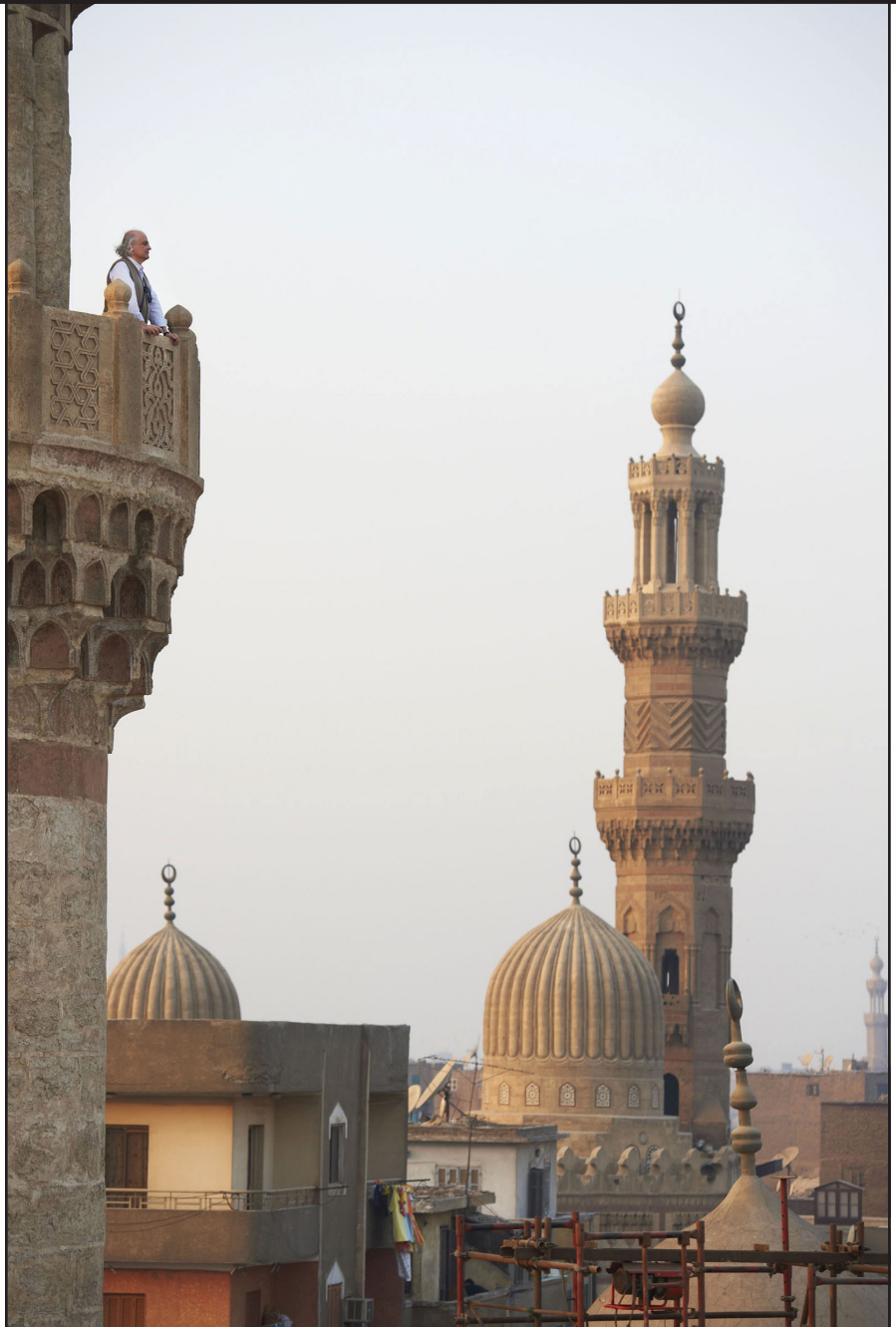


4.614

RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

This course introduces the history of Islamic cultures through the perspective of their architecture of devotion (religious, commemorative, and educational). The survey proceeds chronologically from the beginning of Islam in 7th-century Arabia up to the present. It examines decisive moments in Islamic history, traces the global spread of Islam today, and introduces influential patrons, thinkers, and designers. Major examples of mosques, madrasas, khanqahs, mausolea, etc. are situated within their broadest historical context and their architectural, urban, and stylistic characteristics are analyzed in conjunction with their political, socioeconomic, and intellectual settings. Students are encouraged to raise questions and generate debates. The aim is to help them better understand Islamic religious architecture within its regional, pan-Islamic, and global contexts both in the past and present.



FALL 2013

DAYS: Mondays and Wednesdays
TIME: 11-12:30
ROOM: 3-133
INSTRUCTOR: Nasser Rabbat
E MAIL: nasser@mit.edu
TA: Nisa Ari
E MAIL: nisa@mit.edu
UNITS: 3-0-9
HASS-D

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Richard Ettinghausen, Oleg Grabar, and Marilyn Jenkins-Madina. *The Art and Architecture of Islam: 650-1250*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2001.
Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom, *The art and architecture of Islam 1250-1800*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994.

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

George Michell, ed. *Architecture of the Islamic World: Its History and Social Meaning*, London: Thames and Hudson, 1978 [reprint 1984].
Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1991.
Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic architecture: form, function and meaning*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1994.
John D. Hoag, *Islamic Architecture*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1977.
Martin Frishman and Hasan-Uddin Khan (eds), *The Mosque: History, Architectural Development & Regional Diversity*. New York, 1994.

Course Website: <http://web.mit.edu/4.614/www/> also Open Course Ware website
Stellar Website: <http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/4/fa12/4.614/>