

## Curriculum Vitae Nasser Rabbat



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### Current Position

Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture  
Director, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA)  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA

### Academic Appointments

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA  
History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture Program, Department of Architecture

Assistant Professor	1991-1995
Aga Khan Career Development Professor	1991-1999
Associate Professor	1995-2006
Director, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture	1999-present
Full Professor	2007-present

La Chaire de L'Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), Paris Jan-Feb 2003

Allianz Guest Professor for Islamic Studies Spring/Summer 2007  
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany

Visiting Professor, chaire sécable de l'Institut d'études  
de l'Islam et des sociétés du monde musulman  
École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris Summer 2009

Visiting Professor, J-Term January 2019  
New York University in Abu Dhabi, UAE January 2020

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### **Principal Fields of Research**

Islamic Architecture  
Urban History  
Heritage Studies  
Contemporary Arab Art  
Arabic/Islamic Studies  
Orientalism/Colonial/Post-Colonial Studies

### **Awards, Fellowships, and Honors**

W. Bernard Herman Distinguished Visiting Scholar, University of Toronto, 2020.  
H.A.R. Gibb Arabic & Islamic Studies Lectures, Harvard University, April 2018.  
Louis Kahn Scholar in Residence, The American Academy in Rome, December 2017-February 2018.  
Senior Fellowship, Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, "History and Society during the Mamluk Era (1250-1517)" University of Bonn, Germany, July 2013, 2015-16, Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Summer 2019.  
Fellowship, Institut d'études avancées, Paris, France, Spring 2016.  
D'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in Education, MIT, 2014-15.  
British-Kuwait Friendship Society Prize in Middle Eastern Studies, 2011.  
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship, Cambridge, MA, 2011-12.  
American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), senior scholar-in-residence 2007-08.  
Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale (IFAO), Cairo, Chercheur Associé, 2007-08.  
Allianz Guest Professorship, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Spring 2007.  
La Chaire de L'Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), Paris, Jan-Feb 2003.  
American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) Fellowship, Cairo, Egypt, 1999-2000.  
Visitor, The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, Spring 1997.  
The J. Paul Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Art and Humanities, 1993-94.  
The Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Award (HASS), MIT, 1992-93.  
The Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award, Humanities Section, The Middle East Studies Association (MESA), 1991.  
Aga Khan Award for Architectural Studies, MIT, 1985-90.  
American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) Fellowship, Cairo, Egypt, 1988-89.  
McGuire Award, Best Design for a Solar House, Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning (GSAUP), UCLA, 1983.

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### **Books and Edited Volumes**

*The Citadel of Cairo: A New Interpretation of Royal Mamluk Architecture*, (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1995).

*Interpreting the Self: Autobiography in the Arabic Literary Tradition*, ed. D. Reynolds (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001). Co-author (with K. Brustad, M. Cooperson, J. Elias, N. Khoury, J. Lowry, Sh. Toorawa, D. F. Reynolds, and D. Stewart). Arabic Translation: *Tarjamat al-Nafs, al-Sira al-Dhatiyya fi-l Adab al-'Arabi*, Sa'id al-Ghanimi (abu Dhabi, Kalima Project, 2010)

*Thaqafat al Bina' wa Bina' al-Thaqafa: Buhuth wa Maqalat fi Naqd wa Tarikh al-'Imara. (The Culture of Building and Building Culture: Essays and Articles on Criticism and History of Architecture)* (Beirut: Riad Alrayyes Publisher, 2002).

*Making Cairo Medieval*, eds. Nezar AlSayyad, Irene Bierman, and Nasser Rabbat (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Press, 2005).

*The Citadel of Cairo: A Guidebook* (Cairo: Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2010), in English and Arabic.

*Al-Mudun al-Mayyita: Durus min Madhih wa-Ru'an li-Mustaqbaliha (The Dead Cities: Lessons from its History and Views on its Future)* (Damascus: al-Aws Publishers, 2010).

*Mamluk History Through Architecture: Building, Culture, and Politics in Mamluk Egypt and Syria* (London: I. B. Tauris, 2010).

Received the British-Kuwait Friendship Society Prize in Middle Eastern Studies, 2011. Available online on Bloomsbury Collections, <https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/book/mamluk-history-through-architecture-monuments-culture-and-politics-in-medieval-egypt-and-syria/>

Editor, *The Courtyard House between Cultural Reference and Universal Relevance*. (London: Ashgate, 2010). <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754638438>

*Al-Naqd Iltizaman: Nazarat fi-l Tarikh wal 'Ururba wal Thawra (Criticism as Commitment: Viewpoints on History, Arabism, and Revolution)* (Beirut: Riad Alrayyes Publisher, 2015)

[http://www.elrayyesbooks.com/index.php?route=product/product&product\\_id=859](http://www.elrayyesbooks.com/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=859)

*The Destruction of Cultural Heritage: From Napoléon to ISIS*, Online Book, co-edited with Pamela Karimi, published by The Aggregate Architectural History Collaborative, December 12, 2016

<http://we-aggregate.org/project/the-destruction-of-cultural-heritage-from-napoleon-to-isis>

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*'Imarat al-Mudun al-Mayyita: Nahwa Qira'a Jadida lil-Tarikh al-Suri* (The Architecture of the Dead City: Toward a New Reading of Syrian History) (Doha: Hamad bin Khalifa University Press, 2018)

<https://www.amazon.in/%E2%80%ABالمدينة-الميتة-عمار-ة-عماار%E2%80%AC-Arabic-الرباط-ebook/dp/B07N7ZWHSH>

### **Exhibitions Curated**

Co-curated with Filiz Çakır Phillip the exhibition, "Syria: A Living History," at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Oct 15, 2016-March 26, 2017.

<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/syria-living-history>,

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-\\_9N9T926g&t=9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-_9N9T926g&t=9s)

### **Recent Scholarly Articles and Book Sections**

"Rifat al-Chadirji (1926–2020): Designing a transhistorical Iraq," *Journal of Contemporary Iraq & the Arab World* 15,1&2 (2021): 255-62, [https://doi.org/10.1386/jciaw\\_00052\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1386/jciaw_00052_3)

"Where Europe Begins and Where It Ends?" in *People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean (1492-1923)*, June 11, 2021

<http://www.peopleinmotion-costaction.org/2021/06/11/2887/>

"The Global Phenomenon of Islam Through the Lens of Late Antiquity," *Cromohs - Cyber Review of Modern Historiography*, May 2021.

<https://oajournals.fupress.net/index.php/cromohs/article/view/12844>

"Continuity and Rupture in Islamic Architecture," *The International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 10, 1 (January 2021): 47-55.

"Letter to a Young Architect," *The Architectural Review Online*, December 21, 2020

<https://www.architectural-review.com/essays/letters-to-a-young-architect/nasser-rabbat-letter-to-a-young-architect>

"Heritage in Context," *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Archaeology*, Bethany J. Walker, Timothy Insoll, and Corisande Fenwick, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 671-89.

"Continuity and Rupture in Islamic Architecture," *The International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 10, 1 (March 2020): 47-55.

"The Levantine Age: Cosmopolitanism and Colonialism in the Eastern Mediterranean," *Being Urban. Community, Conflict and Belonging in the Middle East*, Simon Goldhill, ed. (London: Routledge, 2020), 219-32.

"The Palaces of Cairo's Belle Époque," *The Arabist: Budapest Studies in Arabic* (Special

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Issue: Papers Presented to István Ormos on His Seventieth Birthday) K. Dévényi & P. T. Nagy, eds., 41 (2020): 141-68.

“The Architecture of Death in Islam: A Brief Cross-cultural History,” in *Architecture of Coexistence: Building Pluralism*, Azra Akšamija, ed. (Berlin: Architangle; Aga Khan Award for Architecture, 2020), 52-63.

“A Very Brief History of Modern Syria,” in Christine Gedeon, *Aleppo: Deconstruction/Reconstruction* (Berlin: Kerber Verlag, 2020), 87-92.

“Brotherhood of the Towers: On the Spatiality of the Mamluk Caste,” *Thresholds* 48 (2020): 116-21.

“Kamal Boullata: For the Love of Jerusalem”, *Third Text Online*, [www.thirdtext.org/rabbat-boullata](http://www.thirdtext.org/rabbat-boullata) 16 March 2020.

“Les villes fabuleuses de « l’Orient, »” in *Araborama: Le monde arabe existe-t-il (encore)?* Chirine El Messiri et al., eds. (Paris: Éditions du Seuil; Institut du monde arabe, 2020), 239-48.

“The Complex Image of the Islamic Garden,” in *Islamic Gardens: Multi-Meaning of Paradise*, Despoina Zavraka, ed. (Kavala, Greece: MOHA Research Center, 2019), 24-55.

“Recovering A Fuller Arab Heritage,” in *Nomadic Traces: Journeys of Arabian Scripts*, Huda Smitshuijzen AbiFarès, ed. (Abu Dhabi: Warehouse 421, 2019), 13-15.

“The Hidden Hand: Edward Said’s Orientalism and Architectural History,” in *the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 77, 4 (December 2018): 388-96.

“A Brief History of Green Spaces in Cairo,” in *Cairo: Renewing the Historic City*, Philip Jodidio, ed. (Munich: Prestel; The Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme, 2018), 77-89.

“The Islamic and the Contemporary in Art,” in the catalogue of the *exhibition Infinite Present: Revelations from Islamic Design in Contemporary Art. Cambridge Gallery 344, Sep 17-Nov 30, 2018*, curated by Marie Costello, 5-7.

“The Nakba and Arab Culture,” in *Modern Art in the Arab World: Primary Documents (MoMA Primary Documents)*, Anneka Lenssen, Sarah Rogers, and Nada Shabout, eds. (New York: Museum of Modern Art, distributed by Duke University Press, 2018), 161-62.

“Cities of Incense and Myrrh: Fantasy and Capitalism in the Arabian Gulf,” in *A History of Architecture and Trade*, Patrick Haughey, ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 2018), 62-79.

“Ethics of Intervention: Framing the Debate on Reconstruction in Syria,” in *Syria-The Making of the Future: From Urbicide to the Architecture of the City* Benno Albercht & Jacopo Galli eds. (Venice: Università Iuav de Venezia and Conegliano, TV, Ital.: Incipit Editore, 2017), 175-94.

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“Identity, Modernity, and the Destruction of Heritage,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49, 4 (Nov 2017), 739-41.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-journal-of-middle-east-studies/article/identity-modernity-and-the-destruction-of-heritage/>

“Heritage as a Right: Heritage and the Arab Spring,” *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 5, 2 (2016): 267-278.

“Arab Cities and Identity Crisis,” in *The Arab City: Architecture and Representation*, Amale Andraos, Nora Akawi, and Caitlin Blanchfield eds. (New York: Columbia Books on Architecture and the City, 2016), 41-49.

“Islamic Architecture,” *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World, 2d edition* Richard C. Martin, general ed., 2 vols. (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale’s Macmillan Reference USA, 2016), 1, 88-97.

“Le jardin Arabo-Musulman: une image complexe,” in *Jardins d’orient: de l’Alhambra au Taj Mahal*, Exhibition Catalog, (Paris: Institut du Monde Arabe, 2016), 118-25.

“They Shoot Historians, Don’t They?,” *Artforum* (Nov. 2015)

<https://artforum.com/inprint/issue=201509&id=55521>

Greek translation <http://moha.center/index.php/el/news-mnu-gr/215-nasser-rabbat-sis-el>  
*Encounters with Modernity in the Arab World*, Yale Law School, Occasional Papers, The Dallah Al-Baraka on Islamic Law and Civilization, 2015.

“Architecture,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Arab Culture*, Dwight Reynolds, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 209-23.

“The Innocence of the Image: The Representations of the Prophet in the Islamic Tradition,” *Artforum* 53, 8 (April, 2015): 228-31.

“Politicizing the Religious: Or How the Umayyads Co-opted Classical Iconography,” in *Religious Identities in the Levant from Alexander to Muhammed. Continuity and Change*. Michael Blömer, Achim Lichtenberger, and Rubina Raja, eds. (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers, 2015), 95-104.

“Staging the City: Or How Mamluk Architecture Coopted the Streets of Cairo,” *Ulrich Haarmann Memorial Lecture, Vol 9* (Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, University of Bonn; Berlin: EBVerlag, 2014).

“Islamic Architecture’ and the Profession,” *The International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 3, 1 (March 2014): 37-40.

“Al-Maqrīzī’s Connection to the Fatimids,” in *The Study of Shi’i Islam: History, Theology, and Law*, Farhad Daftari & Gurdofarid Miskinzoda, eds. (London: I.B. Tauris; Institute of Ismaili Studies, 2014), 67-75.

“The Ka’ba: A Primordial Locus of Memory.” In *The challenge of the object: 33rd*

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*congress of the International Committee of the History of Art, Nuremberg, 15th - 20th July 2012 = Die Herausforderung des Objekts: 33. Internationaler Kunsthistoriker-Kongress/ CIHA 2012*, G. U. Großmann and P. Krutisch, eds. (Nürnberg: Germanisches Nationalmuseum, 2013), 1073-74.

“The Right to Architecture,” *Thresholds* 41 (2013): 98-103.  
<http://thresholds.mit.edu/issue/41a.html>

“Why is Contemporary Islamic Architecture Risking Banality?” In *Homogenization of Representations* Modjtaba Sadria, ed. (London: I.B.Tauris; Aga Khan Award for Architecture, 2013), 107-15.

“Islamic Art at a Crossroads?” In *Islamic Art and the Museum: Approaches to Art and Archaeology of the Muslim World in the Twenty-First Century*, Benoît Junod, Georges Khalil, Stefan Weber and Gerhard Wolf, eds. (London: Saqi Books, 2013), 76-83.

“Ideal-Type and Urban History: The Development of the Suq in Damascus,” in *The Bazaar in the Islamic City: Design, Culture, and History*, Mohammad Gharipour, ed. (Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2012), 51-74.

“Was al-Maqrīzī’s *Khiṭaṭ* a Khaldūnian History?” *Der Islam* 89, 1-2 (November 2012): 118–140. <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/islam.2012.89.issue-1-2/islam-2012-0007/islam-2012-0007.xml?format=INT>

“The Arab Revolution Takes Back the Public Space” *Critical Inquiry* 39, 1 (Autumn, 2012): 198-208.

“Surveying Islamic Art and Architecture,” in *Eothen: Münchner Beiträge zur Geschichte der islamischen Kunst und Kultur*, Band 5 (Munich, 2012): 267-274.

“In Search of a Triumphant Image: the Experimental Quality of Early Mamluk Art,” in *The Arts of the Mamluks in Egypt and Syria – Evolution and Impact*, Doris Behrens-Abouseif, ed. (Berlin: Bonn University Press, 2012), 21-35.

“What is Islamic Architecture?” in *Architecture in Islamic Art: Treasures of the Aga Khan Museum*, M. Graves & B. Junod, eds. (Geneva: the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, 2012), 17-29. Republished with changes as ‘What is Islamic architecture anyway?’ in *Journal of Art Historiography*, no. 6: special issue, “Islamic art historiography”, <http://arthistoriography.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/rabbat1.pdf>  
Persian translation in <http://asmaneh.com/feed/5adc35c25aafa41103b83ec5>

“MIA and the Memory of Ibn Tulun,” in *Reflections on Islamic Art*, Ahdaf Soueif ed. (Doha, Qatar: Qatar Museum Authority, 2011), 231-37.

“The Pedigreed Domain of Architecture: A View from the Cultural Margin,” *Perspecta* 44 (2011): 6-11.

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“Mosques and the Western Claim of Secularism,” in *Faith in the City: The Mosque in the Contemporary Urban West*, Justin Jaeckle and Füsün Türetken, eds. (London: The Architecture Foundation, 2011), 4-7.

“Circling the Square: Architecture and Revolution in Cairo,” *Artforum* 49, 8 (April 2011): 182-91. Reprinted as “Egypt Speaks for Itself in Tahrir Square: Cairo,” in *In the Life of Cities*, Mohsen Mostafavi, ed. (Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge; Lars Müller Publishers, Zürich, 2012), 195-205.

### **Other Articles and Book Sections**

“Reflections on the Humanities in Higher Education Today,” *The MIT Faculty Newsletter* 33, 3 (2021): 1, 4, <https://fnl.mit.edu/january-february-2021/reflections-on-the-humanities-in-higher-learning-today/>

“Kamal Boullata (1942-2019),” *Artforum* (November 2019), 57.  
<https://www.artforum.com/print/201909/nasser-rabbat-on-kamal-boullata-81059>

“What Triggered the Middle Eastern Revolts in 2011? The economics of Arabellion,” *Qantara.de* (October 2, 2018), <https://en.qantara.de/print/32905>

“Enter Islam,” “The Modern Time,” *Dig into History* (March 2018) Special Issue on Syria, 26-30, 42-44.

“On Immigration and Humanist Values,” *The MIT Faculty Newsletter* 29, 4 (2017): 1, 8-9,  
<http://web.mit.edu/fnl/volume/294/rabbat.html>

“With an Iron Fist: The Historical Causes for Despotism, Tyranny and Oppression in the Arab world,” *Qantara.de* (March 15, 2017), <https://en.qantara.de/content/the-decline-of-humanism-in-the-arab-world-with-an-iron-fist>

“When a Poster Is a Work of Art: José Luis Argüello and the AKPIA Posters (2001–2016),” *Medium.com* (February 14, 2017), <https://medium.com/@MITSAP/when-a-poster-is-a-work-of-art-ea0fed19d2a5#.btrjyyu88>

“Syria’s past can be a path to its future,” op-ed, *The Globe and Mail* of Toronto, October 28, 2016, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/syrias-past-can-be-a-path-to-its-future/article32555371/>

“Un cruel manque de curiosité,” *Courrier International*, hors-série (Novembre-Décembre 2016), 47-48. <https://www.courrierinternational.com/article/libres-penseurs-de-lislam-le-monde-musulman-fait-preuve-dun-manque-cruel-de-curiosite>

“Anatomy of the Syrian Regime,” *London Review of Books* 38, 14 (14 July 2016): 32-33,  
<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v38/n14/nasser-rabbat/anatomy-of-the-syrian-regime>



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“Passages, Zaha Hadid (1950-2016),” *Artforum* (Summer 2016): 83,  
<https://artforum.com/inprint/issue=201606&id=60076>

“The Tragedy of Forced Migration and What MIT Can Do About It,” *The MIT Faculty Newsletter* 28, 2 (2015): 1, 8-9. <http://web.mit.edu/fnl/volume/282/rabbat.html>

Preface to *Cities of the Dead: The Ancestral Cemeteries of Kyrgyzstan*, Photographs by Margaret Morton (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014), XVII.

“The Man With The Death Certificate,” in *Madinati al-Qahira (My Cairo Mein Kairo)*, Jörg Armbruster and Suleman Taufiq, eds. (Stuttgart: Edition Esefeld & Traub, 2014), 232-35.

“A Eulogy for My Father—and My Country: Bidding goodbye to the first generation of Syrians, and the nation they hoped to build,” *The Atlantic*, March 9, 2014  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/03/the-death-of-a-syrian-dream/284315/>

Reprinted in the *Syrian Studies Association Bulletin*, [Vol 19, No 1 \(2014\)](https://ojcs.siue.edu/ojs/index.php/ssa/issue/current)  
<https://ojcs.siue.edu/ojs/index.php/ssa/issue/current>

“Arab secularism and its discontents,” Stephen Walt, Foreign Policy Blog,  
[http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/07/01/arab\\_secularism\\_and\\_its\\_discontents](http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/07/01/arab_secularism_and_its_discontents)  
Sunday, July 1, 2012.

“The Difficult Quest For Freedom,” Middle East Forum, <http://www.middleeastforum.com>,  
Sunday, May 27, 2012.

“Arab Christians, Citizens not Minorities,” Middle East Forum,  
<http://www.middleeastforum.com>, Sunday, February 6, 2011.

### **Exhibitions Reviews**

“Foundational Aesthetics: on ‘Ancient Nubia Now,’” *Artforum* 58, 8 (April 2020),  
<https://www.artforum.com/print/202004/nasser-rabbat-on-ancient-nubia-now-82452>

“France’s Oriental Dream: The Louvre Abu Dhabi,” *Artforum Online* (January 19, 2018)  
<https://www.artforum.com/slant/id=73429>

“Mounting Resistance: New Art in Beirut,” *Artforum* (March 2017): 216-21.  
<https://www.artforum.com/inprint/issue=201703&id=66678>

“Under the Influence,” Exhibition Review: ‘Artist and Empire,’ *Artforum* (April 2016):  
71-74. <https://artforum.com/inprint/issue=201604&id=58696>

“Paul Guiragossian: Beirut Exhibition Center” *Artforum* 52, 7 (March, 2014): 305-306.

“Parables of Protest,” Exhibition Review “‘She Who Tells a Story,’” *Artforum* 52,  
6 (February 2014): 99. <http://artforum.com/inprint/issue=201402&id=45006>

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“Egyptomania: review of ‘Tea with Nefertiti,’” *Artforum* 51, 7 (March 2013): 99-100.  
<http://artforum.com/inprint/id=39389> [http://prod-images.exhibite.com/www\\_alexandergray\\_com/OGrady\\_Artforum\\_March\\_2013.pdf](http://prod-images.exhibite.com/www_alexandergray_com/OGrady_Artforum_March_2013.pdf)

‘What’s in a Name? The New “Islamic Art” Galleries at the Met,’ *Artforum* 50, 8 (January 2012): 75-78. <http://artforum.com/inprint/id=29813>

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

Article "Khitat," in *The Encyclopedia of Islam*, 3d ed. (2019): 81-84.

Article “Dār al-‘Adl (premodern)” in *The Encyclopedia of Islam*, 3d ed. (2007-continuing): Part 2012-4.

Article "Damascus," in *Encyclopædia Britannica Online* 2008.  
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/150420/Damascus>

Article "the City," in *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an*. 6 vols. Jane Dammen McAuliffe, Gen. Ed. (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2002-2007), 1: 338-39.

Articles, "Mosque," "Abbasids," "Mu‘awiya," "Abd al-Malik," "al-Tabari," and "al-Baladhuri," in *Late Antiquity A Guide to the Late Antique World*, G. W. Bowersock, P. Brown, and O. Grabar eds., (Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1999).

Articles "Shadirwan," in the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 2d ed. (1954-2005) 9: 175-76; "Tiraz," 10:534-38; "Riwak," 8: 544-45; "Ribat," 8: 506. "Rank," 8: 431-33.

### **Recent Scholarly Articles in Arabic**

“On the Anxieties of Arabic Language at Home and in the Diaspora,” *A Report on the Condition of Arabic Language and its Future* (Abu Dhabi: Ministry of Culture and Youth, 2020), 279-80. <https://www.mckd.gov.ae/ar/arabic-language-report/>

“Zaha Hadid: The Magician of Dazzle,” *al-Arabi al-Jadid Culture Supplement*, 77 (April 5, 2016) <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/supplementculture/2016/4/4/حديـد زها-الإبهار-ساحرة>

“To Be Paul Guiragossian,” *Kalamon*, 9 (Winter 2014): 199-215  
[http://www.kalamon.org/files/articles/pdf-uSezjL-9-12-Nasser\\_Rabbat.pdf](http://www.kalamon.org/files/articles/pdf-uSezjL-9-12-Nasser_Rabbat.pdf)

“The Architecture of the Library between the Past and the Present,” *al-Doha* 76 (February 2014): 50-52. <http://www.aldohamagazine.com/article.aspx?n=758E43A7-CCC6-4AAE-9015-DCDB9824BAA2&d=20140201#.UvVgj6W2P8s>

“Islamic Architecture and its Connection to History,” on Raseef22, February 1, 2014,  
<http://raseef22.com/News-Detail/771/بالتاريخ وعلاقتها-الإسلامية-العمارة>

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“The Arab Spring of the Desert and the Culture of its Emerging Cities,” *Kalamon*, 8 (Autumn 2013) <http://www.kalamon.org/articles-details-181#axzz2gkwdbkVc>

“An Architectural Boom in the Arabian Gulf,” *Lonaard-Art and Architecture Magazine* vol. 1, issue 2 (March 2011): 22-26. <http://www.lonaard.com/issue2/issue2.html>

### **Other Publications in Arabic**

Al-‘Arabi al-Jadid Newspaper, bi-weekly article on cultural, artistic, and architectural issues, 2014-2020.

Al-Hayat Newspaper, bi-weekly article on political issues, on pan-Arabism, and Syria from February 2013 till August 2018.

“Our Revolutions Between Freedom and Identity,” *Kalamon*, 6 (Spring 2012): 19-29. <http://www.kalamon.org/articles-details-134#axzz1tYes96mt>

Various articles on the Arab Spring and the Syrian Revolution on Jadaliyya.com <http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/contributors/33681>

Short Stories in al-Adab Journal, 2004-2010

Contributed to the Arabic international newspapers *al-Hayat* (June 1998-April 1999), *al-Mustaqbal* (August 1999-February 2000), and *al-Quds al-‘Arabi* (2001-2004), and the cultural journals *Akhbar al-Adab* (1999-2006), and *An-Naqid* (1993-1994) on issues in cultural policies, architectural history, art and architectural criticism, and reviews of books, exhibitions, and films.

### **Books in Preparation**

*Writing Egypt: Al-Maqrizi and His Historical Project*, to be published by Edinburgh University Press in 2022.

*Syria: Where Cultures Met*, an edited book under contract with Edinburgh University Press.

*Construction as Destruction: The Case of Aleppo*, a co-edited book to be published by the American University in Cairo Press in 2022.

*Cairo: The Architectural History of a Metropolis*, under contract with the American University in Cairo Press.

### **Professional Service**

Director, Aga Khan Program, MIT

1999-present

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Managing an academic program with 12 PhD and Masters students on average, 2 faculty, 3-4 postdocs/year, and one administrator	
Chair, Aga Khan Fellowships Committee, MIT sponsored by the Aga Khan Program, MIT	1999-present
Convener, "An Evening With," lecture series sponsored by the Aga Khan Program, MIT	1991-present
Supervisor, Aga Khan Postdoctoral Program, MIT	1999-present
Chair, Aga Khan Travel Grants Committee, MIT	1991-present
Member, Steering Committee, Aga Khan Award for Architecture	2018-present
Academic Director, ArchNet, MIT	1999-2001
Faculty Advisor, ArchNet, MIT	2001-2010
Board Member, Board of Trustees, Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, Qatar Foundation, Qatar	2011-2015
Advisory Board Member, Loonard Magazine, London	2011-present
Advisory Board Member, International Journal of Islamic Architecture	2011-present
Advisory Board Member, The Journal of Modern Art and the Arab World	2013-2015
Evaluator, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	2012-present
Advisory Board Member, Takreem Chapter, Beirut, Lebanon	2011-2016
Board Member, Board of Trustees, Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, Qatar Foundation, Qatar	2011-2015
Member, Editorial Board, <i>Muqarnas</i>	1993-present
Member, #NEWPALMYRA Digital Archaeology project <a href="http://www.newpalmyra.org">http://www.newpalmyra.org</a>	2015-present
Scientific Committee Member, the Mohammed Ali Research Center (MOHA), Kavala, Greece	2014-present
President, Middle East Medievalists (MEM)	2007-2009
Chair, Academic Board, Barakat Foundation, USA	2002-2008
Board Member, The American Research Center in Egypt	2004-2007
Advisory Board Member, The Center for the Study	2005-present

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of Architecture in the Arab Region (CSAAR), KFUPM  
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Advisory Board Member, ARCHNET-IJAR: 2006-present  
Archnet International Journal of Architectural Research

Advisory Board Member, *Journal of Art Historiography*, 2009-present  
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/arthistoriography>

Advisory Board Member, Department of Architecture, 2006-present  
BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Member, Academic Advisory Committee, “Illuminating Islam” 2007-2009  
Initiative, New York University Center for Dialogues, NYC

Board Member, Centre for Asian and Middle Eastern 2000-2003  
Architecture (CAMEA), Adelaide University, Australia

Board Member, *Journal of Architectural Education (JAE)* 2001-2004

Honorary Board Advisor, Association for Modern and 2007-present  
Contemporary Art of the Arab world, Iran, and Turkey (AMCA)

Founder and First President, Center for Arabic Culture (CAC) 2005-2007  
Boston, MA

Founding Member, SIMAT (Syrians for Heritage), Berlin 2017

Founding Member, Global Syria, Institut du Monde Arabe, 2018  
Paris, France

### **Recent Conferences and Symposia Organized**

Summer-Fall 2020                      Convener, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture  
Virtual Reunion, a monthly Zoom gathering for AKPIA  
alumni and alumnae, with moderated discussions and  
research presentations.

February 24, 2020                      Organized panel discussion on Architecture in Dialogue:  
The Aga Khan Award in its Fourteenth Cycle, sponsored  
by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture,  
Department of Architecture, MIT  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j28ZbvUtgZ0&t=491s>

May 10-11, 2019                      Co-Organized with Deen Sharp the Symposium  
“Reconstruction as Violence: The Case of Aleppo,”  
sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic  
Architecture, Department of Architecture, MIT,

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<https://akpia.mit.edu/reconstruction-violence-case-aleppo#overlay-context=conferences>,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ve6pC8Vfm34>

April 8, 2019 Co-Organized with Deen Sharp, Panel Discussion with artist Artist Julie Mehretu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asjWy-js0-0>

April 27-28, 2018 Co-Organized with Suheyla Takesh the Symposium “Translating Destruction: Contemporary Art & War in the Middle East,” sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Department of Architecture, MIT, <https://akpia.mit.edu/translating-destruction-contemporary-art-and-war-middle-east>

May 19, 2017 Convened with Amale Andraos a Workshop on “The Arab City,” bringing together a group from the Department of Architecture, MIT and another from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, MIT

May 5-6, 2017 Co-Organized with Mark Jarzombek the Symposium “Stan Anderson and HTC,” Department of Architecture, MIT  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNbSdsAwkFE>

April 27, 2017 Co-Organized with El-Hadi Jazairy and chaired the Workshop “The Architecture of Refugees: The Question of Ethics,” sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Department of Architecture, MIT, <https://akpia.mit.edu/the%20A0-architecture%20A0-of%20A0-refugees-the%20A0-question%20A0-of%20A0-ethics>

October 29-30, 2016 Co-Organized with Ruba Kana’an the Symposium, “Syria’s Art and Architecture: A Multicultural History,” The Aga Khan Museum, Toronto

### **Recent Public Lectures and Conference Presentations**

June 25, 2021 "الاستشراق والمستشرقون" Marefa Talks with Nayel Shafei,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHg2aWhvN90>

June 15, 2021 "كيف تصوغ العمارة مدينتها؟ القاهرة المماليك نموذجاً" Darah Talks,  
King Abdulaziz Foundation, Riyadh  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIDYilRCqms>

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- October 22, 2020 “History’s Currency: The Afterlife of al-Maqrizi’s *Khitat*,” Zoom Lecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
- October 2, 2020 “صورة الحاكم في مصر” Marefa Talks with Nayel Shafei, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yn7BLyYCw3o>
- September 25, 2020 “Al-Maqrizi and the Orientalists,” Zoom Lecture, Ulrich Haarmann Memorial Lecture, Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, University of Bonn, Germany
- July 24, 2020 “التدمير في التاريخ” Marefa Talks with Nayel Shafei, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vy7Gu1VvFUE&feature=youtu.be>
- June 12, 2020 “نشأة العمارة الإسلامية” Marefa Talks with Nayel Shafei, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcvzUc7fpcY>
- May 22, 2020 “الثورات في العصر المملوكي” Marefa Talks with Nayel Shafei, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azudjh3JH1I&feature=youtu.be>
- May 8, 2020 Webinar, “العمران بين المقريزي وابن خلدون” Marefa Talks with Nayel Shafei, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECBsv7U75HE>
- April 17, 2020 “كيف أصبح المقريزي مؤرخاً” Marefa Talks with Nayel Shafei, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyr1b2AM3X4&feature=youtu.be>
- April 11, 2020 “ليلي إبراهيم ودورها في الحفاظ على آثار القاهرة المملوكية” Marefa Talks with Nayel Shafei, <https://tube.marefa.org/v/1075>
- February 19, 2020 “On the Humanistic Potential of Islamic Architecture,” Higher Education Forum Meeting # 31, Aga Khan Development Network, Chantilly, France
- January 24, 2020 “Kamal Boullata: For the Love of Jerusalem,” Jerusalem in Exile Symposium, Jesus College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK
- October 9, 2019 “The Multicultural Roots of Islamic Architecture,” Remis Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

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- June 24, 2019 “The Khitat: History and Belonging,” Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, Bonn University, Bonn, Germany
- May 30, 2019 “Arab Culture and the Modernity Complex,” (in Arabic) Beït al-Hikma: Académie tunisienne des sciences, de lettres et des arts, Tunis  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCZjQ8DwV8Y&t=7298s>
- April 12, 2019 “On Being a Mamluk and a Member of the Ruling Class,” in The Second Conference on the Mamluk-Ottoman Transition: Continuity and Change in Egypt and Bilād al-Shām in the Sixteenth Century, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- March 27, 2019 “Heritage, Colonialism, and Identity in the Arab World,” Department of Architecture, University of Florence, Florence
- January 28, 2019 “The Shape of Light,” The Cultural Heritage and Creativity in Muslim Civilizations Lecture Series, the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (ISMC), The Aga Khan Centre, London
- November 15, 2018 “What is a nation? When is a nation?” in The Intellectual Commons Series, Department of Architecture, MIT  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tG1-R7q68fE>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tG1-R7q68fE&list=PLb7kpKIk9FURb91efVlaSMB000T591kdb>
- November 8, 2018 “Heritage Conservation and the Fractured Arab Modernity,” Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies, The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC
- October 25, 2018 “Comments on Keynote Talk by Zainab Bahrani,” in the Historians of Islamic Art and Architecture (HIAA) 2018 Biennial Symposium, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- October 2, 2018 “Lunch Talk,” City Science Group, MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, MA
- July 20, 2018 “The Levantine Age: Cosmopolitanism and Colonialism in the Eastern Mediterranean,” The John Harvard Seminar, the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and



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- Humanities (CRASSH), Cambridge University, UK
- May 18, 2018 “Making Syria Mamluk: The Military Caste and the City,”  
Keynote, The Cities of Syria in the Mamluk Epoch  
Conference, jointly organized by the Université Saint-  
Joseph and the American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- April 5, 2018 “Designing Transcendence: Light in Islamic Architecture, 2018  
H.A.R. Gibb Arabic & Islamic Studies Lecture Series, Center  
for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University  
<https://vimeo.com/316860825>
- April 3, 2018 “The Historian and the City Between Ibn Khaldun and al-  
Maqrizi,” 2018 H.A.R. Gibb Arabic & Islamic Studies Lecture  
Series, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University  
<https://cmes.fas.harvard.edu/node/1125992>  
<https://vimeo.com/137390442>
- March 8, 2018 ‘The Fabulous “Arabian” cities of Our Times,’ Design,  
Architecture, Art, and Planning Program (DAAP),  
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
- January 11, 2018 “Fluidity,” A Conversation on architecture with Nader  
Tehrani, moderated by John Ochsendorf at the American  
Academy in Rome, Italy, <https://livestream.com/aarome>
- November 13, 2017 "Historical Memory and Coca-Cola: Reflections on the  
Arabian Gulf Cities," Keynote Talk, Learning from Gulf  
Cities Initiative, NYU Abu Dhabi Saadiyat Campus, Abu  
Dhabi, UAE

### **Organization Membership**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| The Middle East Studies Association (MESA)<br>Nominating Committee Member 1998 | Member 1986-present                                       |
| College Art Association (CAA)  | Member 1986-2016  |
| The American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)                                   | Member 1988-present<br>Board Member 2006-2007,<br>2009-11 |
| The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)                                  | Member 1991-present                                       |
| Middle East Medievalists (MEM)   | Member 1992-present<br>President 2006-09                  |
| Radical Reassessment of Arabic Art,<br>Language, and Literature (RRAALL)       | Member 1991-present                                       |

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Historians of Islamic Art and Architecture (HIAA)	Member 1991-present Board Member 1993-96
Syrian Studies Association (SSA)	Member 2005-present

### **Architectural Registration**

The Syrian Order of Engineers and Architects Registration no. 10470	Member, 1980-2001
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### **Recent Interviews**

April-May 2018, “Islamic Calligraphy, Mosque Architecture, Ottoman Architecture, Sinan, Suleyman the Magnificent,” in the BBC Series *Civilizations*, 3rd episode ‘God and Art’ and 5th episode ‘Renaissances’

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/GThNCvQtxsgJfJrxCxJb2/civilisations-masterworks-of-beauty-and-ingenuity>

<http://www.wgbh.org/programs/Civilizations-3725>

July 7, 14, 21, 2018, Interview with Belal Fadl on his program “Asir al-Kutub” (The Juice of Books), episodes 139-140-141, on Alaraby TV

<http://alaraby.tv/video/26969937/139-الحلقة>

<http://alaraby.tv/video/26972413/140-الحلقة>

<http://alaraby.tv/video/26974857/141-الحلقة>

[https://youtu.be/3uZzEMV\\_FZI](https://youtu.be/3uZzEMV_FZI)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SK1SWR4Eahc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4wdNMS6DXo>

May 17, 2019, interview with Marco Werman, host of PRI’s The World on IM Pei’s design of the Islamic Art Museum in Doha, Qatar

<https://www.pri.org/file/2019-05-17/im-pei-dead-102>

June 9, 2019, interview with Abdul Rahman AbuMaleh, in his Podcast “Finjan,”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6700H3YXabQ>, broadcast also on “Thmanyah”

Podcast <https://thmanyah.com/colony/islamic-art-architecture-and-identity>

April 8, 2020, Podcast “Can we Learn from the Past?” Arts In Isolation Series - Asia House, London, in association with the Barakat Trust

<https://asiahousearts.org/about/arts-in-isolation-podcasts/>

May 20, 2020, ArchitectureTalk, Ep 71. Architecture in the Time of Coronavirus with Vikram Prakash <https://www.architecturetalk.org/home/71-jyaga-sa9ls-6wtny-6wgg5-4mgza-kdpel-3rn64>

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June 1, 2020, Webinar, “A Hopeful Post-Colonial Moment,” Virtual Space, Mawane,  
<http://www.mawane.org/>

July 18, 2020, Online Cultural Majlis with Sultan Saoud al-Qasimi. Nasser Rabbat: My  
Journey with History, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDG1kyrygY&t=478s>

February 4, 2021, Online afikra | عفكرة Conversation with Mikey Muhanna, Founder &  
Executive Director, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARReY18eDPQ>,  
<https://afikra.simplecast.com>

August 9, 2021, Interview on Syria.tv about my book on the “Dead Cities” in Syria,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypj4WFORQ3s>

### **Courses Taught at MIT**

Building Islam

(Re)constructing Memory

Out of Antiquity: on the Origins of Islamic Architecture

Architecture in the Islamic World

Civic and Residential Islamic Architecture

Islamic Architecture and the Environment

Religious Architecture and Islamic Cultures (HASS-D)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N867pCLaz04>

The Architecture of Cairo

Cultural Signification in Architecture

Issues in Islamic Urbanism

Reading Ibn Khaldun: City, State, Civilization

Antiquity and the Formation of Islamic Architecture

Historiography of Islamic Architecture

Balancing Globalism and Regionalism: The Heart of Doha Project

Dubai: The Orientalist Dream City

Architecture after the Aga Khan Award

Orientalism and Representation

Urbicide: History of a Violent Practice

Contemporary Islamic Architecture

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Special Problems in Islamic and Nonwestern Architecture

The Making of Islamic Architecture, with Sibel Bozdogan

Theory Method (HTC Required Class), with Erika Naginski

Paris/Cairo: The East-West Tale of the Modern Metropolis, with Erika Naginski

Granada: Design with History, Option Studio taught with Cristina Parreño

Competition for a Palatial Complex, Riyadh, SA

### **Education**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D. in Architecture, Art, and Environmental Studies, January 1991

Dissertation: “The Citadel of Cairo, 1176-1341: Reconstructing Architecture from Texts.”

Areas of study: history of Islamic architecture, urban history, history of landscape,  
and nineteenth-century historiography.

University of California, Los Angeles, CA

M.Arch II in Architecture and Urban Design, March 1984

Thesis: “House-form, Climatic Responses, and Life-style: A Study of the Seventeenth-  
Nineteenth Century Courtyard Houses in Cairo and Damascus.”

Areas of study: climatically responsive architectural design and its historical examples.

University of Damascus, Syria

Bachelor of Architecture, First Professional Degree, November 1979

Graduation Project: Design for a passive-solar village near Damascus