held on Thursdays from 5:30 - 6:30 PM in Room 318 of the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University, 485 Broadway. Friday seminars are held in Sackler Room 515 at 11 AM.

Lectures are free and open to the public. For further information, please call 617-495-2355.

September 24

Professor Cristelle Baskins, "Picturing the Levant in Renaissance Italy," Associate Professor, Art and Art History, Tufts University; Post-doctoral Fellow in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Harvard University

October 29

Professor Doris Behrens Abouseif, "The Foundation of Sultan Mahmud I in Cairo and the Dialogue over Fountains between Two Cities," Nasser D. Khalili Professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

October 30

Professor Doris Behrens Abouseif, "Mamluk Art and Europe," Nasser D. Khalili Professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

November 5

Professor Nasser Rabbat, "Staging the City: How Mamluk Architecture Coopted the Streets of Cairo," Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

February 18

Elizabeth Schotten Merklinger, "Architectural Masterpieces of the Deccan Sultanates: Gulbarga, Bidar, and Bijapur," Independent Scholar; former Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture

March 4

Professor Finbarr Barry Flood, "All That Glitters: Image and Ornament in Early Islam," William B. Kenan Professor of the Humanities, Institute of Fine Arts & Department of Art History, New York University

April 1

Amity Law, "Cultural Modeling and Identity in the Western Mediterranean," Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Harvard University

AKPIA, History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University, Courses Offered

Spring 2009

Courses taught by David Roxburgh

HAA 12m: Monuments and Cities of the Islamic World: An Introduction

An introduction to key monuments and cities from the historical Islamic lands from Spain to India, ca. 650–1650—Baghdad, Cairo, Cordoba, Isfahan, Istanbul, and Samarqand. Various building types are treated—e.g., mosques, palaces, schools, tombs, and shrines—as well as the factors that shaped them, whether artistic, cultural, socio-religious, political, or economic. Different methods of studying architecture are introduced in the course of the lectures (also offered in Summer 2009 as HARC S-128).

HAA 100r: Sophomore Excursion Course

Taught with Hugo Van der Velden, Thomas Cummins, and Benjamin Buchloh
This major study trip with preparatory seminar explores the history, art, and architecture of Spain, with emphasis on long-term change and global interaction.

Fall 2009

Courses taught by Gülru Necipoğlu

HAA 222m: Architecture in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

Taught with Alina A. Payne

This seminar examines the architecture of the eastern Mediterranean basin (at the Italian, Ottoman, and Mamluk courts), with emphasis on cross-cultural encounters and transmission of the Romano-Byzantine heritage, science and technology, architectural practice, ornament, urban design, and military, religious, and domestic architecture.

HAA 92: "Orientalism" in Art and Architecture

A junior tutorial exploring readings on theories of "Orientalism" along with interpretations of selected orientalist art works, objects, photographs and architectural monuments from various periods and locations.

Spring 2010

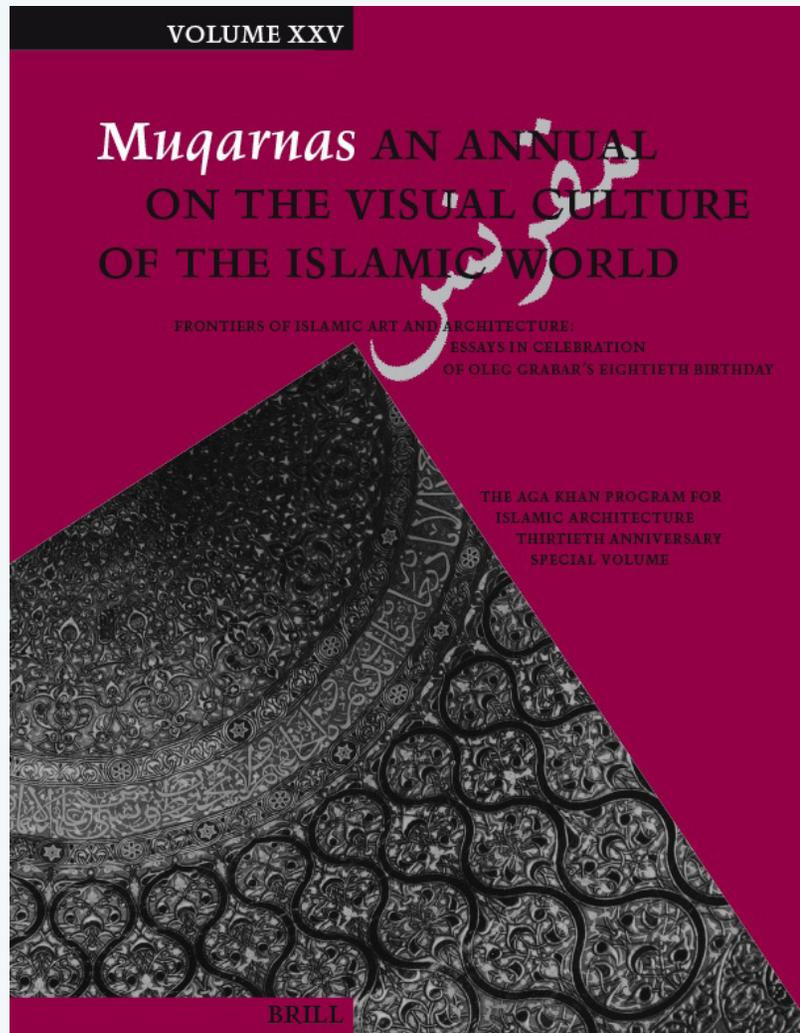
Courses taught by Gülru Necipoğlu

Literature and Arts B-35: The Age of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent: Art, Architecture, and Ceremonial at the Ottoman Court

This course explores the "Golden Age" of Ottoman-Islamic visual culture in the sixteenth century, considered within its ceremonial and historical contexts. It focuses on architecture, miniature painting, and decorative arts and stresses the transformation of Byzantine Constantinople into Ottoman Istanbul, the formation of an imperial architectural style, and cross-cultural artistic contacts with contemporary European and Islamic courts. The course also considers the art and architecture of Safavid Iran and Mughal India as a comparative backdrop, and discusses the role of centralized court ateliers in propagating canons of taste, the emphasis on applied arts and the arts of the book in a culture that rejected monumental sculpture and painting. The representation of the Islamic World by European Renaissance artists in the emerging "proto-orientalist mode" is another theme.

HAA 121k. Islamic Ornament and the Aesthetics of Abstraction

In conjunction with a Harvard University conference on "Ornament" in Fall 2010 (co-sponsored by the AKPIA, the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and the CNRS in Paris), this proseminar critically explores interpretations of Islamic ornament. Themes include orientalism and ornamentalism, discourses on the "arabesque," and resonances of non-figural abstraction with modernism and postmodern aesthetics.



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The Aga Khan Program at the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University is pleased to announce the publication of *Muqarnas* 25 (2008). This volume is now available for purchase through Brill Publishers, www.brill.nl.

VOLUME XXVI

Muqarnas AN ANNUAL
ON THE VISUAL CULTURES
OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD



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AGA KHAN PROGRAM, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**2009-10 HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
DESIGN ACTIVITIES****Fall 2009****October 13**

Risk and the City: The Case of Istanbul
Workshop

Presented by the Aga Khan Program for
Islamic Architecture at MIT and Harvard, in
collaboration with Bilgi University, Istanbul,
and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

The city is increasingly under threat of disaster. Whether natural, environmental, or security related, these hazards have been magnified in public perception to the point where risk management now plays a determining role in shaping urban policy and guiding decisions about infrastructure and urban development. Benefiting from the visit of Prof. Ulrich Beck to the Harvard GSD under the auspices of the Loeb Fellowship, the workshop aims to extend this discussion to address the impact of risk on public spaces and urban architecture.

The workshop will examine the history of the relationship between disaster prevention, disaster relief, and the city. It will look at case studies in the contemporary world, in Japan in particular, before focusing on the main case

of Istanbul, a city that is undergoing major rehabilitation of its infrastructure and its inner quarters in face of the threat of earthquakes. The Istanbul case will be illustrated and critically analyzed through historical and contemporary examples.

10:00 AM: Introductory Remarks

Hashim Sarkis (Harvard GSD)
Ulrich Beck (University of Munich and London
School of Economics)
Jennifer Leaning (Harvard Humanitarian
Initiative)

11:30 AM: Lessons from Japan: Tokyo and Kobe

Miho Mazereeuw (MIT)
Osamu Murao (University of Tsukuba)
Moderated by Hashim Sarkis

3:00 PM: Historical Istanbul

Gülru Necipoğlu (Harvard FAS)
Sibel Bozdoğan (Harvard GSD and Bilgi
University, Istanbul)
Moderated by James Wescoat (MIT) and Han
Tümertekin (Bilgi University, Istanbul)

4:30 PM: Contemporary Istanbul

Mikdat Kadioğlu (Istanbul Technical University)
Neyran Turan (Rice University)
Moderated by James Wescoat and
Han Tümertekin

Followed by a reception at 6:00 PM.
This event is free and open to the public –
no registration is required.

**Options Studio titled The New Gate: Public
Space, Infrastructure, and the Re-Orientation
of Historic Istanbul**

Over the past four decades, the city of Istanbul has grown away from the congestion of its historic center towards its vast metropolitan fringes on both sides of the Bosphorus, supported by an extensive network of roads, bridges, and public transportation. This condition is bound to radically change in 2011, when the Marmara project, a new underwater train-line linking the two sides of the Bosphorus, will be completed. This line will bring more than one million passengers a day into the historic city. Yenikapı (Turkish for “new gate”), an existing station at the intersection of ferry and metro lines right next to the Roman wall of the historic city, will be enlarged to serve as the main station for the Marmara. From Yenikapı, commuters will work their way from the inner city out.

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AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE &
THE AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

AGA KHAN PROGRAM, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Yenikapı:

The new geographic repositioning of the historic city will require enhancing and reorienting its public spaces. The site of Yenikapı is already highly urbanized. It is further challenged by archaeological findings of a Byzantine harbor (probably destroyed by an earthquake), the city's disaster relief program (primarily in face of earthquakes), and the sectional relations among the different parts of the site add to the challenges of building a station and the public spaces required for its proper functioning. The interstitial spaces between the different modes of transportation will require a clearer connection logic as this site is readied to become literally the new gate for one million commuters.

Studio Project:

The studio explores the intersection of these different infrastructural components in the historic city around the program of a new station. The students in the studio will propose design solutions for this station and entry points and public spaces, retail activity, a disaster relief center, and bridges and passages. Whether they are to fuse these components into a mega-hub, treat them as discretely intersecting layers, or disperse them as part of an incremental development strategy in the historic city, the students will be encouraged to push the relationship between urban development and public space towards a new conception of the role of infrastructure in reorienting the city.

The scale and scope of the project are to be determined by each student's strategy. This will also determine the combination of architectural, urban, landscape, and engineering tools to be used.

Some of the main formal explorations include:

- the degree to which the infrastructure networks will formally manifest themselves on the site;
- the relationship between sectional complexity and surface continuity;
- the relationship between abstraction and legibility in the design of public space.

It is offered in collaboration with Bilgi University in Istanbul, where Profs. Tansel Korkmaz and Han Tümertekin will be conducting a parallel studio, and with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. It includes a site visit to Istanbul during the last week of September.

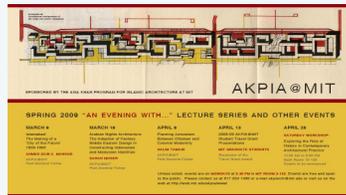
The outcome of the studio will be part of an exhibition and publication for Istanbul, Cultural Capital of Europe 2010.

A workshop on risk, public space, and the city was held at the GSD on October 13 using Istanbul and the studio theme as its main case study.

The studio is sponsored by the Aga Khan Program at the GSD and Bilgi University.

MIT – LECTURES AND EVENTS

Spring 2009



March 9

“Islamabad:
The Making of a ‘City of the Future’ 1959-1963”

Ahmed Zaib Khan Mahsud
AKPIA@MIT Post-Doctoral Fellow

March 16

“Arabian Nights Architecture: The Adoption of
Fantasy Middle Eastern Design in Constructing
Indonesian and Malaysian Identities”

Sarah Moser
AKPIA@MIT Post-Doctoral Fellow

April 6

“Planning Jerusalem: Between Ottoman and
Colonial Modernity”

Salim Tamari
AKPIA@MIT Post-Doctoral Fellow

April 13

2008-9 Aga Khan Travel Grant Presentations
MIT Student Recipients of the Travel Grant Award:
Zehra Ali, “Study of Innovations in Building
Energy Efficiency in Northern Pakistan”;
Zameer Basrai, “A Study in Architectural
Identity of Ismaili Philanthropic Institutions

in Contemporary Bombay”; Christian Hedrick,
“German-Austrian Influences in 19th Century
Cairo”; Aneka Lenssen, “Pioneers and
Primitives: Painting from Syria, 1960-1970”;
Alexa Rosenberg, “Managing Evolution in a
Prominent African NGO: Lessons from Enda
Tiers Monde in Dakar, Senegal.”

Saturday, April 18

Workshop:
Water in Architecture, Landscape + Urbanism



web.mit.edu/akpia/www/sympwater.htm

Saturday, April 25

Workshop:
Exploring the Role of History
in Contemporary Architectural Practice



web.mit.edu/akpia/www/symphistpract.htm

Fall 2009



Building New Campuses In the Islamic World

October 5

KAUST -
King Abdullah University for Science and
Technology - A Step into the Future

William Odell, FAIA
Design Principal, HOK Architects
Ammar Alnahwi, PhD
Associate Director, Global Collaborative
Research, KAUST US

October 26

Education for All
Education City, Doha, Qatar
Kevin Underwood
Vice President / Principal, EDAA | AECOM

November 16

Drawing on Islamic City-Building Traditions to
Create a 21st Century Community of Learning
David Dixon, FAIA
Principal in charge of Planning and Urban Design
Goody, Clancy & Associates

Special Lecture



Wednesday, October 28, 2009

**Palmettes, Arches, Geometrical Patterns:
Ornaments in the Marble Carvings from
Medieval Afghanistan**

Martina Rugiadi, PhD
AKPIA@MIT Post-Doctoral Fellow
Sapienza Università di Roma

For further information, please consult:

[http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/
lecturescurrent.htm](http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/lecturescurrent.htm)

and

[http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/
lecturespast.htm](http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/lecturespast.htm)

Lectures are free and open to the public.
Unless indicated, lectures are on Mondays at
5:30 PM in Room 3-133

AKPIA@MIT COURSES OFFERED

SPRING 2009 COURSES

Courses taught by Nasser Rabbat

4.617

**Balancing Globalism and Regionalism: The
Heart of Doha Project**

In the last two decades, the Arabian Gulf experienced an extraordinary urban boom fueled by a global economy looking for new, profitable outlets and an accumulated oil wealth seeking easy and safe investments at home. The combined capital found its ideal prospect in developing gargantuan business parks and malls, luxury housing and hotels, and touristic, cultural, and entertainment complexes. Architecture at once assumed the role of branding instrument and spectacular wrapping for these new lavish enterprises, which swiftly sprang up in cities like Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Manama, Riyadh, and Kuwait.

Yet, not all recent architecture in the Gulf readily fits what Joseph Rykwert matter-of-factly calls the "Emirate Style," a style whose extravagant flights of fancy seem to depend only on the unbridled imagination of the designers and the willingness of their patrons to bankroll those fantasies. Various large-scale projects are trying to reverse the trend by judiciously using the vast financial resources available to produce quality design that tackles some of the most urgent social, cultural, and environmental issues facing those countries today. These urban and

architectural experiments, like Masdar City in Abu Dhabi, the Heart of Doha in Qatar, and KAUST Campus in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, hailed as design tours de force, have yet to be studied from a historical and sociocultural perspective. Their design and technological innovations need to be examined from the angle of their assumptions, appropriateness, and impact on the environment, as well as from that of their avant-gardism, desirability, and aims.

This seminar seeks to establish a critical framework for the study of the Arabian Gulf cities and their quest for architectural identity and urban stability. The focus of the investigation will be the Heart of Doha Project in Doha, Qatar, an ambitious project of urban renewal that covers approximately 35 hectares in the center of the city. By advocating simple design principles such as respect for topography and ecology, thoughtful adaptation of regional norms and environmental strategies, and promotion of contemporaneity rooted in heritage, the Heart of Doha aspires to regenerate the historic core of the city and to act as a stimulus for future wider city renaissance. Its ultimate objective, however, is to propose a new paradigm of architecture and planning for the cities of the Arabian Gulf.

The class will take a trip to Doha during Spring Break 2009. We will tour major projects in the city including the Heart of Doha site, visit Doha Land, the Qatar Foundation, ARUP, and some top architectural firms in the city, and organize discussions with officials in those agencies.

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AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE &
THE AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

AGA KHAN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

4.628

Modernization and Colonization: Cairo in the Long 19th century

Steeped in history and tradition, but also open and cosmopolitan, Cairo experienced an expansive yet distinct revival during the long 19th century. Starting with the Napoleonic invasion of 1789, the city went through a series of extensive urban, political, cultural, and economic transmutations. Muhammad 'Ali Pasha (1805-48) sought to modernize it in an ultimately unsuccessful bid to catch up with the West. His grandson, Khedive Isma'il (1868-76), fanatically "progress"-minded, quickened the pace of modernization and "Haussmannized" Cairo, which drastically altered its size, layout, and future development. In the process, he ruined Egypt's finances, which opened the way for direct British rule in 1882. Colonization tied the city to a vast imperial network, which spurred a new urban expansion spearheaded by a multitude of adventurous immigrants who came from all around the Mediterranean and beyond. New districts were planned and scores of buildings were built in hybrid styles that borrowed freely from the varied repertoires of the past and blended them with various European styles. This phase ended with the Revolution of 1952 that toppled the monarchy and shifted to nationalism and socialism as framers of the city's identity.

This seminar will address the emergence of the colonial metropolis in the 19th century by examining Cairo as one of its paradigmatic examples. It will trace the city's urban, social, and cultural transformations and consider its changing architectural character from the perspective of the intense cross-cultural activity that marked its development. Challenging the standard binary framing strategies such as East vs. West, traditional vs. modern, and local vs. global, the seminar will focus instead on the profound dialectical relationship of modernity with colonization. With its particular recent history, where indigenous modernization preceded colonization, Cairo in fact forces us to reconsider that relationship and to cast it in a totally new interpretive framework.

Courses taught by James Wescoat

4.286 & 11.945

Landscape, Heritage & Conservation Workshop: Nizamuddin, Delhi

This workshop introduces students to the theory and practice of landscape heritage conservation design in the Indo-Islamic context. Theoretically, this field is charged with issues of cultural identity, historicism, conflict, and creativity. It entails multiple methods of inquiry and associated challenges of synthesis, analogy, and judgment. At the same time, the practice of conservation design in South Asia

is entering a new phase of sophistication, which can shed light on the history and theory of the field. Students will gain a firsthand sense of these connections by participating in an active conservation design project.

The workshop will be associated with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) project in the Nizamuddin area of Delhi, a project that has expanded substantially from garden heritage conservation to related urban environmental design and socioeconomic development issues. Students will spend 2.5 weeks in India, primarily working with AKTC staff at Nizamuddin. Funding support will be provided from AKPIA for travel and lodging; students will be responsible for meals, internal travel, incidentals, etc. We will meet with faculty and graduate students at the Architectural Conservation Department at the School of Planning and Architecture and the Conservation Department of the Archaeological Survey of India. We will also take short trips to conservation projects in Agra, Fathpur Sikri, Jodhpur, and Nagaur for comparison with the work in Delhi.

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AGA KHAN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

4.666/11.943

Water in Environmental History, Policy and Design Reading Group

This for-credit reading group is aimed at students with a thesis, dissertation, or minor field concentration related to water resources. As a large multidisciplinary field, water is a challenging topic for graduate students and faculty to follow. Even so, the connections among history, policy, and design have increasing intellectual significance for understanding and addressing water issues.

FALL 2009 COURSES

Courses taught by Nasser Rabbat

4.617

Religious Architecture and Islamic Cultures

This course introduces the history of Islamic cultures through its architecture. Religious, commemorative, and educational structures are surveyed from the beginning of Islam in 7th-century Arabia to its development into a world religion professed by one-sixth of humanity today. The survey is chronological with emphasis on distinguished patrons, influential thinkers, and outstanding designers. Representative examples of mosques, madrasas, mausolea, etc. are analyzed and their architectural, urban, and stylistic characteristics are examined in

conjunction with their historical, political, and intellectual settings.

Visual media are used to elucidate the artistic/cultural varieties and historical developments of this architectural heritage. Students are encouraged to raise questions and generate debates during the lectures as well as the discussion sessions. The aim is to explore all possible venues of interpretation to better locate Islamic religious architecture within its regional, pan-Islamic, and universal and cross-cultural contexts.

URL: <http://web.mit.edu/4.614/www/>, also available on the Open Course Ware website.

4.621

Orientalism and Representation

This is a seminar on the politics of knowledge, that is, how political and ideological attitudes, concerns, and biases inform – and sometimes dictate – the representation, codification, and production of knowledge. It uses Orientalism as its example, which it argues is a discursive classification, i.e., one that is historically and culturally constructed. Adopting a flexible historical framework, the seminar explores selected cases of cultural encounters between Europe and the “Orient” from Antiquity to the present. Its method is to critically review texts, illustrations, architectural projects, and institutional traditions, which have been influential and/or paradigmatic in shaping the

concepts and images of the “Orient” over time. They include medieval sources, both European and Islamic, treatises by Orientalist scholars and travelers of the post-Enlightenment age, and, more recently, by academicians, artists, and architects working on the Islamic world (what was traditionally called the Orient).

The seminar also considers contemporary critical issues, such as the “clash of civilizations,” identity, exile, multiculturalism, and hybridity, that are impacting the ways we see and represent the Islamic world today. The aim is to gain a historically grounded awareness of the complexities of cultural identities, which are always contesting and sometimes subverting the representations that claim to depict and define them.

AGA KHAN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Courses taught by James Wescoat

4.214J-11.314J**Workshop: Water, Landscape, and Urban Design**

Water affects the design of every building, landscape, and city in aesthetic, functional, and symbolic ways. This workshop combines a systematic study of water issues with urban design projects in the U.S. and South Asia. Water has always posed integrative challenges for architects, planners, and engineers. We will seek to build upon the history of ideas about water in these fields.

In the 21st century, water problems will rival those of the energy sector, as will linkages between water and energy. This workshop seeks to understand how cities in wealthy countries managed to supply their populations, including many low income residents, with reasonably safe, abundant, inexpensive, and beautiful flows of water during the 20th century and how those achievements can be adapted for the 21st century.

In the 21st century, U.S. cities will also need to seek lessons from around the world to redesign systems that are aging and inadequate. Our investigations thus begin at home with historical and contemporary water projects in metropolitan Boston. We shift to urban water projects in South Asia, where

advances in rainwater harvesting, irrigation management, and water use efficiency warrant comparative study. The workshop will give special attention to the power and pitfalls of comparative inquiry. How can fruitful comparisons be drawn among urban water projects in India, Pakistan, and the U.S.?

Design projects will be chosen based on student interests and the urban case studies. For example, they may include rainwater harvesting, water use efficiency, wastewater reuse, stormwater management, floodplain design, constructed wetlands, waterfront development, etc.

4.623**Mughal Landscapes: History, Heritage & Design**

This seminar focuses on environmental design during the Mughal empire of South Asia (16th through 18th centuries), a dynasty of Central Asian origins that extended over what are today the territories of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

The seminar critically evaluates places described as gardens, cities, landscapes, and territories, along with their changing meanings over time. These sites range from tomb-gardens such as the Taj Mahal, to palaces, citadels, waterworks, and pleasure gardens. They have meanings that conjoined religious symbolism with economic

production, environmental functions, and political power.

We begin with modern debates over the cultural heritage value, conservation, and design significance of Mughal landscapes. From these modern questions, which constitute “the designer’s problem,” we follow diverse strands of evidence that may help us reconstruct and interpret these historic places. Some students may focus on the representation of landscapes in texts, paintings, or historical photography. Others may choose to analyze extant landscape forms, shapes, and metrics. Each type of evidence raises as many questions as it answers. We will work together to weigh and synthesize the results in ways that reinterpret the history, heritage, and design of Mughal landscapes, and strive to assemble our findings in an edited report.

Faculty



Gülru Necipoğlu

Gülru Necipoğlu has been the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art at the Harvard University Department of History of Art and Architecture since 1993 and has taught there since 1987. She has been the Editor of *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World* and the *Supplements to Muqarnas* since 1993. She was recently elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and attended her induction ceremony in October 2008.

During her sabbatical leave in 2008-9, she was based in Istanbul, where she conducted research in manuscript libraries and archives. She was also invited to deliver the following lectures: "Architecture of Water at the Topkapı Palace in the Early Sixteenth Century" (TDV İslam Araştırmaları Merkezi); "Virtual Archaeology in Light of a New Archival Document: The Topkapı Palace in the Early Sixteenth Century" (Topkapı Palace Museum); "Aesthetics of Ornament in the Ottoman and Safavid Regimes of Visuality" (*The 2009 Aptullah Kuran Memorial Lecture*, Bosphorus University); "Aesthetics of Ornament in the Ottoman and Safavid Regimes of Visuality" (Ryukoku University, Kyoto); "Architectural Dialogues across the Early Modern

Mediterranean World" (University of Tokyo, Institute of Oriental Culture); "Portable Archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean: Croatian-Born Ottoman Pashas as Cultural Mediators" (workshop titled "Croatia and the Mediterranean," organized by Alina Payne, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max Planck Institut); "Architectural Dialogues across the Early Modern Mediterranean World" (keynote evening lecture in *The Salwa and Fuad Es-Said Seminar in Middle East History and Culture*, titled "Negotiating Boundaries: Cultural Exchange and Production of the Mediterranean," organized by Howayda al-Harithy, American University of Beirut, Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies).

Gülru also delivered a keynote address, titled "Reflections on the Birth and Growth of the Field Called Islamic Art," at the First Biennial Symposium of the Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA), held at the University of Pennsylvania in October 2008. During that symposium, she co-organized an Aga Khan Program-sponsored dinner with Renata Holod, in which she ceremonially presented the following festschrift volume to Oleg Grabar, the first Aga Khan Professor: "Frontiers of Islamic Art and Architecture, Essays in Celebration of Oleg Grabar's Eightieth Birthday," co-edited with Julia Bailey (The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Thirtieth Anniversary Special Volume: *Muqarnas* vol. 25, 2008). The volume

includes her article, "The Dome of the Rock as Palimpsest: Abd al-Malik's Grand Narrative and Sultan Süleyman's Glosses." She also published "Religious Inscriptions on the Great Mosques of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires," *Hadeeth Ad-Dar* (Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, Kuwait National Museum, vol. 25, 2008).

Gülru was the narrator in a documentary film produced for a Dutch TV Channel and distributed as a DVD: "Sinan: Een Goddelijke Architect," directed by Rammelt Lukkien (DVD, Lasso Film & TV Production, with AVRO TV and VOX POPULI Films, 2008); English version: "Sinan: A Divine Architect," a video documentary (52 minutes, lassotv@xs4all.nl).

In August 2009, she was a narrator in another documentary film on Istanbul, directed by Katie Chapoutier for the French National TV, filmed in Istanbul and Edirne (to be broadcast internationally in 2010). Two interviews she gave in Istanbul will soon be published: "Interview with Professor Gülru Necipoğlu," by Gizem Tongo, *The Graduate Journal of the History Department*, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul; "Interview with Professor Gülru Necipoğlu on the Historiography of Ottoman Architectural History," in *TALID (Türkiye Araştırmaları Literatür Dergisi)* Mimarlık Tarihi Sayısı, edited by Halil İbrahim Düzenli.

During the academic year 2009-10, Gülru's courses include two new seminars: "Architecture in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: A Cross-Cultural Perspective" (co-taught with Professor Alina Payne) and "Islamic Ornament." In preparation for these courses, she conducted several field trips during her sabbatical, in Croatia, Southern Italy, Florence, Munich, Lebanon, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, and Japan. In 2010, she will lecture at the Berlin Pergamonmuseum (in the workshop on "Layers of Islamic Art and the Museum Context," co-sponsored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture), Freie Universität Berlin, Stanford University, Berkeley University (Stoddard Lecture Series), and at the INHA in Paris. At Harvard she recently delivered a paper titled "City of Risks: Early Modern Istanbul," in an AKPIA workshop organized by Hashim Sarkis at the Graduate School of Design, called "Risk and the City: The Case of Istanbul."



David Roxburgh

David J. Roxburgh has been the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History since 2007 and has taught at Harvard since 1996. He presented lectures on various topics between Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. These include "Against fairytale splendor': The Ausstellung von Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst, Munich 1910, in Historical Perspective," at the conference "After One Hundred Years: The 1910 Exhibition Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst Reconsidered," Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; "Word and Image in the 1237 Maqamat: Al-Hariri's and al-Wasiti's Fictions," Medieval Renaissance Forum, Department of Art History, Yale University; "Books of Stars, Mechanical Devices, Maqamat, and Animal Fables: Image and Genre in Medieval Arabic Manuscripts," 14th Cultural Lecture Series, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya, Kuwait; and "The Picture Gallery of China': The Reception of Chinese Art in Iran under the Timurids, ca. 1400-1450," keynote lecture for the "14th Annual Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Art," University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Several essays appeared in 2009, including "Ruy González de Clavijo's Narrative of Courtly Life and Ceremony in Timur's Samarqand, 1404,"

in *The 'Book' of Travels: Genre, Ethnology, and Pilgrimage, 1250-1700*, ed. Palmira Brummett (Leiden: Brill, 2009), pp. 113-58; and "Concepts of the Portrait in the Islamic Lands, ca. 1300-1600," *Dialogues in Art History, from Mesopotamian to Modern: Readings for a New Century*, Studies in the History of Art 74, ed. Elizabeth Cropper (Washington, D.C., New Haven, and London: National Gallery of Art, distributed by Yale University Press, 2009), pp. 118-37. During the academic year, he completed essays on Arabic books and the scriptorium of Alfonso X, the albums of Heinrich Friedrich Von Diez, and exhibitions after Munich 1910.

During his sabbatical leave from teaching 2009-10, David will be based in New York and will make research trips to work with collections in Berlin, Paris, Istanbul, Kuwait, London, Munich, Oxford, Qatar, and St. Petersburg. This fall, he was busy helping to organize an event honoring his doctoral adviser, Professor Renata Holod, which took place October 9-10 in Philadelphia. He also spoke at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in October in conversation with Salman Rushdie about his latest novel, "The Enchantress of Florence." This winter, he will present research on exchange between the Timurid and Ming dynasties in the series "The Power of Things and the Flow of Cultural Transformations" at the Universität Heidelberg, and two talks on the aesthetic transitions in Timurid painting from ca. 1450 onwards.

Post-Doctoral Fellows



Cristelle Baskins

Cristelle Baskins' area of expertise is Italian Renaissance art. She received her PhD from UC Berkeley in 1988 and has taught at the College of the Holy Cross, the University of Rochester, and Tufts University, where she is Associate Professor. The majority of her publications have focused on Florence and the reception/interpretation of secular domestic painting. Her 2008 exhibition at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, "The Triumph of Cassoni: Painted Wedding Chests of the Renaissance," was the culmination of twenty-five years of research. She is now turning full attention to her current project, "Picturing the Levant in Renaissance Italy: Booty, Trade, Tribute," which will focus on monuments and image production in Tuscany, Liguria, and Lazio

Her engagement with global approaches to the Renaissance in general, and relations between Italy and the Eastern Mediterranean in particular, can be traced through a variety of venues. For example, in 2001 she presented "Alexander the Great and the Persian Women" at the M. Victor Leventritt Symposium, Fogg Museum; the essay will be revised for *Muqarnas* under the title "The Bride of Trebizond: Turks and Turkmens on a Florentine Wedding Chest, circa 1460." In October 2003, she presented a

paper at the Aga Khan Program, Harvard University: "My Sultan, My Self: The Tale of Saladin and Torello in Renaissance Domestic Painting". The essay was published in 2005. In 2006-7, she supervised Sean Roberts, a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow, whose dissertation involved the exchange of graphics and maps between Florence and the Ottomans. She and Roberts chaired a panel titled "Global Renaissance, Local Histories," for the Renaissance Society of America meeting in Chicago in 2008. The previous year she co-chaired a panel, "Signifying the Exotic in Renaissance Art," at the Renaissance Society of America meeting in Miami.

She hopes that her participation in the Aga Khan Fellowship program will lead to future collaborations, building bridges between the study of Italian Renaissance art and the visual culture of the Eastern Mediterranean.



Amity Law

Amity Law teaches and writes about the art and architecture of the Western Mediterranean and the Iberian Peninsula. She addresses spatial history; architectural drawing, dimensional communication, and creativity; late medieval techno-scientific knowledge; environmental design; and historiography. Currently, she is pursuing theories of cultural modeling and identity, visual and material memory, mnemonic and heuristic devices in architectural processes, and the dynamics of perception and cognition in designing and construction. Her interest in spatial history focuses on the cross-cultural and transregional significance of shared techniques, materials and spatial concepts, and the idea of innovation. She is writing a book on Islamic, Mudéjar, and Gothic architecture, documenting links in Mediterranean visual and structural possibilities.

At Columbia University, Law received a BA in Art History and Visual Arts and a MA and PhD in Art History and Archaeology. She has taught at Columbia University and Princeton University.

Graduate Students



Anastassia Botchkareva

Anastassia Botchkareva is in her third year in the History of Art and Architecture graduate program. Her primary interests deal with Islamic arts of the book, and her future dissertation research will focus on theoretical issues surrounding cross-culturally inspired changes in the modes of representation in Safavid and Mughal painting between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Last spring, she completed her coursework in the program, with a qualifying paper, which considered Timurid legacy in the cultural formation and artistic production of the early Mughal Empire through literary and visual representations of the first Mughal emperor, Babur. Anastassia spent the past summer researching Islamic painting collections in St. Petersburg and Moscow, where she had a chance to explore many amazing Safavid and Mughal manuscripts and albums. She will spend this year at Harvard, gaining teaching experience and preparing for her general exams.



Merih Danalı

Born and raised in Turkey, Merih is a third-year PhD student in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard. Having received her BA in economics at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, she worked in publishing before returning to academia to pursue her interest in art history. She received her MA at the Pennsylvania State University, specializing in late Byzantine art.

Her research at Harvard focuses on the afterlife of Byzantine artifacts in the centuries following the fall of Constantinople and explores the changing responses to Byzantine artistic and cultural heritage by the Ottomans in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Last summer, thanks to a research grant from the Damon Dilley Fund, she traveled to Venice to examine a fourteenth-century Byzantine manuscript, and to work on the lengthy Ottoman inscriptions added to its margins to make the manuscript legible to an Ottoman audience. In February 2009, at the Annual Conference of the College Art Association, she presented a paper on the Ottoman reception of this manuscript, treating the marginalia as important documents of a specific cross-cultural encounter.

Merih is currently working as a teaching assistant and studying advanced Medieval Greek.



A. Ezgi Dikici

Ezgi Dikici received her BA in 2004 from an interdisciplinary social sciences program at Sabancı University in Istanbul. Having developed an interest in Ottoman history, she devoted much of her graduate work at Sabancı, Central European, and Koç Universities, to exploring various aspects of Ottoman culture in the early modern era. Her inquiries have revolved around such themes as courtly culture, literary, artistic, and architectural patronage, and the history of the body. As an MA student at Sabancı, she researched dwarfs and mutes at the early-modern Ottoman court and their representations in narrative and visual sources. At the next stop of her journey, Central European University, in Budapest, she took a closer look at Ottoman literary culture as she delved into an intriguing love story that formed part of an early sixteenth-century Ottoman epic poem. More recently, architectural patronage became a major field of interest for her, which she pursued during her last two years at Koç University in Istanbul. In her recent investigation of the architectural patronage of Ottoman court eunuchs, she drew on certain themes that appeared in her earlier work as she surveyed and interpreted the mosques, colleges, dervish lodges, and other charitable buildings commissioned by this peculiar elite group between the fifteenth and the eighteenth century. At Harvard, she plans to pursue her interest in the patronage of art and architecture in the Ottoman world.



Jesse Howell

Jesse Howell is a fourth-year student at Harvard's joint PhD program in History and Middle Eastern Studies. His work deals with the linkages and interactions between the Ottoman Empire and the Italian city-states of the Adriatic in the early modern era. Informed both by historical and art historical scholarship, he is researching transnational networks that dealt in trade, diplomacy, material culture, cultural production, and information.

After several years concentrating on acquiring proficiency in modern and Ottoman Turkish, he returned to Occidental languages this past summer, attending the Latin Workshop taught at UC Berkeley, thanks to the support of a grant from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. This fall, he will be writing his prospectus, to be delivered in January. The spring semester will find him in Florence, reading broadly in the Biblioteca Berenson at Harvard's Center for Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti.



Zeynep Oğuz

Zeynep Oğuz spent the 2008–9 academic year in residence at Harvard studying Arabic and serving as a teaching fellow in the History of Art and Architecture Department. For the fall term, she had the opportunity to work with Visiting Professor Ebba Koch. This year, she is in Turkey conducting dissertation research at the archives in Ankara and Istanbul. She plans to travel to several architectural sites in Anatolia and the Balkans with the help of an Aga Khan Fellowship. She will survey buildings relevant to her dissertation, which focuses on early Ottoman T-type buildings. Based in Istanbul with access to libraries and manuscript collections, she will take extended research trips to Bursa. Her itinerary includes, but is not limited to, Amasya, Kastamonu, Edirne, Komotini, and Giannitsa, where architectural remnants of the early Ottoman period present exciting cases of social and cultural interactions.



Ünver Rüstem

Having completed all his pre-dissertation requirements, Ünver Rüstem is spending the 2009–10 academic year in Istanbul undertaking a junior fellowship awarded to him by the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations. The main purpose of his year abroad is to gather material and conduct fieldwork for his thesis, which will investigate the remarkable transformations undergone by Ottoman architecture in eighteenth-century Istanbul, and in particular the advent of the so-called Turkish Baroque in the city's sultanlic mosques. To this end, not only will Ünver explore the wealth of primary documents – including foundation deeds and architectural registers – to be found in Turkey's various archives and libraries, but he will also conduct a close firsthand study of the buildings themselves. As well as embarking on his dissertation project, Ünver will also spend part of his time in Istanbul revising a paper he has written on the textual additions made to Shah Tahmasp's famous copy of the *Shāhnāma* after it passed into Ottoman possession. Entitled "The Afterlife of a Royal Gift: The Ottoman Inserts of the *Shāhnāma-yi Shāhi*," the paper was awarded the 2009 Margaret B. Ševčenko Prize for the best unpublished article by a young scholar in the field of Islamic visual culture, and will be published in *Muqarnas* in 2011.



Yasmine Al-Saleh

Yasmine Al-Saleh spent the 2008-9 academic year researching her dissertation entitled “Licit Magic: The Touch and Sight of Islamic Talismanic Scrolls.” In conjunction with Dr. J.J. Witkam, and while researching material in Kuwait, she presented a paper at Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah’s 14th Cultural Season. The paper was on a manuscript from the Dar al-Athar collection, Muhammad ibn Sulayman al-Jazuli’s (d. 1465) prayer manual: *Dalā’il al-khayirāt* (LNS 3 MS). Although this was a close analysis of *Dalā’il al-khayirāt*, it relates to the talismanic theme of Yasmine’s dissertation.

Currently, Yasmine is spending the fall semester in New York, NY. She was awarded a Sylvan C. Coleman and Pamela Coleman Memorial Fellowship from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to complete her dissertation and work on the block-printed talismanic scrolls located within the museum’s Islamic department. Following the completion of Yasmine’s fellowship at the Met, she intends to continue her dissertation research with a GSAS Merit fellowship.



Melis Taner

Melis is a first-year doctoral student in the History of Art and Architecture program at Harvard. She received an MA in Medieval Studies at the Central European University in Budapest in 2007. While writing about the cross-cultural influences in late medieval Central European panel paintings and frescoes of the Adoration of the Magi, she became more interested in Ottoman history and art and continued her studies in Ottoman history, receiving another MA from Sabancı University in 2009. Her thesis dealt with the royal hunt during the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent. Her current research interests are late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century Ottoman miniature painting.



Deniz Türker

Deniz is a first-year PhD student in the joint History of Art/Middle Eastern Studies program. After completing her BA in the History of Art at Yale College, she earned her SMArchS degree in the Aga Program at MIT. Her thesis traced the life of Khalil Sherif Pasha, the Ottoman diplomat and art collector of the nineteenth century, who is known most notably as the patron of Gustave Courbet and his painting *L’Origine du monde*. Last year, while still at MIT, she had the privilege of being a teaching fellow at Harvard alongside Ünver Rüstem for Professor David Roxburgh’s course, “Monuments and Cities of the Islamic World.” She further acquainted herself with Harvard by taking a French language course in the summer. Her current research interests have taken her back in time to the Ottoman genre of the biography of poets and the nature of artistic and intellectual circles in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. She is more than excited to be a part of the Aga Khan community and to finally immerse herself in the field of Ottoman cultural history.



Suzan Yalman

Suzan is currently finishing her dissertation entitled “A Period of ‘Transformation’: Religion, Urbanism, and Identity in the Architectural Patronage of Sultan Alaeddin Keykubad (r. 1220–37).” She has been conducting research and writing in Turkey for several years, thanks to the generous support of the American Research Institute in Turkey Samuel H. Kress Fellowship; Archaeological Institute of America Olivia James Traveling Fellowship; Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations Fellowship; and Aga Khan Dissertation Completion Fellowship. For her project, Suzan has been based in Istanbul, with access to research libraries and manuscript collections, and has carried out research trips to Anatolia and neighboring regions in order to survey monuments and archaeological sites relevant to her dissertation. She traveled through many parts of the country, studying Seljuk buildings and examining them in their local, multicultural Anatolian context.



Ömer Ziyal

Ömer Ziyal is a second-year PhD candidate, specializing in Ottoman art and architecture of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. His research interests focus on cross-cultural and artistic exchange between Renaissance Europe, Byzantium, and the Ottoman Empire. He is currently working on the transmission of scientific knowledge from Europe to Ottoman Turkey in the early modern era through illustrated Ottoman manuscripts.

Ömer spent the month of May traveling in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan with a group led by Visiting Professor Ebba Koch. With the help of an Aga Khan Summer Fellowship, he later participated in an intensive language course in Classical Latin in New York and completed research at the Pierpont Morgan Library. He is looking forward to presenting a paper on Ottoman ecclesiastical architecture on the island of Crete at the 2010 meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Venice.

Ömer comes from Istanbul, Turkey, and received his AB in Comparative Literature from Princeton University in 2008.

Special Visiting Student



Ayşe Hilal Uğurlu

A. Hilal Uğurlu is a Turkish architect and a fifth-year PhD student at Istanbul Technical University. Her master’s thesis, entitled “The Works of Architect Behruz Cinici,” focused on modern Turkish architecture from the 1950’s up until today and analyzed the works of contemporary Turkish architect Behruz Cinici in that context. After she received her MSc in 2002, she became increasingly interested in Ottoman cultural history and its effect on architecture. Her research focuses on 18th- and 19th-century Ottoman architecture in Istanbul. With her dissertation “The Architectural Culture in Istanbul in the Era of Selim III (1789-1807),” she seeks to describe the relationship between the physical and social structure of the Ottoman capital at that time.

Besides her dissertation, she is a part of a TÜBİTAK project entitled “The Works of Architect William James Smith in Istanbul and ‘Taşkılla,’” which was recently funded.

This year, Hilal is a visiting research scholar in the Aga Khan Program and she is working on her dissertation.

Staff



Dan Glade

Dan Glade is the administrative coordinator of the Aga Khan Program at the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. In this role, he oversees the program lecture series, post-doctoral fellowships, and financial administration. He also supports Professor Necipoğlu in her research towards lectures, classes, and publications. Before joining the Aga Khan Program, Dan worked as a program assistant in the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University. Dan holds an MTS in Islamic Studies from Harvard Divinity School.



Karen A. Leal

Karen A. Leal is the Managing Editor for *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World*. She recently finished editing *Muqarnas* 26, due out in Fall 2009, and is currently at work on volume 27. Karen received her AB in the Classics (Greek and Latin) and her AM and PhD in History and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University. After finishing her dissertation on “The Ottoman State and the Greek Orthodox of Istanbul: Sovereignty and Identity at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century,” she held a Packard Humanities Post-Doctoral Fellowship and was an editor and translator for the Ottoman Court Records Project. She later taught in New York at St. John’s University, where she was named a Vincentian Research Fellow and served as an adviser to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. She has also contributed to Aga Khan University’s Muslim Civilisations Abstracts Project. At the 2008 MESA conference she presented the paper “Alexander Mavrocordatos and Dimitrie Cantemir: Orthodox Christian Ottomans or Ottoman Orthodox Christians?” This past summer she was a Kluge Fellow at the Library of Congress, where she gave a lecture entitled

“Between European and Ottoman: Hellenic Grand Dragomans, Roman Subjects, and Classical Ruins at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century.” Her research focuses on the relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in the Ottoman Empire, Ottoman and European cross-cultural exchange, and the effects of the Greco-Roman tradition on Ottoman culture.

AGA KHAN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY



András Riedlmayer

As bibliographer in Islamic art and architecture at Harvard's Fine Arts Library, András is charged with developing, managing, and providing reference and access to North America's largest and most comprehensive collection of textual and visual information on the visual cultures of the Islamic world. The resources of the AKPIA Documentation Center have made it possible to collect in depth, including research materials held by few other libraries, and to make these available to our faculty, students, and visiting scholars, and to researchers from all over the world.

Among the many items acquired this year were three rare sets of very large-scale fire insurance plans of Cairo, Alexandria, and Izmir prepared between 1898 and 1905 by the English engineer Charles Edward Goad. These maps, few complete sets of which have survived to the present, show the outlines of every building and all the streets, public spaces, and thoroughfares in these cities, as they were at the beginning of the twentieth century. The maps are being scanned and will soon be available as an open internet resource, a valuable tool for research in the history of architecture and urbanism in the Eastern Mediterranean.

This year has also seen other significant additions to the library's collections, including rare books, journals, and exhibition catalogues documenting the reception and development of modern art in the Arab world, Iran, and Turkey, from the 1920s to the present.

In addition to tracking down such items and acquiring them for the library, András's greatest satisfaction lies in being able to connect items such as these with the students, faculty, and researchers who will find in them a source of excitement and of new information and insights.

As a specialist in the history and culture of the Ottoman Balkans, András has spent much of the past decade documenting cultural heritage destroyed during the wars of the 1990s in Bosnia and Kosovo. In July, he was once again called to The Hague to testify as an expert witness about the destruction of Islamic architecture in Kosovo in the war crimes trial of Serbian General Vlastimir Djordjevic.

In September 2009, András was invited to speak at the Aspen Cultural Diplomacy Forum, organized by the Aspen Institute and the

Centro Cultural Niemeyer in Avilés, Spain, as a member of a panel of international experts on "The Protection of Cultural Property: War, Looting, and Criminal Acts." Following the conference, he took the opportunity to visit Islamic heritage sites in Granada, Cordoba, and Toledo.

In October, he presented a lecture about his work documenting Islamic heritage at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Mass., as part of the museum's "Monuments in Peril" series.

AGA KHAN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Sharon Smith

Since joining the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University in August 2003, Sharon has been responsible for researching, establishing authority records, and cataloging the approximately 100,000 slides and digital images that constitute the program's collection, encompassing all aspects of Islamic art and architecture. A primary goal of the project is the digitization of the collection, with the incorporation of all images and data into Harvard University Libraries' public catalog of visual materials, VIA (available at <http://via.lib.harvard.edu>), and into ARTstor's Harvard University Study Collection of Digital Images (see e-resources at <http://lib.harvard.edu/>). The catalog has been established employing the guidelines of Harvard College Library's Islamic Classification System, edited and revised by Sharon and available online (<http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/finearts/islamicclass/index.html>).

In summer 2009, Sharon successfully defended her PhD dissertation, "Planned Grandeur: A Commensurate Study of Urban Expansion in Early Modern Italy and Mamluk Egypt," in the Graduate Program for History and Theory of Art and Architecture at Binghamton University. In her dissertation,

Sharon explored a similar trajectory in two different cultural milieus through an examination of the conscious redefinition of urban space during the late fifteenth century in Florence and Cairo. In conjunction with her dissertation and professional work she has attended institutes in Florence, Italy, and Monterey, California.

While at Binghamton University, Sharon developed and taught courses in Persian art and architecture, Istanbul before and after the Ottoman conquest, Byzantium and the Mediterranean world, and Islamic painting. Additionally, she has guest lectured on these and other topics in Middle Eastern art and architecture at several universities and colleges in California, Illinois, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. During the 2008-9 academic year, Sharon presented her paper "The Reception of Middle Eastern Forms in the European Renaissance" at Boston University and guest lectured on Islamic art and architecture at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston.

For the post-9/11 initiative on Arab Culture and Civilization, sponsored by the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education

with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, she served as content consultant and contributor for Arab art and architecture.

Sharon assists faculty, students, visiting scholars, and anyone else seeking information on Middle Eastern visual culture.

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AGA KHAN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Melina Koutsis

Melina joined the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University in September 2009 as the cataloging assistant for Islamic Art, replacing Stephen Salomone, who accepted a teaching post beginning this fall. In her capacity at AKPIA, Melina assists the Visual Materials Cataloger for Islamic Art in the ongoing digitization project of the Islamic collection in the Fine Arts Library. Melina graduated from Wellesley College in the Spring of 2009 with a BA in Middle Eastern Studies and Classics. Her area of focus has been Classical and Near Eastern archaeology, and she has worked on archaeological digs in Turkey and Syria. She attended a semester at the American University in Cairo. The daughter of a Foreign Service Officer, Melina has lived in Tunisia, Syria, and Mauritania. Melina is very excited to be part of the Aga Khan Program and looks forward to expanding her knowledge of the Middle East.

Faculty



Hashim Sarkis

Hashim Sarkis was on sabbatical in the year 2008-9. His academic activities included the organization of the conference “The History of the Future” with Timothy Hyde at the GSD. He was also involved in several conferences and lectures throughout the world including in the Société française des architectes in Paris. During this year, his firm’s work was also published in several journals including *Architectural Record*, where it was featured in a special issue on design in the service of social causes, and *Metropolis Magazine*. His recently completed Housing for the Fishermen of Tyre was also featured in the *Phaidon Atlas of Contemporary Architecture*. During this year, Sarkis’ office was involved in several new landscape and urban design projects in Lebanon and in the Gulf region.

The Aga Khan Program at the GSD celebrated its fifth year in April 2008 with a big exhibition and conference on the Aga Khan Award Tenth Cycle, which was inaugurated by Prince Hussain Aga Khan, Princess Khaliya Aga Khan, and members of the award steering committee. The program also graduated its first two doctorate of design students in June 2009, namely Stephen Ramos and Neyran Turan. The activities of the Aga Khan

Visiting Fellows



Boris Brorman Jensen

Boris Brorman Jensen was trained as an architect at the Aarhus School of Architecture, Denmark, with graduate studies at the State University of New York in Buffalo and a doctoral degree in civil engineering from Aalborg University, Denmark. He has been a visiting academic at the University of Sydney, and guest teacher/lecturer at Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, KTH Stockholm, AHO Oslo, and the Harvard GSD. He is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Urbanism and Landscape at the Aarhus School of Architecture. Boris has exhibited and published several research projects on globalization, urban development, and architectural theory. He is former partner of TRANSFORM, a Danish architectural firm dedicated to architecture and urbanism. Earlier projects include the award-winning City Wall Xian project, exhibited at the 10th Biennale di Venezia, and the prize-winning Performing Arts Center in Kristiansand, Norway. During his fellowship, Boris will work on his research project on sustainability and urban development in the UAE.

AGA KHAN PROGRAM, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Osamu Murao

Dr. Osamu Murao, a 2009-10 Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the GSD, is an associate professor in the Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering at the University of Tsukuba in Japan, specializing in post-disaster urban recovery and disaster mitigation design. Born in Yokohama, Japan, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from Yokohama National University, and his doctor of engineering from the University of Tokyo. He was awarded first prize in the Urban Design Competition for Tsurumi, Yokohama City in 1990 and the Encouragement Prize of the Architectural Institute in Japan. The building vulnerability function constructed based on the actual damage data from the 1995 Great Kobe Earthquake was used for the Earthquake Area Vulnerability Assessment conducted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. His publications include *Vulnerability Functions for Japanese Buildings Based on Damage Data Due to the 1995 Kobe Earthquake* (2000) and *Urban Cities and Disaster Management* (2008) (in Japanese).

He has been researching a "Comparative Study of the Policy and Urban Planning for Disaster Management in the USA and Japan" in the US since July 2009. His recent research interest is the relationship between architectural/urban design and disaster mitigation.



Peter Christensen

Peter Christensen's research centers on the practice and historiography of geopolitics as a discrete field since the turn of the twentieth century and its implications for spatial practices, with particular interest in the borders of Islamic and Judeo-Christian civilizations. He also researches the museology of architecture and the critical practices of connoisseurship. His master's thesis analyzed post-World War I custodianship of Armenian ecclesiastic architecture under Kemalist political policy in modern Turkey. Prior to coming to Harvard, Peter served as Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art (2005-8) where, among other curatorial projects, he co-organized *Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling* with Barry Bergdoll. Peter has received numerous awards and grants, including the Lee Tenenbaum Award from MoMA and the Eidlitz Fellowship from Cornell University. Peter co-authored *Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling* (2008). Peter has lectured and further published nationally and internationally. Peter holds a professional Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University and a Master of Design Studies in the History and Theory of Architecture, with distinction, from Harvard. Peter speaks French, reads Turkish, and is currently studying German.



Gareth Doherty

Gareth Doherty's dissertation is an ethnographic study of contemporary landscape and urbanism in Bahrain and is supervised by Hashim Sarkis, Niall Kirkwood, Charles Waldheim, and Steven Caton. He spent the 2007-8 academic year in the Persian Gulf on a Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship from Harvard University. He has worked with Chora in London and taught at design schools in Europe, North America, and Australia. At Harvard, he has been an Instructor in Landscape Architecture and led a seminar on "Curating Ecological Urbanism," and as an Instructor in Urban Planning and Design he co-taught a seminar on "Scalar Urbanism" with Neyran Turan and Stephen Ramos. He has also been a teaching fellow and a head teaching fellow, for which he received a Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching in 2007. He is a founding editor of *New Geographies*, a journal edited by doctoral candidates at the GSD, and in 2009 helped Mohsen Mostafavi to organize a conference, curate an exhibition, and edit a book on ecological urbanism. He has an M.L.A. and a Certificate in Urban Design from the University of Pennsylvania, and a B.Agr.Sc and M.Agr.Sc. from University College Dublin.

Students



Rania Ghosn

Rania is an architect, geographer, and currently a fourth-year DDes candidate working at the intersection of territoriality, energy infrastructures, and political ecology. She received her Bachelor in Architecture from the American University of Beirut and holds a Master's in Geography from University College London. Prior to joining the doctorate program, she was involved in interdisciplinary research projects and has taught basic and advanced studio courses. At Harvard, she has served as a teaching fellow for "Constructing Vision, Urban Politics and Land Use Policy," "Building Texts and Contexts," and "Designing the American City." She is founding editor of the journal *New Geographies* and editor-in-chief of its forthcoming issue entitled "Landscapes of Energy." Her dissertation engages a cross-border pipeline in the Middle East and how it defined geographies across spatial scales to secure the flow of oil. The specificity of the historical case study raises broader questions as to the repercussions of global infrastructures and the power relations embedded in all landscapes of energy.



El Hadi Jazairy

El Hadi is an architect and currently a doctoral candidate at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, where his dissertation research focuses on the Gulf waterfront developments. He was born in Algiers, received a Diplôme d'Architecte from La Cambre in Brussels (1999), and holds a Master of Architecture II from Cornell University (2007). Professionally, he collaborated with Elia Zenghelis and Xaveer de Geyter (2000-2005) and won, through his independent practice, the second prize for the EUROPAN 6 international competition (2000). At Harvard, El Hadi taught the studio entitled "Advancing the Strategostructure" with Joshua Prince-Ramus, and currently serves as a teaching fellow for Juan Busquets' urban design proseminar. He is a founding editor of the journal *New Geographies*.

His recent publications include: E. Jazairy, "Terraforming Artificial Territories in the Gulf," *Proceedings of SHOT2009: The 52nd Annual Conference of the Society for the History of Technology*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15-18 October 2009;

E. Jazairy, "Dubai Archipelago from Above: The Aerial Vision-Based Model of Urbanism," *Proceedings of U&U2009: The 5th International Urbanism and Urbanization Seminar*, Leuven, Belgium, 1-3 October 2009; E. Jazairy, "Imaging Dubai's Palm Islands: The Construction of Land and Representation through the Satellite View," *Topos: The International Review of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design*, Vol. 66 (2009), pp.46-51; R. Ghosn, E. Jazairy, and S. Ramos, "The Space of Controversies: An Interview with Bruno Latour," *New Geographies*, Issue 0 (2008), pp. 122-135; E. Jazairy, "Sahara Drive, Rest and Walk: An Interactive Journey into a Polarized Territory" (M.Arch.II Thesis, Cornell University, August 2007) pp. 1-80.

Recent Graduates



Aylin Yıldırım

Aylin received her graduate engineer diploma in Architecture in Germany in 2003 and has been working as an architect on public and private projects. Her expertise includes green design standards and technology as well as universal design. She received her Master of Science degree in 2007 after researching informal settlements in Istanbul, Turkey, where she carried out case studies and proposed an alternative design for upgrading and integrating informal settlements. Her work was exhibited in Frankfurt, Munich, and Montevideo.

As a Doctor of Design student, her area of research is Turkey and its informal urban dynamics, the influence of imported and exported knowledge on housing typologies, and the effects of national migration on the sending and receiving communities. She also studies comprehensive approaches to issues resulting from rapid urbanization. She has received a Fulbright Scholarship to carry out her studies. She has presented papers at conferences in Madrid, Istanbul, and São Paulo. Her project "In_between IN_FORMAL" will be exhibited in the context of ISTANBUL 2010.

Having worked as a freshmen tutor and teaching assistant during her studies in Germany, she currently is a teaching fellow for Professor Hashim Sarkis and Professor Joan Busquets and a teaching assistant for Professor Sibel Bozdoğan.



Stephen J. Ramos

Stephen J. Ramos received his DDes in 2009 and is researching the impact of intensified trade flows, infrastructure, and technology on the physical form of cities with Professors Hashim Sarkis, Peter Rowe and Joan Busquets. He holds a BA in English and Spanish Literature from Gettysburg College and a Joint Master's Degree in Community and Regional Planning (MS) and Latin American Studies (MA) from the University of Texas at Austin. His most recent teaching post was Principal Instructor of the Urban Planning and Design concentration of the GSD's Summer Career Discovery Program in 2007. Ramos was also a head teaching fellow for the Harvard College Core course "Designing the American City" (Spring 2007) and head teaching fellow for the GSD course "Public/Private Development" (Fall 2006). He has recently published "Dubai: Port as Prototype" co-authored with Gareth Doherty and Hashim Sarkis for *Neutra.Revista de Arquitectura del Colegio de Arquitectos de Andalucía* (Fall 2006); forthcoming book chapters include "Prototype and Replication in Dubai Urbanism" coauthored with Peter G. Rowe for *The Superlative City: Dubai and the Urban Condition in the Early Twenty-First Century* (GSD, forthcoming), "Dubai Urbanism and Port Infrastructure" for *Dubai: Growing through Architecture* (Thames and Hudson, forthcoming), and a coauthored chapter with Gareth Doherty and Hashim Sarkis on Dubai's urban development for *Cuatro Ciudades* (Universidad Católica, forthcoming).



Neyran Turan

Neyran Turan is an architect who recently graduated with a DDes from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She received her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Istanbul Technical University and holds a master's degree from the Yale University School of Architecture. Currently focusing on twentieth-century Istanbul for her dissertation and Dubai for a complementary research project, Neyran's work concentrates on contemporary interpretations of scale, infrastructure, and ecology, and their potentiality for new positionings in architecture and urbanism. Recent publications include articles in *Thresholds*, *ACSA Surfacing Urbanisms* and *Bidoun: Technology, Corporations-Cities*, and upcoming book chapters in: *Landscapes of Development*, *The Superlative City: Dubai and the Urban Condition in the Early Twenty-First Century*, and *MegaCities*. Turan has also acted as the assistant editor for the book *Josep Lluís Sert: The Architect of Urban Design* (with Hashim Sarkis and Eric Mumford, Yale University Press, 2008). She is a cofounder of NEMEstudio, a design and research collaborative that engages in architecture and urbanism, and the founding chief-editor of the recently launched GSD journal *New Geographies*.

Faculty



Nasser Rabbat

Nasser Rabbat is the Aga Khan Professor and the Director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT. His scholarly interests include the history and historiography of Islamic art, architecture, and cultures, urban history, and post-colonial criticism. His forthcoming books are: *al-Mudun al-Mayita fi Suriya (Dead Cities in Syria)* (2009), *al-Naqd Iltizaman (Criticism as Commitment)* (2010), *Architecture As Social History: Building, Culture, and Politics in Mamluk Egypt and Syria* (I.B. Tauris, 2010), and an edited volume, *The Courtyard House between Cultural Reference and Universal Relevance* (Ashgate, 2010). He is currently editing the proceedings of the international conference “Islamic Cities in the Classical Age,” which he organized at MIT that will be published by Brill.

In 2009, Nasser supervised the organization of the symposium “History/ Practice: Exploring the Role of History in Contemporary Architectural Practice,” sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, and chaired the session “How to Study Contemporary Islamic Art and Architecture,” HIAA Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. In May and June of 2009, Nasser was in Paris as Visiting Professor



James Wescoat

James Wescoat works on water in environmental planning, policy, and design with a special interest in comparative research on water systems in South Asia and the U.S. In 2009, he offered a design workshop in conjunction with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture’s project in the Nizamuddin area of south Delhi, and had an opportunity to follow up that project with field research on the spatial layout of Humayun’s tomb-garden in Delhi, water-conserving design in Rajasthan, and Mughal gardens in Srinagar, which included a presentation to the INTACH—Jammu and Kashmir. We are planning a second MIT design workshop course with AKTC in Spring 2010.

Jim had the opportunity to participate in an Aga Khan Foundation workshop on the “Built Environment in Paris,” which will be a continuing activity with colleagues in AKDN, and gave a presentation on landscape heritage conservation to AKTC in Geneva. Along with Hashim Sarkis, he is advising on AKTC landscape architectural projects in Canada, and participating in Hashim’s fall conference on “Risk and the City.”



His fall semester design workshop on “Water, Landscape and Urban Design” involves collaborative exchange on water-conserving campus design between MIT and the the Aga Khan University campuses. This year, AKPIA@MIT has initiated a research project on “Designing Higher Education: New Campuses in the Islamic World, 1970-2010,” which involves three graduate research assistants working with Nasser and Jim. It is an exciting attempt to systematically compile and analyze innovations in physical and curricular design in the manifold new campuses built in the Islamic world.

Articles this year include “Waterscapes and Water-Conserving Design,” in *LA! Journal of Landscape Architecture (India)*; “Submerged Landscapes: The Public Trust in Urban Environmental Design, from Chicago to Karachi and Back Again,” in the *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law*; “Water Shortages and Water-Conserving Urban Design in Pakistan,” in the Woodrow Wilson Center’s *Running on Empty: Pakistan’s Water Crisis*; “Comparative International Water Research,” in the Universities Council on Water

Resources’ *Journal of Contemporary Water Research & Education*; and “Searching for Wisdom in Mughal-Rajput Waterworks: East-West Interdependencies,” in a volume edited by Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn and Joachim Ganzert of the University of Hanover.

In 2009-10, Jim is presenting papers at a National Academy of Environmental Design conference at the University of Florida; the National Research Council’s Water Science and Technology Board in Washington, DC; the Aga Khan University 13th National Symposium on “Water and Health” in Karachi; a Rutgers University conference on “Climate Change in South Asia”; and a festschrift for landscape architectural historian Professor John Dixon Hunt of the University of Pennsylvania.

At MIT this year, Jim serves on the Environmental Research Council, a new water initiative, and an Advisory Board for the new School of Science and Engineering at the Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan. At the national level, he chairs the Research Committee for the new National

Academy of Environmental Design (NAED), created by major design organizations in the U.S. including the AIA, APA, ASID, and ASLA. It has been a very exciting year here at AKPIA@MIT.

PhD Students



Azra Aksamija

Azra is a Sarajevo-born Austrian artist and architect, currently finishing her PhD dissertation. She graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at the Technical University Graz, Austria, in 2001, and received her M.Arch. from Princeton University in 2004. Her research focuses on mosques and other religious monuments in Eastern Europe and the Balkans since the 19th century. Her dissertation, entitled “Our Mosques Are Us: Rewriting National History of Bosnia-Herzegovina through Religious Architecture,” explores the various ways in which different layers of history have come to define the architecture of contemporary mosques. Besides her academic research, she has been working as a conceptual artist exploring the representation of Islamic identities in the USA and Europe, as well as the spatial mediation of cultural and religious conflicts. Her interdisciplinary projects have been published and exhibited in various international venues such as the recent “Kunstmoschee” at the Secession Vienna in 2007 and “Flocking Mosque” at the Manifesta 7 in Italy 2008.



Mohamad A. Chakaki

Mohamad A. Chakaki was born in Saudi Arabia to Syrian parents. He grew up playing in the sand and surf on both sides of the Arabian Peninsula, and then on the edges of eastern forests and city streets in and around Washington, DC. His interests lie where the lines blur between East and West, city and nature, art and science, and so on.

As a first-year PhD student, these interests are reflected in Mohamad’s working title for his research, “Learning from the University-City in the Gulf.” Mohamad will be exploring the connections and/or contradictions across campus planning and curriculum design in the new universities developing in Persian Gulf states like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates

Mohamad holds a Masters of Environmental Management with a focus on Urban Ecology and Environmental Design from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and undergraduate degrees in Religion and Biology from The George Washington University.

Mohamad’s passion for nature and for people has led him to work in parks and gardens across the US, with the Peace Corps in Central Africa, and the United Nations in Syria.

Before coming to MIT, Mohamad spent three years consulting on environment and community development projects in both the US and the Arab Middle East. Mohamad is a Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program in the United States.



Christian A. Hedrick

Christian is a third-year PhD student and architect. He is studying nineteenth- and early twentieth-century transnational architecture culture in Egypt and Central Europe with particular interest in national identity and modernity. He spent the summer learning Arabic and began preliminary dissertation research. Last spring, he organized a workshop sponsored by AKPIA@MIT entitled “History/ Practice: Exploring the Role of History in Contemporary Architectural Practice,” which brought together a diverse group of architects and historians to discuss critical approaches to the role of history within contemporary practice and sought to reassess the theoretical relationship between architect and historian. In April, he also presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians entitled “Neo-Islamic Architecture and National Identity: The Role of German Architects in Nineteenth-Century Cairo.” Christian is a student liaison for the New England Society of Architectural Historians and will be organizing the graduate student symposium, which will be hosted by MIT this winter.

Christian received his Master’s degree in Architecture from the University of Michigan and Bachelor of Arts in History from John Carroll University. Prior to MIT, he spent several years working as an architect in Boston and Columbus and teaching the history and theory of architecture at the Boston Architectural College.



Aneka Lenssen

Aneka Lenssen is in her fourth year of the PhD program at MIT. She received a Fulbright to spend the 2009-10 academic year in Damascus, Syria, where she will commence archival and object research toward her dissertation, tentatively titled “Damascus Happenings: Painting and Syria, 1954-1980.” The dissertation looks through Damascus toward an emergent global art world to examine the rise and fall of painting as a political act in the decades after WWII.

In the summer, Aneka spent August in Montreal on a fellowship at the Canadian Center for Architecture, where she studied the Euphrates Dam project in Syria and its manifestations in town planning, film, painting, and marketing strategies of the Cold War. In November, she is co-chairing the panel “Pirated Politics: Contemporary Art, Artists, and the Postproduction of the Middle East” at the annual MESA conference. The panel papers concern the strategies for redeploying mass media (including viral video, news networks like Al-Jazeera and CNN, and online interfaces) developed by artists with ties to the Middle East and the ways in which such artwork might complicate the identity politics of area studies.

SMArchS Students



Ghita Akkar

Ghita is in her first year of the SMArchS program at MIT and grew up in Casablanca, Morocco. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the New York Institute of Technology, in New York City, and has done an exchange semester in Shanghai at Tongji University. Ghita has also done several architectural internships, both in NYC and in Morocco. Her latest internship was at Buro Happold Consulting Engineers, where she was on the Sustainable Alternative Technology team and worked mainly on projects in Asia and the Middle East.

Her academic and professional interests are in low-income housing projects in Arab cities and experimenting with different theories on the design and construction of high-density affordable housing for these emerging cities.

Following her graduate studies, Ghita wants to practice architecture and urban design in the private or public sector in Morocco. Her goal would be to utilize the knowledge and experience she acquired in the United States to improve sustainable urban development in cities such as Casablanca, while preserving the existing history, rich architectural qualities, and social characteristics.



Azra Dawood

Azra Dawood is a second-year SMArchS student from Karachi, Pakistan. At MIT, Azra is focusing on the patronage, politics, and design of museums. She is writing her thesis on the unbuilt New Egyptian Museum and Research Institute at Cairo – a project proposed by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and the Egyptologist James Henry Breasted.

Her other interests are city form in South Asian cities, issues of identity and nationalism, and the Indian Ocean as a cultural / political space.

Azra graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Architecture. Since graduating from Texas, she has worked at an architecture firm in New York, specializing in residential design. Azra has also interned at architecture firms in Karachi, as well as at the Heritage Foundation, a research organization based in Karachi.

She is expected to graduate in 2010.



Farshid Emami

Farshid is a first-year SMArchS student at MIT from Tehran, Iran. He has a bachelor's degree in Architectural Design from Shahid Beheshti University and a master's degree in Urban Design from the University of Tehran. During the past five years, he has been involved in a number of professional projects and architectural competitions.

Farshid is particularly interested in the urban form of traditional cities. At MIT, he hopes to pursue his studies on urbanism and “the language of urban design” in historical urban fabrics. His other interests include photography and the experience of modernity in the architecture and urbanism of Iran in the twentieth century.

AGA KHAN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



Maryam Eskandari

Maryam Eskandari is an SMArchS candidate in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. Her thesis focuses on modern and contemporary Islamic architecture in the West. In particular, she focuses on expanding the margins and creating contemporary, yet symbolic, Islamic architecture. Maryam is a research associate for the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, an architectural / project designer, a blogger for *Architecture Week Magazine*, and Director of Associates for the American Institute of Architects. Maryam has received many prestigious awards from the architecture community. In 2007, the American Institute of Architects awarded her the Associate of the Year award for commendable architecture, design, and involvement within the design community. Maryam graduated from the University of Arizona with a professional degree in architecture.



Marium Gul

Marium Gul is in her first year of the AKPIA SMArchS program at MIT. She is interested in the study of Islamic architectural elements and the application and integration of these in present-day architectural practice. As a student of the AKPIA, she plans to study the history of Islamic architecture and the various Islamic styles and approaches to design, and would like to explore the possibilities of using this knowledge to inform design.

Marium graduated with distinction from the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan in January 2008. Following her degree, she worked at Arcop, an architectural firm, in her hometown, Karachi.



Laura Lee Schmidt

Laura Lee Schmidt is very happy to be a second-year SMArchS student at MIT's Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. She previously studied Islamic history at DePaul University in Chicago, where she focused on the historiography of early Islam and contemporary Muslim space in America from a historiographical standpoint. At MIT, Laura is studying the scholarship on medieval Islamic automata manuscripts, focusing on one contemporary effort to produce automata from al-Muradi's *Book of Secrets*. This summer, with the help of the Aga Khan Travel Grant, Laura went to Milan and Florence to further this research, during which she looked at the original manuscript from the thirteenth century in the Laurentian Library.

Post-Doctoral Fellows



Mrinalini Rajagopalan

Dr. Mrinalini Rajagopalan is currently Assistant Professor/ Faculty Fellow of Urban Studies at the John W. Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Humanities and Social Thought at New York University. She received her PhD in Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley and is currently working on a manuscript titled *Objects of Desire: Excavating Islamic Architecture in Imperial, National and Postcolonial India*. This book is a historical study of the institutionalization of architectural preservation in India, with a specific focus on the nation's capital city—Delhi. She is also co-editor of the forthcoming volume *Colonial Frames/ Nationalist Histories: Architecture, Urbanism and Identity* (Ashgate, 2010). Her broader areas of teaching and research interest include: the colonial legacies of urbanization and urbanism in the developing world; the intersection of archaeology and architectural preservation as entwined projects of national modernities; the historiographical traditions of Islamic art and architecture; and the use of visual culture in the production of collective memory and national sentiment in postcolonial nation-states.



Nicolas Prouteau

Nicolas graduated from the University of Poitiers in western France. He holds a MA from University of Wales - Swansea and a DEA of Medieval Civilization from the Centre d'Études supérieures de civilisation médiévale of Poitiers. In 2005, he received his PhD from the University of Toulouse. His dissertation was titled "Architects, Engineers and Fortifications in the time of the Crusades (XIth-XIIIth c.)." In 2001 and 2002, while working on his PhD, he received a grant from the Zellidja Foundation to do research in Beirut. In 2002 and 2004, he also received grants from the Institut français d'études arabes in Damascus, Syria. He has taught Islamic history, archaeology, and art in the Universities of Poitiers, Le Mans, and Nantes, and also Beirut.

In 2007 he collaborated with ICOMOS France and UNESCO on "Military Fortresses in the Medieval Mediterranean: A Shared Heritage," in an effort to establish a historical link between Islamic and Frankish fortresses and urban walls in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt. He also contributed to the proceedings of two international conferences: *Fortification in the Time of the Crusades (XIth-XIIIth c.)* and *Artillery and Fortification (XIth-XIIIth c.)*

Because of his interest in the architectural and technical exchanges between the Eastern and Western worlds, he was involved in many archaeological excavations in France and also in several locations in the Middle East, such as in Egypt (Ayyubid urban wall of Cairo), Turkey (medieval city of Ani), Syria (Qal'at Najm, Qal'at Salah al-Din/Saône), Lebanon (Qal'at Sharqif/Beaufort, urban walls of Saida and Beirut), and Jordan (Qal'at Rabad/Ajlun), and more recently in Armenia (Yerasgavorz, Dashtadem, Dvin). Nicolas has studied the building techniques of the Seldjuks, Cheddadids, Ayyubids, and Mameluks, and the Islamic urban walls of the twelfth and thirteenth century. During his Aga Khan post-doctoral fellowship in 2010, he will focus on the technical innovations and social significance of his areas of study, all within a wider architectural, military, and religious context.



Martina Rugiadi

Martina Rugiadi received her PhD from the University of Naples L'Orientale with a dissertation on the carved marbles from Ghazni in Afghanistan (11th-13th cent.). Her research is based on the archaeological data of the largely unpublished ISIAO archives and on recent works in Afghanistan, directed to the preservation of the endangered archaeological heritage.

She has participated in archaeological projects in Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Jordan, and Oman, and has inventoried the Ghazni collection of the Kabul Museum and the Islamic collections of the Vatican Museums. She has received a fellowship from the Gerda Henkel Stiftung and grants from the Istituto italiano per gli studi filosofici.

At MIT, Martina is pursuing her research on the marbles from Ghazni, aiming to contextualize their ornamental programs as a contribution to the development of Islamic decoration. Among her interests are the technical and technological issues related to stone carvings and the technological innovations in Islamic pottery productions.



Imran bin Tajudeen

Imran studied the historic urban vernacular heritage of the port cities of insular Southeast Asia or Nusantara for his doctoral thesis at the National University of Singapore, with a focus on hybrid vernacular traditions in old urban wards, or *kampung*, arising from intra-regional and international cultural intersections. Imran is particularly interested in the processes, underlying motivations, and assumptions through which notions of 'traditional built heritage' have been constituted, and how they are narrated in contemporary reconstructions. He was awarded the Jeffrey Cook Prize for Best Student Paper for the Tenth IASTE Conference in 2006, for a critique of state intervention and reinvention of ethnic identities in two cultural heritage sites in Singapore. He was also one of twelve young researchers to present a paper at a roundtable at the ICOMOS 2008 International Youth Forum on Cultural Heritage in Quebec City. At the National University of Singapore, Imran worked as a teaching assistant for modules on Singapore and Southeast Asian urban and architectural history.

Imran's research as a post-doctoral fellow at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT will examine the architecture of mosques in the port cities around the Straits of Melaka and the Java Sea built by or for the Asian mercantile communities hailing from South Arabia, South India, and South China, focussing on the intersection of typological traditions from these respective regions and the Nusantara. These hybrid architectural artefacts will also be investigated in the context of urban history, of migration and trade, and of their contemporary signification in the politics of identity.

Imran is currently also working on chapters on the planned city of Nusajaya in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, and on the adaptation of the vernacular in the historic mosques of insular Southeast Asia, for two edited volumes. Imran will be presenting a paper at SAH63 in Chicago that examines the architecture of Java as the intersection of traditions in 'Asia' and 'Austronesia'. From June 2010 to July 2011, he will embark on a study of mosques in Indonesia as colonial heritage as a post-doctoral fellow at Leiden University's International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) in the Netherlands.



Library



Omar Khalidi

Omar Khalidi had a busy year. In June 2009, he revised *A Guide to Architecture in Hyderabad*, an online publication, first published in 2008. The revision is based on extensive feedback the author received from scholars, photographers, conservationists, and architects from around the globe.

In July 2009, he visited Afghanistan at the invitation of the United States Department of State. He lectured to students, academics, journalists, and religious scholars about Islam in America in general and mosque architecture in particular at the universities of Kabul and Herat. He attended the annual meeting of The Islamic Manuscripts Association in Christ College, Cambridge University. In collaboration with other AKPIA staff in Rotch Library and RVC, he put together an exhibit entitled “Tomes & Domes,” consisting of the library’s collections of significant works and images of Islamic architecture. The exhibit includes the publications of the current AKPIA-MIT faculty. This exhibit marks the three decades of Islamic architecture collection development at MIT. The exhibit opened on 15 October 2009 and will run through Thanksgiving. In November, Omar will be organizing the annual meeting of the Middle East Librarians Association at MIT.



Andrea Schuler

Andrea serves as Library Liaison for the Aga Khan Visual Archives in Rotch Visual Collections. She provides access to the Aga Khan Visual Archive for students, faculty, researchers, and publishers and coordinates its digitization. This digitization, which began in 2008, has made available images of sites such as Srinagar, India, and mosques in the United States in digital form via MIT’s digital image repository DOME. She also catalogs images of Islamic art and architecture for the Aga Khan teaching collection. Andrea holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Boston College, and is currently working towards her Masters of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, concentrating in archives management.

The Aga Khan Visual Archive is a rich resource consisting of more than 100,000 images donated by scholars, architectural firms, and graduate students. The collection spans nearly thirty years and documents significant changes in the cultural and political landscape of many regions of the Islamic world. Many of the images in the Archive document monuments, sites, and cities that one cannot find in published works or that have

sadly deteriorated or have been destroyed. Selections from the Archive were displayed in the “Tomes & Domes: Islamic Architecture Collections at Rotch” exhibit at Rotch Library in October-November 2009, which Andrea helped coordinate.

ARCHNET

As of October 2009, ArchNet has 68,000 members from 195 countries, and over the past year, received approximately 1.5 million visitors. ArchNet's Digital Library now holds more than 65,000 images and 4,500 publications and files documenting over 6,000 architectural monuments and sites worldwide.

Our fall 2009 research assistant team includes Razan Francis (PhD), Shani Sharif (S.M.Arch.S.), Najiyah Edun (M.Arch.), Jessica Turner (M.Arch.), Haruka Horiuchi (M.Arch.), Ian Wojtowicz (M.S.Vis.S.), and Sagarika Suri (S.M.Arch.S.). Their current research focuses on built sites in India, Morocco, and Iran.

ArchNet's 2008-9 acquisitions comprise the complete set of images and files from the tenth cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, documentation of Mughal gardens, selections from the works of contemporary Indian architect Nari Gandhi, and two rare historical postcard collections covering North Africa and the Mediterranean basin. In addition, ArchNet research assistants composed extensive urban histories for Khartoum, Tunis, Alexandria, and Algiers.



ArchNet is currently in the process of being completely redesigned to provide enhanced functionality and access to our continually expanding content resources, but also – and crucially – to shift the project into an Open Source and Open Content framework that will provide long-term sustainability.

Questions and suggestions concerning the Digital Library may be directed to Jared Eisenstat (Project Assistant) and Ophelia Celine (Content Director) at archnet@mit.edu.

L-R: Shani Sharif, Anne Beamish, Jared Eisenstat, Najiyah Edun, Jessica Turner, Haruka Horiuchi.
***Not in picture:* Ophelia Celine, Sagarika Suri, Ian Wojtowicz, and Razan Francis**

AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Bridge Builders Award

The Aga Khan Programs at Harvard and MIT were recognized by Partners for Livable Communities for their “commitment to promoting, creating, and preserving Islamic culture through architecture” at an awards ceremony held on December 7, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Professors Gülru Necipoğlu and James Wescoat attended the ceremony to receive the award on behalf of the Harvard and MIT programs.

