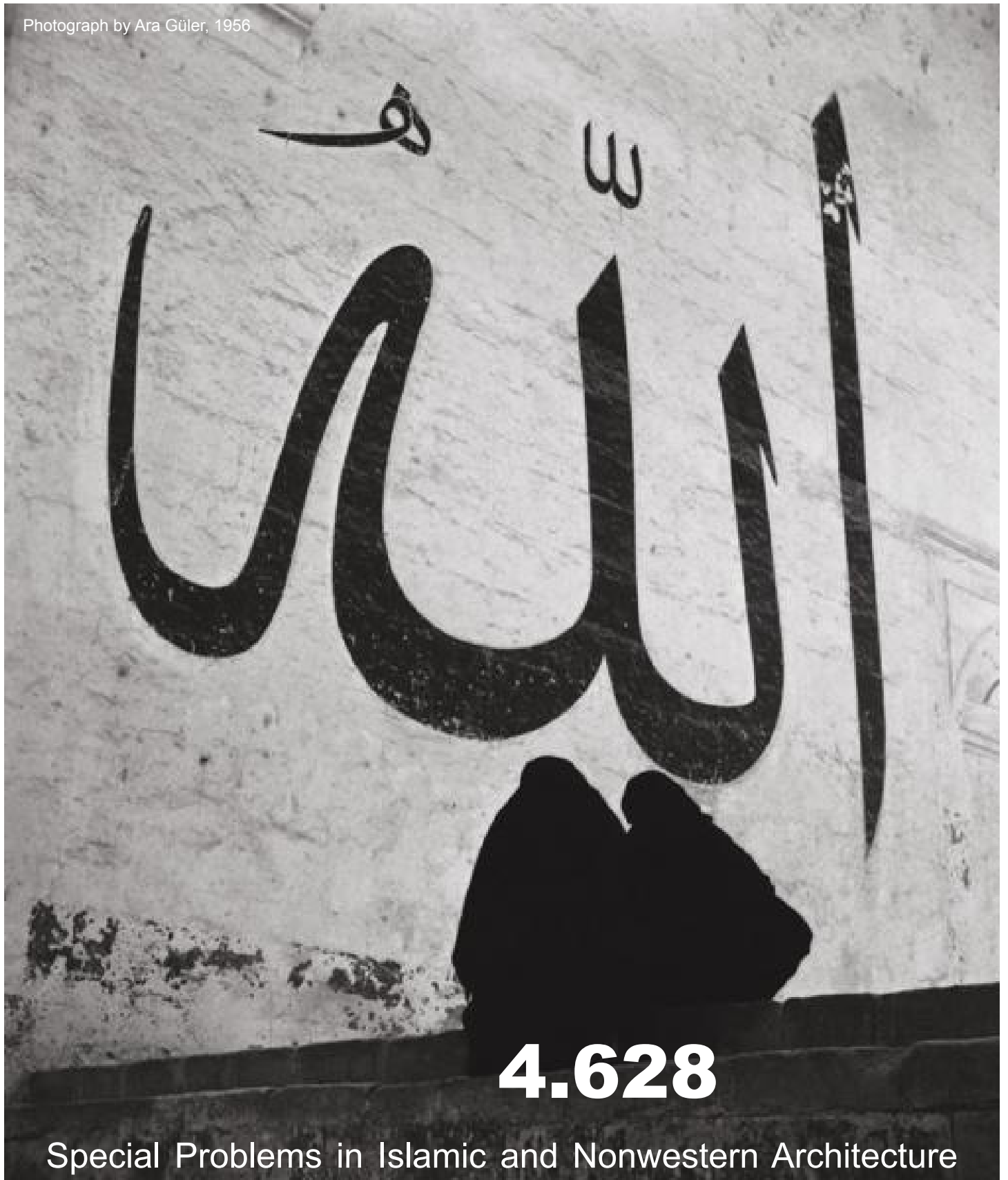


Photograph by Ara Güler, 1956



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Special Problems in Islamic and Nonwestern Architecture

ISLAMIC CALLIGRAPHY & ARCHITECTURE

An introduction to the history of Islamic calligraphy and the culture that surrounds it, with special emphasis on its use as an architectural element. We shall review theories of writing and textuality, as well as public writing and the political uses of script. We shall then discuss the importance of the written word in Islam, and the history, styles, and material culture of calligraphy.

After a general review of epigraphy in the Islamic context, we shall discuss the uses to which calligraphy has been put in Islamic architecture, from Muslim Spain to Mughal India, with special emphasis on the Ottoman and Persian contexts. A term paper will be required. Knowledge of Arabic script or of languages spoken in the Muslim world not required.

Instructor: Irvin Schick
e-mail: <ischick@mit.edu>

Units: 3-0-9

Level: H

Prerequisites: Advanced undergrads with instructor's permission.

Time & Location: Wednesday 6-9
Room 5-216