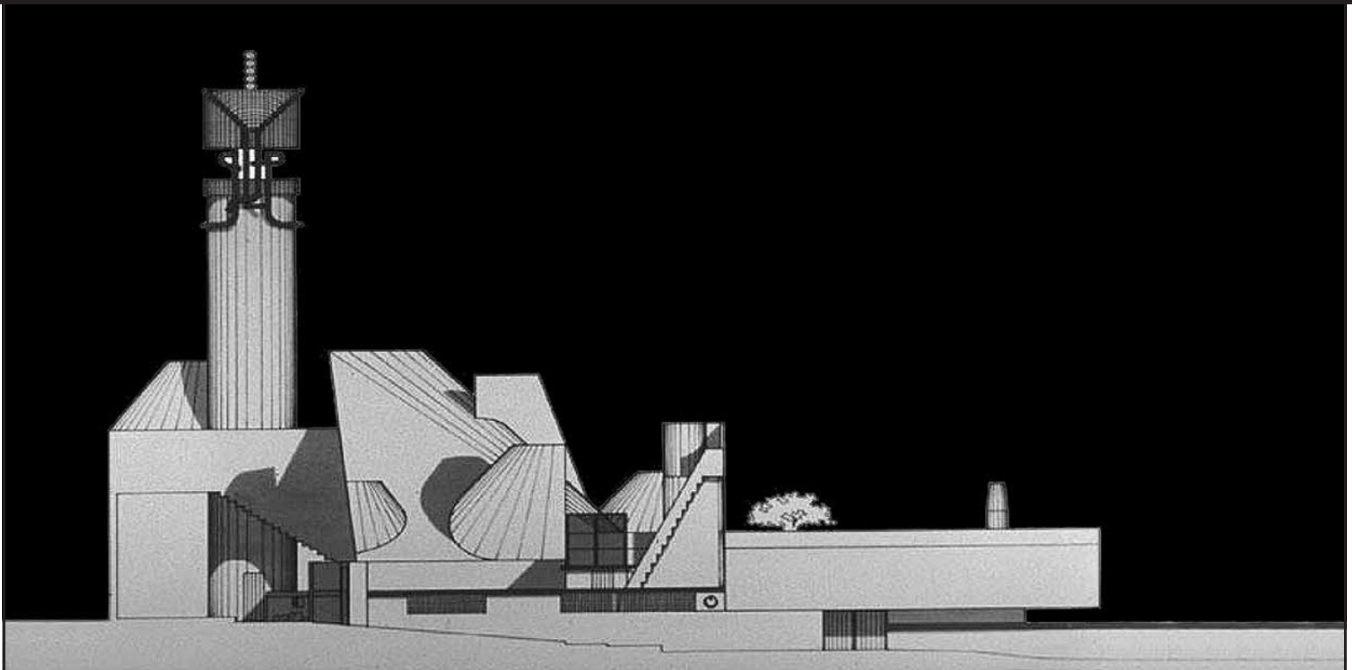


4.S65



CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

This seminar aims to posit Islamic architecture as a design category, a process that developed over the last century. Slowly emerging as a revivalist trend in the early 1900s, Islamic architecture remained on the margins during the late colonial and early nationalist periods when a more vocal modernism embodied the architecture of the new nation-states. This dominance, however, was somewhat supplanted by the historicist push of post-modernism, which, along with the parallel burgeoning of critical regionalism and vernacular revival, undergirded the evolution of Islamic architecture from the 1970s to the 1990s. More recently, mounting global pressures brought historic preservation and reuse, new technologies, as well as landscape and environmental design within the purview of contemporary Islamic architecture.

The seminar will first examine the historical background that led to the emergence of Islamic architecture. It will then use selected projects and literature from the last 50 years as the lens through which to investigate how contemporary Islamic architecture, in a rather conciliatory manner, incorporates various concerns within its core historicist criteria to accommodate the diverse technological, socioeconomic, and environmental currents affecting its evolving discourse. Whether this process is defining an identifiable design category or not is the question that will inform all class inquiries.

CLASS MECHANISM

Each session will include a lecture and a discussion. In the first few weeks, students will respond to historical and theoretical readings in 1-3 pp. In the second part of the seminar, each student will select one architect or one project from the categories examined and present his/her critical appraisal in the corresponding meeting. The final paper may be a 20-page reworking of the evaluation submitted by the student, or may be an investigation of a different project/architect to be selected in consultation with the instructor. Readings, responses, and active class participation are meant to form the basis of the seminar and ensure its liveliness.

SPRING 2014

TIME:	Wednesday 2-5
ROOM:	4-144
INSTRUCTOR:	Nasser Rabbat
E MAIL:	nasser@mit.edu
TA:	Jesse Feiman
E MAIL:	jfeiman@mit.edu
UNITS:	3-0-9, H

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Mohammad Al-Asad. *Contemporary Architecture and Urbanism in the Middle East*. (University Press of Florida: 2012).
Yasser Elsheshtawy (ed.). *Planning Middle Eastern Cities: An Urban Kaleidoscope* (Routledge: 2009).
Sandy Isenstadt and Kishwar Rizvi (eds.). *Modernism and the Middle East: Architecture and Politics in the Twentieth Century* (University of Washington Press: 2008).
Hasan Uddin Khan and Renata Holod (eds.). *The Contemporary Mosque: Architects, Clients, and Designs Since the 1950s* (Rizzoli: 1997).
Udo Kultermann. *Contemporary Architecture in the Arab States: Renaissance of a Region*. (McGraw-Hill: 1999).
Kanan Makiya. *Post-Islamic Classicism: A Visual Essay on the Architecture of Mohamed Makiya*. (Saqi Books: 2001)
James Steele. *Hassan Fathy*. (St. Martin's Press: 1988)