

# AKPIA AKTC

OCTOBER 2006

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

## 3 issue

### AKPIA

Established in 1979, the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are supported by endowments from His Highness The Aga Khan that support instruction, research, and student aid. Both programs are recognized today as leaders in the study of architecture and urbanism in the Islamic world. 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 excellence as the standard in professional research, AKPIA also continually strives to promote the visibility of pan-Islamic cultural heritage.

### AKTC

Buildings and public spaces are physical manifestations of culture in societies, past, and present. They represent human endeavours that can enhance the quality of life, foster self-understanding and community values, and expand opportunities for economic and social development into the future.

AKTC 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 in 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 a 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  
FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE**

**The Fall 2006  
“AN EVENING WITH...”  
MIT Lecture Series**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

“Documentary Film Presentation:  
Celebrating Popular Islam in India: Short  
Films on Devotional Images and Rituals of  
Indian Muslims”  
Yousuf Saeed, Documentary Film Maker,  
New Delhi, India

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23**

“Between Scholarship and Experience;  
The German and French Discourse on  
Islamic Architecture”  
Lorraine Declety, Ecole pratique des hautes  
études, Paris, France; Technische Universität,  
Dresden, Germany

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

“Patterning Knowledge: Geometry and  
Islamic Art”  
Carol Bier, Research Associate, The Textile  
Museum, Berkeley, California

For further information, please consult:  
[http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/  
lecturescurrent.htm](http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/lecturescurrent.htm)

All events are free and open to the public.  
All events are on Mondays from 5:30  
to 7:30pm in room MIT 3-133

**AKP MIT CONFERENCE**

**WORKSHOP, SATURDAY, MARCH 3**

“Designing Development: Architecture,  
Planning and the Taxonomies of Power in the  
Global Arena”

No further information is available at this  
time. Please check the [AKP at MIT website](#)  
for future details.

**2006-2007 AKP Harvard Lecture  
Series: A Forum for Islamic Art  
& Architecture**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

“Making a Royal History Book: The Case of  
the Shahnama of Selim II”  
Emine Fetvacı, Society of Fellows in the  
Humanities, Stanford University

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14**

“Formal and Semantic Considerations in the  
Analysis of Miniature Painting: The Case of  
the Frame”  
Rachel Milstein, Leo A. Mayer Chair, Muslim  
Art and Archaeology Department, The Hebrew  
University of Jerusalem, Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Harvard Aga Khan Program

**THURSDAY, MARCH 15**

“Analysis of Ceremonies in Ottoman  
Miniatures: Perceptions and Representations”  
Zeynep Tarım Ertuğ, Scholar and Lecturer,  
Fine Arts Department, Istanbul University,  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Aga Khan Program

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19**

“Mirroring of Socio-Political Relations among  
Different Religious Communities in Urban and  
Architectural Patterns: Bilad al-Sham between  
the Sixth and Twelfth Centuries”  
Mattia Guidetti, Scholar, Department of  
Euro-Asian Studies, University of Venice, Italy,  
Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Harvard Aga Khan Program

**THURSDAY, APRIL 26**

“A King in His Own Court: Arabo-Persian  
Merchants and Material Culture of  
the Premodern Indian Ocean.”  
Elizabeth Lambourn, Senior Research Fellow,  
Faculty of Art and Design, De Montfort  
University, Honorary Research Fellow, Centre  
for South Asian Studies, University of London,  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Aga Khan Program

The AKP Harvard Lecture Series takes place  
at Harvard University's Sackler Museum,  
485 Broadway, Cambridge, MA, Room 318.

Lectures are held on Thursdays at 5:30pm  
and are open to the public. For further  
information, contact the Aga Khan Program  
at Harvard University.

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

**Faculty**



**Gülru Necipoğlu**

Gülru is the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art and the editor of *Muqarnas* and its Supplements. She spent the summer doing research in Istanbul. Her most recent publication is the volume she edited for *Supplements to Muqarnas: Sinan's Autobiographies: A Critical Edition of Five Sixteenth-Century Texts* (critical edition and translation by Howard Crane and Esra Akin, 2006). The volume includes her preface, titled "Sources, Themes, and Cultural Implications of Sinan's Autobiographies." Her book *The Age of Sinan: Architectural Culture in the Ottoman Empire* received the Albert Hourani Book Award honorable mention for 2005, and the 2006 Fuat Koprülü Book Prize in Turkish Studies.

In March and April 2006, she delivered the keynote lectures in two symposia affiliated with the exhibition "Bellini and the East," held at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, and the British Museum, London. She is currently turning her lecture into an article, "The Italian Connection: Western Horizons of Mehmed II's Artistic Patronage," to be published in the symposium proceedings.

Under the auspices of the Aga Khan Program at Harvard, Gülru and Sibel Bozdoğan organized an international symposium, "Historiography and Ideology: Architectural Heritage of the Lands of Rum," held at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences May 11-13, 2006. The proceedings of the symposium, which she and Sibel are in the process of editing, will be published as the next issue of *Muqarnas* (vol. 24, 2007).

During this academic year (2006-7) Gülru will be delivering the Hadassah and Daniel Khalili Memorial Lecture at SOAS on December 6, 2006, a lecture titled "Architectural Dialogues across the Early Modern Mediterranean World: Central-Plan Domed Sanctuaries of the Popes and Sultans." She will repeat this lecture at Brown University on February 23. Gülru is currently writing the lead essay for the catalogue of a forthcoming exhibition at the Louvre in collaboration with the Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris. The exhibition, scheduled to run from October 2007 through January 2008, and titled "Purs decors? Arts de l'Islam dans les collections des arts décoratifs," is being curated by Remi Labrousse.



**David Roxburgh**

David J. Roxburgh is Professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture. From the fall of 2005 to the spring semester of 2006, David presented lectures at the Seventh International Association of Word and Image Studies, held in Philadelphia, and for the Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin, Madison; he also delivered the Norma Jean Calderwood Lecture at Harvard University Art Museums. During his sabbatical leave from teaching in the fall of 2006, he managed to catch his breath and also to complete some articles as well as shorter essays and book reviews.

He completed his leave with a research trip to India, where he traveled with Harvard University doctoral candidates Chanchal Dadlani and Suzan Yalman. He made an additional research trip to Egypt in late May through early June, visiting sites in Cairo and Sinai with Jennifer Pruitt (currently in Egypt on a Fulbright). The two research trips will inform David's decisions about how to shape a book on the broad topic of Islamic pilgrimage. In addition to a book-length study on pilgrimage, David's future projects include a volume co-authored with Renata Holod on the



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**Faculty**

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Myron Bement Smith archive at the Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and an exhibition for the Museum of Fine Art, Houston on the practice of calligraphy. Co-curated with Mary McWilliams, this exhibition will focus on the implements of writing. This July, David was honored by being appointed to a three-year term as Reviews Editor for *The Art Bulletin*, and by the award of a Walter Channing Cabot Fellowship from Harvard University.

David is offering a new graduate seminar in the spring semester of 2007. Titled "From Saracenic to Islamic: Exhibiting Islamic Art," the course examines the history of temporary exhibitions and the formation and display of museum collections in North America, Europe, and the Middle East.

**Post-doctoral Fellows**



**Zeynep Tarım Ertuğ**

Zeynep graduated from the History Department of Marmara University in 1984. She earned her Master's degree in Ottoman history at Marmara University in 1987 with a thesis entitled "Matbah-ı Âmire Müessesesi ve 1105 - 1106 Muhasebe Defteri" [The Imperial Kitchen and the Account Book Dated 1105–1106]. In 1995, she received her Ph.D. from the Istanbul University doctorate program in art history; her dissertation is entitled "Osmanlı Devletinde 16. yy. Cülus ve Cenaze Törenleri" [Enthronement and Funeral Ceremonies of the Ottoman State in the Sixteenth Century]. From 1987 to 1997, she taught a survey class in art history and since 1997 has been teaching the history of Ottoman culture and Ottoman visual sources at Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters, History Department, where she is an Associate Professor.



**Mattia Guidetti**

Mattia received an M.A. in Oriental Languages from Ca' Foscari University in Venice in 2002, and in the spring of 2006 he submitted his Ph.D. thesis about the role of antiquity in Umayyad artistic and architectural expression. Mattia took part in two international congresses: one at the University of Parma in 2004, titled "Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages in the Mediterranean Area," and the other, "Umayyad Legacies," held in Damascus at the Institut français du Proche-Orient in 2006. He is editor of a forthcoming volume titled *Syria*, a multi-author overview about Syrian history from antiquity to the present, and he is preparing a monograph about late antiquity and early Islam, which will be an excerpt from his Ph.D. thesis.

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**Post-doctoral Fellows**



**Elizabeth Lambourn**

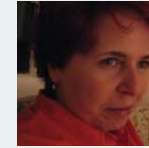
Elizabeth is a historian of material and visual culture specializing in Islamic South and Southeast Asia. After earning a Ph.D. in Islamic art and archaeology from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and receiving a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the British Academy's Society for South Asian Studies, she is now a Senior Research Fellow in the Faculty of Art and Design at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK, as well as Honorary Research Associate at the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, SOAS. She is currently working on a book about the material culture of Middle Eastern mercantile communities in the pre-modern Indian Ocean (scheduled for publication in Routledge's Indian Ocean Studies series). Recent publications include "The Formation of the *batu Aceh* Tradition in Fifteenth Century Samudera-Pasai," in E. Lambourn ed., *Islam and Sumatra in the Pre-Modern Period*, special issue of *Indonesia and the Malay World* (2004), and "Carving and Communities: Marble Carving for Muslim Communities at Khambhat and around the Indian Ocean Rim (Late Thirteenth–Mid Fifteenth Centuries CE)," *Ars Orientalis*, in press. She has worked and lectured extensively in South and Southeast Asia and is looking forward to her fellowship immensely.



**Rachel Milstein**

Born in Israel, Dr. Milstein studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. In 1980 she received a Ph.D. *summa cum laude* for her dissertation, "Religious Painting of the Wailing Derwishes: *Tarjome-i Thewaqib*, Pierpont-Morgan Library, Ms. M466." Since 1980 Dr. Milstein has been teaching Islamic art at Hebrew University. Between 2001 and 2005 she served as a Chairperson of the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and in 2006 was elected head of the Institute for Asian and African Studies at Hebrew University. Dr. Milstein specializes in the history of miniature painting. In 2005, she authored *La Bible dans l'art islamique*, which was published in Paris by Presses Universitaires de France.

**Special Turkish Fellow**



**Meral Ekincioğlu**

Meral Ekincioğlu holds a degree in Architecture from Istanbul Technical University, Turkey. She also received her Master's Degree in Architecture from the same university, where she is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Architecture. Her research focuses on the position of the editor in architecture, particularly the relationship of print culture to the dissemination of knowledge and its social background in Turkish architecture. From 1999 to 2001 she was the editor of *Arredamento Mimarlık*, one of the leading architectural journals published in Turkey. She was also the managing editor of the "Boyut Contemporary World Architecture and Turkish Series." Between 2002 and 2004 she served as the managing editor of the architectural magazine, *Portfolyo*. In 2000, Ekincioğlu served as a member of the organizing committee of "Architecture and Philosophy I," a national symposium organized and sponsored by Istanbul Technical University and Istanbul University, Turkey. In 1996, her presentation about her Master's thesis and diploma project, focusing on a critical view of twentieth-century architecture and post-structuralism, was nominated as the "Award Candidate" at the fifth National Architecture Awards organized by the Chamber of Architects of Turkey. Ekincioğlu is a registered architect and an active member of the Chamber of Architects of Turkey, which is a member section of the International Union of Architects (UIA).

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**Students**



**Ladan Akbarnia**

Ladan Akbarnia is in her seventh year of the Ph.D. Program in the History of Art and Architecture at Harvard. She specializes in the art and architecture of Iran and Central Asia from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries and the relationship between Iran and China during that time. With the help of a dissertation completion grant, she is currently writing her thesis, entitled, “Khata’i: Cultural Memory and the Creation of a Mongol Visual Idiom in Iran and Central Asia (1256-1353).” In the last year, she conducted dissertation research in Turkey and Russia, co-curated the exhibition “The Tablet and the Pen: Drawings from the Islamic World” at the Sackler Museum at HUAM, and taught a survey of Islamic art and architecture for a second year at Smith College. Ladan is looking forward to finishing her degree.



**Chanchal Dadlani**

Chanchal spent the past year conducting research in India and England for her dissertation, “Twilight in Delhi? Architecture and Urbanism in the Late Mughal Empire” The dissertation examines the architecture of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century North India, focusing on the city of Delhi during the so-called twilight period of the Mughal Empire.

In India, Chanchal’s work took her to architectural sites and archival collections in Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, and Lucknow. In England, she conducted research in the Oriental and India Office Collections at the British Library, the Asian Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Royal Geographic Society, and the University of Cambridge. In addition, “The Tablet and the Pen: Drawings from the Islamic World,” an exhibition she co-curated with Ladan Akbarnia, opened at the Sackler Museum, Harvard University, in February 2006. Chanchal was the recipient of a Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship during the 2005–6 academic year, and received grants from the Aga Khan Program and the South Asia Initiative at Harvard University to continue her research through the summer. She was recently awarded a Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship for 2006-7 to complete her dissertation research in India, England, and France.



**Zeynep Oğuz**

Zeynep Oğuz received a B.A. from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, and earned her M.A. from the Department of History of Architecture in the same university. Her master’s thesis mapped multifunctional Ottoman buildings of the T-type in terms of both geography and patronage profiles. While doing her M.A. she also worked part-time as an architect and for the first summer at the archaeological exploration of Sardis in Manisa, Turkey. At Harvard she plans to study the architecture of the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean from the Middle Ages to the early modern period.

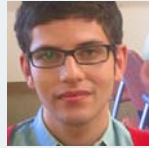
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**Students**



**Jennifer Pruitt**

Jennifer has spent the past year on a Fulbright IIE grant in Cairo, where she has been studying Arabic and visiting Islamic and Coptic architectural sites as part of her research on Fatimid visual culture. Jennifer's dissertation will investigate the arts of Egypt in the late tenth/early eleventh century, with a focus on interactions between the court and the urban populations. She has had the opportunity to give two talks while in Egypt. The first, at the American Cultural Center in Alexandria, was entitled "Fatimid Architecture in al-Qahira," and the second, at the American Research Center of Egypt (ARCE) in Cairo was entitled "A Tale of Two Cities: Locating the Courtly and the Urban in Fatimid Visual Culture." In addition to her research, some highlights from the past year included visits to the Aga Khan Trust's remarkable projects in Cairo, hosting other AKPIA members visiting Cairo, and short trips to Tunisia and Dubai. Jennifer will continue her time abroad in the upcoming year.



**Ünver Rüstem**

Ünver Rüstem has a B.A. and an M.A. in art history, both from the School of Oriental and African Studies and University College, London. His focus was on art and architecture of the Italian Renaissance and the Islamic Middle East. His M.A. dissertation was on the importation of Ottoman tombstones into Cyprus, research for which involved numerous visits to cemeteries both on the island and in Turkey during the summer of 2004. He also worked as a teaching assistant at the School of Oriental and African Studies, concentrating on Islamic manuscripts and artistic interactions between Europe and the Middle East. His aim at Harvard is to expand his knowledge and understanding of Islamic art, and eventually to specialize in provincial Ottoman architecture. He looks forward to being an enthusiastic member of the Department of History of Art and Architecture!



**Yasmine Al-Saleh**

Thanks to the Aga Khan Fund, Yasmine Al-Saleh spent the past summer at the Harvard Koç Intensive Ottoman and Turkish Summer School in Turkey. Entering her third year in the doctoral program, Yasmine looks forward to gaining experience as a teaching fellow in the History of Art and Architecture Department. She also plans to continue working on her Turkish and Ottoman Turkish while preparing for her general examinations. Yasmine plans to work on Ottoman devotional literature and its intersection with the arts. She received her B.A. in philosophy from Bryn Mawr College in 1996, and earned her M.A. in art history, with a focus in Islamic material and visual culture, from the University of Pennsylvania in 2002.

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**Students**



**Alexis Sornin**

Alexis' dissertation title is "Architectural Culture in Early Modern India (1526–1857): The Building Workshop of the Kachawaha Court of Amber and Jaipur." Alexis studied Oriental Languages and Art History in Paris before working for a few years in South Asia and the Middle East. He is currently serving as interim head of the Study Centre and Library Historiographer at the Canadian Centre for Architecture while completing his Ph.D. in the Department of History of Art and Architecture.



**Suzan Yalman**

Suzan is currently in Turkey, conducting research on her dissertation, "A Period of Transformation: Religion, Urbanism, and Identity in the Architectural Patronage of Sultan Alaeddin Keykubad (r. 1220–37)." As a recipient of the Archaeological Institute of America's Olivia James Traveling Fellowship for the 2006-7 academic year, she will remain based in Istanbul, close to manuscript collections in the Topkapı Museum and Süleymaniye Libraries and will travel to Anatolia to access the General Waqf Ministry Archives (Vakıflar Genel Müdürlüğü) in Ankara and to survey Seljuk architecture including archaeological sites such as Alaeddin's palaces (Kubadabad, Keykubadiye, and Alanya). Thanks to her grant, Suzan also plans to travel to Sicily in order to compare the Anatolian palaces to the Norman palace in Palermo, a rare example of a medieval palace combining Islamic and Christian imagery.



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**Staff**



Julia Bailey has been Managing Editor of *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Culture of the Islamic World* since 2002. She received her M.A. in art history from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and was enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Fine Arts at Harvard before becoming Assistant Curator of Islamic and Later Indian Art at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Cambridge, and then Assistant Curator in the Asian and Textile Departments of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

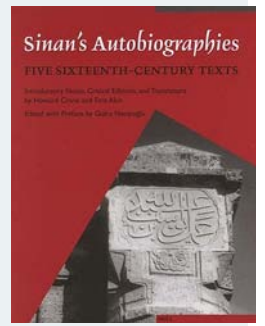
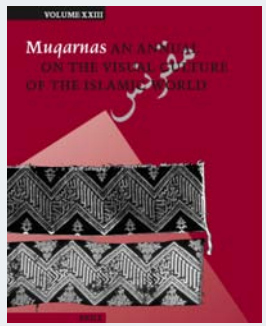
In 2005–6 Julia shepherded into print both *Muqarnas* 22 and the eleventh volume of the series *Supplements to Muqarnas: Sinan's Autobiographies: A Critical Edition of Five Sixteenth-Century Texts* by Howard Crane and Esra Akin, with a preface by Gülru Necipoğlu. *Muqarnas* 23 is forthcoming in November 2006. Julia's interests also include carpets and textiles of the Islamic world; she is a contributing editor of *Halı* magazine and a member of the advisory council of the Textile Museum, Washington, D.C.



Rich has recently replaced Ruth MacQuiddy as the Program Coordinator and Research Assistant of the Aga Khan Program at Harvard. Rich oversees all operations of the program, including the lecture series and postdoctoral fellowships. He also assists the Program Director, Gülru Necipoğlu, with research towards her lectures, classes, and publications. Rich comes from the Human Resources Department at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard. He is actively researching and developing his interests in global politics and American foreign policy as an ALM degree candidate in government at the Harvard Extension School.

**MUQARNAS**

The Aga Khan Program at Harvard publishes scholarly works on the history of Islamic art and architecture. The program sponsors publication of the respected scholarly journal, *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Culture of the Islamic World*, a yearly volume of articles on art and architectural history edited by Professor Gülru Necipoğlu. Editions of *Muqarnas* are complemented by *Supplements to Muqarnas: Studies and Sources on Islamic Art and Architecture*, which focus on textual primary sources for visual culture. Julia Bailey, Managing Editor, has recently completed *Muqarnas* 23 (forthcoming November 2006), which contains thirteen articles on architecture, painting, calligraphy, textiles, and visual imagery in textual sources. The *Supplements* volume *Sinan's Autobiographies: Five Sixteenth-Century Texts*, with introductory notes, critical editions, and translations by Howard Crane and Esra Akin, edited with a preface by Gülru Necipoğlu, came out in 2006. Both volumes are published by Brill and are available from the publisher.



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**AKP Harvard Librarians**



**András J. Riedlmayer**

Andras is the Bibliographer in Islamic Art and Architecture, at the Documentation Center of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard's Fine Arts Library. Andras is a specialist in the history and culture of the Balkans. He has spent much of the past decade documenting the destruction of archives, libraries and other cultural heritage during the wars in Bosnia- Herzegovina (1992-1995) and Kosovo (1998- 1999).

In November 2005, Andras was elected president of the Turkish Studies Association, <http://www.h-net.org/~thetsa/> the leading academic organization in Turkish and Ottoman studies.

In March 2006, Andras testified as an expert witness before the World Court (<http://www.icj-cij.org>) in the genocide case brought by Bosnia-Herzegovina against Serbia-Montenegro. His testimony concerned the destruction of historic architecture, libraries and other cultural heritage during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war. [For a brief account and photo,

see <http://www.sense-agency.com/en/stream.php?sta=3&pid=7753&kat=11>]

In April 2006, Andras was invited to speak at Princeton University; his talk was entitled: "Bigger, better and more Islamic': Saudi money, Wahhabi da'wa and the threat to Islam's architectural heritage."

In August 2006, Andras participated on a panel at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists, presenting on "Yizkor Books, Weblogs and Ethnic Cleansing: Grassroots Documentation and New Technologies."

<http://www.archivists.org/conference/dc2006/dc2006prog-Session.asp?event=1710>

Andras has recently just returned from Australia, where he presented lectures at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sydney and at the Faculty of the Built Environment of the University of New South Wales. His talks were about regional diversity in Islamic architectural traditions and about the architectural heritage of Islam in southeastern Europe.

Of course, the above lists only events that have taken Andras far from Harvard's Fine Arts Library and the AKP Documentation Center. The latter is in fact where he spends most of his days, helping to build world-class

research resources and assisting the students, faculty and visiting scholars who use those resources for the study of the art and architecture of the Islamic world.

Andras is a member of the board, Turkish Studies Association; Co-founder, Bosnian Manuscripts Ingathering Project; Co-founder, International Justice Watch (JUSTWATCH-L); and, a Member of the editorial board of H-TURK since its foundation.

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 tel: **617-495-3372**

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**AKPIA Harvard Librarians**



**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 cataloguing the approximately 100,000 slides that constitute the program's collection to date, encompassing all aspects of Islamic art and architecture. A primary goal of her 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://lib.harvard.edu/>). Over the course the project, Sharon's work has covered a vast amount of material; for example, Islamic architecture in Alexandria, Umayyad Qusur, and the Dome of the Rock, as well as portable objects from throughout the Muslim world, and various illuminated manuscripts, most notably the Tahmasp Shahnama. In addition to her catalog work, Sharon helps faculty, students, visiting scholars, and anyone else seeking information in her field of study. During the past year, in collaboration with Jeff Spurr, she edited and revised the Harvard College Library's Islamic Classification System (<http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/finearts/islamicclass/index.html>).

Sharon has her BA and MA in Art History, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Program for History and Theory of Art and Architecture at Binghamton University. In addition, she has attended institutes in Florence, Italy, and Monterey, California. Following a brief (re)visit to some Florentine archives earlier this year, Sharon is continuing to work on her dissertation entitled, *Planned Grandeur: A Comparative Study of Urban Expansion in Early Modern Italy and Mamluk Egypt*, in which she explores a similar trajectory in cultural milieus through an examination of the conscious redefinition of urban space during the late fifteenth century.

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.

For the post-9/11 initiative on Arab Culture and Civilization, sponsored by the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE) with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Sharon served as content consultant and contributor for Arab art and architecture ([see http://arabworld.nitle.org](http://arabworld.nitle.org)).

This fall, Sharon will present, "A Passage to India: Urban Change in Alexandria and Cairo in the 15th and 19th Centuries," co-authored with Cristina Pallini, PhD, Politecnico di Milano, at *The 12th International Conference of the International Planning History Society (IPHS): Cross national transfer of planning ideas and local identity*, in New Delhi, India.

Sharon is available in the Documentation Center of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University.

email: [smith25@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:smith25@fas.harvard.edu)

tel: 617-495-3372

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**AKPIA Harvard Librarians**



**Jeffrey B. Spurr**

Jeff Spurr was again very active during the period 2005-2006. *Silver & Shawls: India, Europe, and the Colonial Art Market*, the exhibit reported upon in the last newsletter, ultimately involved approximately 30 formal, semi-formal, and informal gallery talks, plus a special, hands-on session dedicated to shawls not on exhibit.

As if that were not sufficient for one year, he took on the task of curating *Unusual and Overlooked: Antique Textiles from Central Asia*, at ACOR (American Conference on Oriental Rugs) 8, in Boston, 20-22 April 2006, and wrote the accompanying 44-page handout. This show comprised 140 textiles in many media, and from many traditions, emphasizing more obscure ones than have been traditionally privileged in exhibits on the textile arts of that region. It was mounted on 33 temporary walls in the Imperial Ballroom of the Park Plaza Hotel only for the duration the conference, but will eventually become a virtual exhibit on the Internet.

Of many photograph acquisitions, the most notable included:

1. Donation of important and rare photographs of Mecca, Madina, and Damascus by Harvard Prof. emeritus James Ackerman.
2. Donation of nearly 2,000 photographs and negatives, largely of Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Iran, taken in the 1940s and 1950s by Harvard Prof. emeritus Richard Frye.
3. Donation of a significant group of albumen silver prints from the 1860s and 1870s, particularly of Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt, most notably a wonderful set of large format photographs of Egypt by Antonio Beato, and a very fine set of photographs of Palestine and Lebanon by Maison Bonfils from its earliest period.
4. After a correspondence lasting nearly five years, the acquisition on long term loan with possibility of gift of a magnificent and very rare 19th c. Persian photo album created by Ali Khan Vali, a Qajar grandee and provincial governor in NW Persia during the 1870s and 1880s, containing no fewer than 1,420 photographs documenting his travels during his governorate.
5. Acquisition of an early and rare personal memoir of travel in the Eastern Mediterranean in 1856 illustrated with salt prints taken by the author.
6. Acquisition of the important photographically illustrated book, *Architecture at Ahmedabad*, 1866, by Hope and Fergusson.
7. Acquisition of a rare group of 18 albumen silver prints representing Alexandria before and after the infamous British naval bombardment of July 11, 1882, most of them showing the extraordinary damage to the city, and taken by Pascal Sébah.

Jeff continued to develop finding aids for the scores of special collections, any of which that are completed being available as attachments for the asking. The most recent of these describes an album comprising 159 historical postcards, mainly from the early years of the 20th c. documenting Oran, Algeria, and its immediate vicinity, accompanied by 5 photographs, and two multi-print panoramic photographs of the city. It joins a very similar album of postcard proofs for Fez, Morocco. Such albums are useful for the documentation of the early modern city and its buildings. He is also engaged in creating group records for these special collections on VIA (Visual Information Access), Harvard's growing union catalogue for its many collections housing visual materials of all sorts.



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AND ARCHITECTURE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**AKPIA Harvard Librarians**

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With the increasing planning for the move out of the Fogg Art Museum, necessitated by its impending comprehensive renovation and expansion (commencing in June 2008), Jeff has undertaken efforts to insure that all of the photographic collections are properly housed in archival boxes or heavy-duty binders, as well as a comprehensive space study of all photographic materials related to the Islamic World & Middle East.

Papers presented and lectures given included

1. "What Occasioned my Report on the status of Iraqi libraries and archives, *Indispensable yet Vulnerable: The Library in Dangerous Times*", at Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 12 September 2005
2. "Betrayal in the Academy: José Torres and Book Theft at Harvard", *Declared Lost: Recovering Stolen Books*, SAFE/Boston Public Library Symposium, 29 September 2005
3. "The Allure of Luxury: The Kashmir Shawl in Persia", sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Harvard, 5 November 2005, repeated for the Hajji Babbas, New York City, 19 May 2006

4. "The Status and Plight of Iraqi Libraries", at the symposium, *Learning in a Time of War*, sponsored by Books Building Bridges, Northampton, MA, 29 November 2005
5. "Issues addressed in my exhibit: Unusual and Overlooked: Antique Textiles from Central Asia", ACOR 8 (American Conference on Oriental Rugs), Boston 20 April 2006
6. "From Scholars to Missionaries: The Origins, History and Organization of Photograph Collections Documenting the Middle East at Harvard's Fine Arts Library", an updated version presented at the Library of Congress 3 August 2006
7. "Persia 1897-1899", *Hali* 148, September-October 2006, pp. 62-6

Jeff has continued his formal activities in relation to the Harvard University Art Museums, The Textile Museum, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in the latter case particularly involving the development of their African textile collections. He has also continued his involvement in the Harvard Committee for Iraqi Libraries, although this diminished in intensity during the course of the year. He is presently preparing his update for his report on

the dedicated to the status of Iraqi libraries, *Indispensable yet Vulnerable: The Library in Dangerous Times*. Finally, Jeff has continued his work with ArchNet, particularly in terms of facilitating access to Harvard's collections for content augmentation, in soliciting permissions from extra-Harvard sources of images, and in any other way that his advice and in any other way that his advice has proved useful.

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tel: 617-495-3372

## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

### Faculty



Hashim Sarkis

Hashim Sarkis is the Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies. During the fall semester, Hashim is teaching “Constructing Vision, A History and Theory of Optical Applications in Design,” and “New Geographies,” the first in a series of seminars and studios on an emerging geographic paradigm in design. Publications include several for the program, as well as, “A Society of Forms: On the Recent work of VJAA,” the introduction to a monograph on Vincent James published by Princeton Architectural Press. With Eric Mumford, he is also co-editing *Jose Luis Sert, the Architect of Urban Design*, a book on the 1953–1968 period in the professional and academic career of the Catalan architect and former dean at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The book will be published by Yale University Press.

This past year Hashim gave a lecture at Istanbul Technical University as part of the AKTC Fora Series. He also gave a paper titled “Intensive Edges, Open Spaces” at the American University of Beirut, in a conference “The Affluent City,” and was part of the “Urban Age” conference that took place in

London. This summer, he delivered a lecture called “Beirut, by Law” at the Berlage Institute in Rotterdam. He will be part of a conference about the reconstruction of Beirut to be held this fall at the Forum for Urban Design in New York. He will also be giving a paper at a conference on Constantinos Doxiadis in Athens in December. Professionally, his office is involved in urban design and planning projects in the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East. The office has also recently completed the preliminary designs for a clubhouse and a summer resort in Lebanon and a restaurant addition in Cambridge. The office has been selected for several invited competitions and placed second in a competition for an engineering laboratories building at the American University of Beirut.

Hashim recently contributed an article in The Daily Star, a Lebanon newspaper, entitled [“Rebuilding Lebanon: the human dimension”](#)

### Visiting Fellow



Aziza Chaouni

Aziza Chaouni was born and raised in Morocco. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering *summa cum laude* from Columbia University. She then attended the Harvard Graduate School of Design, where she graduated with Distinction in the March I program. Her thesis, “Hybrid Urban Sutures: Filling the Gaps in the Medina of Fez,” proposed a new typology of interventions in world heritage sites, one that integrates public spaces and infrastructure. Aziza was awarded several prizes while at the GSD, including the Renzo Piano Building Workshop Scholarship, the Penny White Scholarship, the American Institute of Architects Certificate of Merit, and the Appleton Traveling Fellowship. During her year-long Appleton Fellowship, Aziza researched ecological models of tourism in the Middle East/North Africa region. Aziza has worked in several offices in Morocco, Europe, Canada, and the US, such as S&Z Architects; Built; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; and Renzo Piano Building Workshop. Aziza is also head of the research board of DOCO.MO.MO Maroc, a chapter of an international organization that seeks the preservation of the modern heritage. Her research on the late Moroccan architect



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**Visiting Fellow**

↑  
Jean-Francois Zevaco was published in *DOCO.MO.MO* journal and *Architecture du Maroc*. Currently she is a Research and Teaching Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, where she is collaborating in the production of a seminar on Oasis tourism. Her research will focus on Morocco's tourist landscape and infrastructure.

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**Nadia Al-Hasanni**  
Visiting Fellow

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**Affiliated Students**



**Gareth Doherty**

Since 2005, Gareth has been a doctoral student at the Graduate School of Design. Originally from Ireland, Gareth previously studied at University College Dublin (B.Agr.Sc. and M.Agr.Sc. in Landscape Studies) and the University of Pennsylvania (M.L.A. and Certificate in Urban Design). He has worked with CHORA architecture and urbanism in London since 2000 and has taught design studios and workshops and has lectured internationally. His research focuses on contemporary landscape and urbanism in Bahrain.



**Rania Ghosn**

Rania received her Bachelor in Architecture degree from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 2000. Benefiting from a British Council Chevening scholarship, she further pursued her interests in the relations of space, capital, and power and completed her M.Sc. in "Modernity, Space, and Place" at the University College London (UCL) in 2003. She has been engaged in several multidisciplinary research projects and workshops concerned with ethnographies of low-income informal neighbourhoods of Beirut, the role of a leading Arab engineering consulting firm in "Third World urban development," the iconography of Lebanese political parties during the Lebanese Civil War, and the Syrian elites' practices and representations of Beirut in the wake of socialist changes in Syria. Along with research, her enthusiasm and commitment have been devoted to academic instruction and particularly to the architectural design studio as a site from which to call upon the empowering potential of representation. She has repeatedly taught basic and advanced studio courses at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and at the Lebanese American University (LAU).

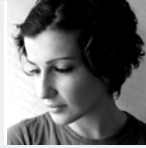
## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

### Affiliated Students



Stephen J. Ramos

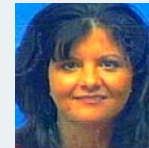
Stephen is a Doctor of Design candidate researching the impact of new global infrastructure on the physical form of cities. Stephen is trained as an urban planner, and his first year at the Graduate School of Design included a Teaching Fellowship in the spring of 2006 for Professor Hashim Sarkis's course "Developing Worlds: Planning and Design in the Middle East and Latin America After WWII"; co-authorship of the article "Dubai: Port as Prototype" for the *Neutra. Revista de Arquitectura* of the Colegio de Arquitectos de Andalucía (forthcoming); authorship of the article "Superlative Blasé: Locating Dubai's Urban Trajectory"; and a Research Fellowship at the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, MA. Stephen completed his coursework and examinations for the Doctoral Program in May 2006, and his plans for the 2006-7 school year include a Teaching Fellowship for Prof. Jerold S. Kayden's course "Public Private Development," in the fall of 2006; assistant editorship of Prof. Hashim Sarkis's forthcoming book, *When Schools Went Modern: Primary and Secondary Education Facilities in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s*, assistant editorship of the *International Manual for Planning Practice*, and continuing research on his doctoral dissertation.



Neyran Turan

Neyran Turan is an architect and a current doctoral candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She received her B. Arch. degree from Istanbul Technical University, Turkey and holds a Master's degree from Yale University School of Architecture. Her research at Yale examined the relationship between global networks and urbanism in contemporary culture. Turan has taught at Harvard Design School, Yale School of Architecture, Boston Architecture College, and Istanbul Technical University. Her work is published in several journals, including *Thresholds and Domus M.* Turan's current research explores contemporary urbanities in Istanbul. Her article on the shifting condition of the twentieth-century Istanbul seafront will be published in the upcoming book *Landscapes of Development*. Turan will present a paper at the ACSA "Surfacing Urbanisms" conference in the fall of 2006, and her work will be exhibited at the Second International Architecture Biennial of Istanbul in 2007. She is currently acting as the publications coordinator at the Harvard Design School Aga Khan Program.

### Staff



Maria Moran

Maria Moran joined Harvard University in 1992 as a staff assistant in the University Development Office. She joined the Graduate School of Design in 1993 as a staff assistant in the Office of the Dean and now serves both as administrative assistant to Professor Peter G. Rowe and as program coordinator for the Aga Khan Program within the Design School.



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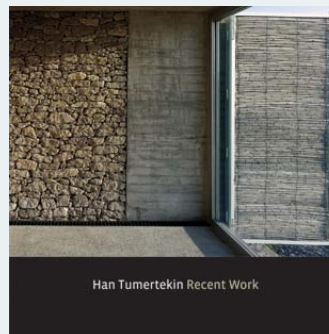
**Recent and Upcoming Publications**

**Han Tumertekin: Recent Work**,  
*edited by Hashim Sarkis*  
Focusing on six recent projects, including House 2B, that recently won the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture, this publication presents the architecture of renowned Turkish architect Han Tumertekin to the English-speaking world. The book examines in detail his ability to engage in some of the more difficult issues confronting architects throughout the world today, such as suburban tract development, landscape and environment, and the challenges of practicing in different countries throughout the world. [Harvard University Press, 2006]

**Two Squares, Martyrs Square Beirut and Sirkeci Square, Istanbul**, *edited by Hashim Sarkis, with Mark Dwyer and Pars Kibarer*  
Through a series of essays by urban historians and designers, *Two Squares* examines the changing role of public space in the cities of Beirut and Istanbul as they undergo major urban redevelopment. The study of Beirut looks at the redesign of Martyrs' Square, the city's primary public space, in the aftermath of the civil war and the ongoing reconstruction efforts to rebuild the center. In Istanbul, the focus is on Sirkeci Square, one of the main intermodal hubs in the historic peninsula, as it readies itself to host a new station for the first under-Bosphorus train tunnel. [Harvard University Press, 2006]

**Turkish Triangle, Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir at the Gates of Europe**, *essays by Ilhan Tekeli, Murat Guvenc, Zeynep Enlil, and Cemal Arkon*  
Every classification of Turkish cities singles out three major urban centers while relegating the rest to the status of secondary cities. Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir have been the major poles of growth and development in Turkey since the Republic was formed. To be sure, these three cities have followed very different paths.

Through a series of three case studies prepared by preeminent academics involved in their respective city's planning efforts, and an introduction by Turkey's most renowned urban historian and theorist, Ilhan Tekeli, the book studies the rise of these three main urban centers in Turkey and their roles in organizing the territory and its future reorganization. [Harvard University Press, 2006]



**Han Tumertekin: Recent Work**,  
*edited by Hashim Sarkis*  
*Harvard University Press, 2006*

**Activities for 2006-2007**

**Courses:**

- Seminar on Tourism and the Desert  
by Virginie Lefebvre
- Studio on Beyoglu, Istanbul  
by Han Tumertekin
- Seminar and studio on "New Geographies,"  
by Hashim Sarkis

**Faculty Research Support:**

Virginie Lefebvre on Tourism and the Desert

**Aga Khan Public Lecture:**

Sahel al-Hiyari, architect, Jordan, and winner of the Rolex Mentorship Award, 2004

**Conference:**

The Desert and Tourism, organized in collaboration with the Moroccan Studies Program at Harvard University.

**Forthcoming publications:**

Landscapes of Development,  
edited by Pani Pyla  
Dubai, edited by Ahmed Kanna



**Sahel al-Hiyari**  
*architect, Jordan*

## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Faculty



Nasser Rabbat

Nasser Rabbat is the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture at MIT where he has been teaching since 1991. His interests include Islamic art and architecture, medieval urban history and historiography, and post-colonial criticism. In 2005-06 he taught two lecture courses on the architecture of the Islamic world, one graduate seminar on Orientalism and another on cultural signification in architecture. Many of his courses are available on the web: 4.614, which covers the history of religious architecture, 4.615 on the history of Cairo, and 4.613 on civic Islamic architecture.

Professor Rabbat co-edited *Making Cairo Medieval* (Lexington Press, 2005) with Nezar AlSayyad and Irene Beirman. He is currently working on a study on the fifteenth-century Egyptian historian al-Maqrizi, which will be published by Brill, and a collection of essays, *Architecture As Social History: Building, Culture, and Politics in Mamluk Egypt and Syria*, currently under consideration by I.B. Tauris. He is also finalizing two other books: *L'art Islamique à la recherche d'une méthode* historique, a collection of essays which he originally delivered as lectures at the Institut du monde arabe (IMA) in Paris, and the proceedings of an

international conference, "Islamic Cities in the Classical Age," which he organized at MIT in May 2005.

Nasser's recently published essays include: "*Ajib and Gharib: Artistic Perception in Medieval Arabic Sources*," (2006); "The Militarization of Taste in Medieval Bilad al-Sham", (2005); "Islamic Architecture as a Field of Historical Inquiry" (2004); "The Dialogic Dimension in Umayyad Art", (2003); and "Hassan Fathy and the Identity Debate", (2003)

Beside publishing articles in specialized scholarly journals and edited collections, professor Nasser regularly contributes to a number of Arabic newspapers and journals, such as *Wughat Nazar*, *Akhbar al-Adab*, *Jaridat al-Funun*, *al-Ibda'at* and *al-Adaab*, on art, architectural, and critical and cultural issues. He serves on the boards of various organizations concerned with Islamic cultures, lectures extensively in the US and abroad, and maintains several websites focused on Islamic Architecture.



Wasma'a Khalid Chorbachi

Wasma'a is an artist and a historian of Islamic Art & Civilization. Her main academic interest and research is geometric design and Islamic architectural decoration. Wasma'a concentrates on documenting the meeting of science and art in Islamic civilization through studying manuscripts of practical geometry written for the artisans, as well as research on Islamic ceramic techniques, design in Arabic calligraphy, Arabic calligraphy in China and on the Muslims of China.

As an artist, Wasma'a has been working in clay medium for the last two decades. Aesthetically, her art is "...an art that contemplates *Divine Beauty and Perfection with prayers of Blessings upon the human soul*," Anne Marie Schimmel.

Her art works have been displayed at and acquired by many museums including: The Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, Scotland; The British Museum, London; Women's Museum, Washington D.C.; Beit al-Qur'an Museum, Manamah, Bahrain; The Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Sackler Museum in Cambridge, U.S.A.

## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Faculty

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Presently, Wasma'a has a ceramic plate on display at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The Sackler Museum is displaying a set of eight modular tiles from the series: "The Mystery of Supplication". Her floor to ceiling ceramic Mihrab - prayer niche, is now installed in the Muslim Prayer Room at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.



The Mystery of Supplication (2002-2003)

### Open Rank Professorship

#### Position

Open rank professorship, The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture.

#### Description

The Department of Architecture at MIT announces an open rank position in architectural studies to begin in the fall semester of 2007. The position is supported from a generous gift from the Aga Khan as part of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA) at MIT.

The successful candidate will be involved primarily in the study of modern architecture and/or urban design in the Islamic world (roughly from the late 18th century to the present), with an interest in design, urban, social, and/or environmental questions. S/he will demonstrate an ability to engage critical issues, such as the role of tradition, modernity, ecology, and identity politics in architecture or the impact of recent technologies, economic concerns, and/or current debates on architectural theory and practice in his/her research and teaching. S/he will provide guidance for graduate and undergraduate students studying issues related to the architecture and urbanism of the Islamic world in particular, and the developing world in general. S/he will participate in developing the academic and research programs supported by the Aga Khan Program, and in integrating coursework

related to the architecture of the Islamic world into the rest of the curriculum in the department of architecture.

#### Qualifications

Prospective candidates should have demonstrated accomplishments that qualify them for the above responsibilities, especially familiarity with countries with substantial Islamic populations and their social, cultural, environmental, and architectural contexts. A professional degree in architecture with extensive experience in an Islamic context and/or a Ph.D. in architecture or related field required; fluency in at least one language of the Islamic world is strongly preferred.

Screening will be conducted on the basis of: letter of interest, curriculum vitae, sample publications including design work, and three references to be sent directly to the search committee. We will begin reviewing applications in early November 2006 and continue until the position is filled.

For inquiries: email [akpiarch@mit.edu](mailto:akpiarch@mit.edu), or call 617.253.1400.

MIT is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. Women and minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Post-doctoral Fellows



**Nadia M. Alhasani**

Nadia is a Research Fellow at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Art and Architecture – MIT and Professor of Architecture at the American University of Sharjah. She completed her graduate studies in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and MIT and has held teaching positions at University of Pennsylvania, Miami of Florida, Notre Dame, and Michigan. Nadia was the recipient of the 1990-91 Willard A. Oberdick Fellowship in the Building Sciences from the University of Michigan; the 1992 Graham Foundation Grant; and the 1994 National ACSA Faculty Teaching Award. She teaches design and technology with research interests that focus on theories of technology and production, design through construction, cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary dialogues, and the architecture and planning of the non-Western World. She has lectured and been published widely in the field of architectural production, technology and culture, and most recently, architectural education.



**Sibel Zandi-Sayek**

Sibel Zandi-Sayek is Assistant Professor of Architectural History at the College of William and Mary. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the Middle East Technical University, Master's degrees in Architecture and City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. in Architectural History from the University of California, Berkeley. An interdisciplinary scholar, her interests range from nineteenth- and twentieth-century architecture and urbanism in both Western and non-Western settings to critical investigations of notions of modernity, citizenship, and the public sphere as they inform the production of the built environment. Sibel has conducted extensive research on the multicultural environment of Mediterranean port cities (especially late Ottoman) and the politics of place and identity those settings have fostered. She has published articles on these topics and is currently writing a book that examines the conflicts over the reorganization of physical space in nineteenth-century Izmir/Smyrna at a time when the Ottoman Empire refashioned itself into a modern Islamic state.

### Students



**Saima Akhtar**

Saima is a second year SMArchS student. Her academic interest is in the contemporary use and significance of Islamic art and architecture in the United States. Her specific focus will be Shangri La in Hawai'i, which is the residence and creation of the heiress to the Duke fortune, Doris Duke.

Saima is a graduate from the University of Michigan with Bachelor of Science degrees in both Architecture and Psychology. Upon graduation, she conducted research with the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture in Washington, D.C., and worked in a residential architecture firm shortly thereafter. In the summer of 2006, Saima worked as an intern with the Historic Cities Support Programme, at Al-Azhar Park, Cairo, Egypt. The tentative year of completion for her current degree is 2007.

## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Students



**Azra Aksamija**

Azra is an artist, architect and a Ph.D. candidate since 2004. Her interest are in carrying out targeted investigations that address the current conflicts over gender, law, politics and globalization related to Islam and expressed in art and architecture. While reinterpreting historical elements of Islamic architecture, her aim is to synthesize learning and the interacting between Muslim and non-Muslim cultures as well as enable spatial aggregation of diverse Muslim sub-cultures and their religious practices. By pointing at this tremendous variation in social and religious practice across the wide spectrum of the Muslim nations, Azra's research aims to re-symbolize contemporary Muslim environments. She is interested in exploring elements that allow us to identify an Islamic identity, whereas the aspect of "mergence" - interaction of the Muslim contribution and the local conditions, should become a mutual enrichment.

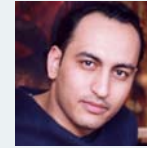
In 2006 Azra participated in many lectures, conferences and symposia, including: Platform Dictionary of War, Graz, Austria; Lecture in the Magribija Mosque/Lost Highway Expedition, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; International City Mostar Workshop, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, The Mosque in the West Symposium, MIT



**Dalia al-Husseini**

Dalia is a second year SMArchS student. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Jordan in 2001, and completed internship work with KEO International Consultants in Kuwait. She served as a research and coordination officer at the Center for the Study of the Built Environment in Amman, Jordan, for three years. She has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship 2005 - 2007 to complete her master's at MIT.

While at MIT, Dalia is focusing on issues related to low-income housing and community development. She participated in a workshop on squatter settlements in Manila with the Special Interest Group in Urban Settlements (SIGUS). She also participated in a project to develop innovative affordable housing solutions for rebuilding regions of coastal Louisiana. In the summer she joined a Boston-based architecture firm on a team developing master plans for labor housing villages in Aqaba, Jordan.



**Mohammed al-Khabbaz**

Mohammed is a first year AKPIA SMArchS student. He is interested in exploring the contemporary architecture of the Arabian Gulf countries in the context of culture and trade. His interest comes after three years of practicing architecture and traveling through all the countries in the Arabian Peninsula. Mohammed received a scholarship from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where he graduated with Bachelor of Architecture in 2002. As an architect, he was involved in variety of architectural and visualization projects. He is scheduled to graduate from MIT in 2008.

## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Students



**Mohamed Elshahed**

Currently in his second year of the SMArchS program, Mohamed is interested in the role of nostalgia and historicism in contemporary Egyptian culture and architecture and the role of tourism in changing the urban experience of Egypt. He completed his BArch at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 2005. During his first year in the program he explored the interrelation between Egyptian domestic space and its representational counterpart in television serials. A second project titled "Ornament Cosmétique: Memory in Cairene Architecture from the Belle Époque" explores the role of nostalgia in the construction of an image of modern Cairo. In addition, he is a research assistant for the AKTC supported online community ArchNet where he worked on architectural descriptions of Mamluk monuments in Jerusalem. He has worked on The Gates by artists Christo + Jeanne-Claude and has been involved in restoration projects by Legambiente in Italy and Concordia in France.



**Aftab Jalia**

Aftab is a first year SMArch.S student. A trained architect, his interests lie in studying the architectural adaptations that took shape due to the expansion by Islamic rulers and also the interdisciplinary factors affecting such a confluence of cultures. By examining such events he intends to derive analogies to the present day scenario of contemporary expression in architectural design in the Indian sub-continent. He will also be exploring the emergence of new patronage and bring forth its role in stimulating the sustenance of the craft and design in Islamic cultures. On completion of his internship with Charles Correa Associates, Mumbai, in Fall 2005, Aftab went on to graduate from the Allana College of Architecture, standing first in Pune University for the class of 2006. Aftab will graduate from MIT in 2008.



**Pamela Karimi**

During the 2004-05 academic year Pamela finished her pre-dissertation requirements and completed her research in various archives within the U.S. She also edited the fall 2006 issue of *Thresholds*, MIT's journal of visual culture. Her publications included an entry on gender and urban environments in Iran for *The Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*. She also presented papers at the 2006 annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians as well as the 2006 Majlis forum. Her recent archival work for her dissertation, "Exporting the American Dream: The United States and the Making of the Modern Iranian Home," was supported by grants from the Harry Truman Institute and the Presbyterian Historical Society. She will continue her research in Iran with fellowships from the Social Science Research Council and the Henry Luce Foundation. This six-month fieldwork includes investigations in various Iranian archives as well as post-WWII housing areas. With fellowships from the Barakat Foundation and the American Association of University Women, she hopes to finish writing her dissertation by the end of 2007. She expects to defend her dissertation in 2008.

## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Students



**Aneka Lenssen**

Aneka Lenssen is a first-year PhD student. Aneka's recent research focused on a codicological study of the al-Jazari Automata manuscript, reading its matrix of hiyal illustrations as a self-conscious embodiment of classical erudition. At MIT, Aneka plans to focus on art and theory in the contemporary Middle East, specifically the Gulf, with a particular interest in art market pressures and the construction of the avant garde(s). She spent the summer studying Arabic.

Aneka received a BA in Studio Art from Kenyon College in 2001. She worked full-time for five years at Harvard University while pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts in the History of Art from Harvard's Division of Continuing Education most notably studying with Professor David Roxburgh. She was also active in Boston's local art scene, reviewing exhibitions and serving on the board of Mobius, an artist collaborative that specializes in time-based new media works.



**Melanie Michailidis**

Melanie Michailidis is a PhD candidate in the History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture. Her dissertation, "Landmarks of the Persian Renaissance: Monumental Funerary Architecture in Iran and Central Asia in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries", studies the sudden proliferation of mausolea for secular rulers of Iranian descent in the tenth and eleventh centuries. It addresses how they drew on the pre-Islamic past in new and specific ways reflecting the different historical circumstances of Iran and Central Asia. She will defend the dissertation in summer 2007. This year, she is in residence at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery in Washington as the Ittleson Fellow.

Melanie has conducted fieldwork in Iran, Uzbekistan and Western Europe with grants from the Aga Khan Program, the Department of Architecture at MIT, the Barakat Foundation, the Institute for International Education (Fulbright), and the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts.

## AGA KHAN PROGRAM AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### AKP MIT Librarians



Omar Khalidi

Omar Khalidi is the Collections/Reference Librarian at MIT's Rotch Library. Omar organized a symposium entitled *The Mosque in the West* at MIT in May 2006. Presentations focused on both contemporary mosque design in North America and Europe as well as issues pertaining to mosque-based Muslim activities within the larger societies in which they. Omar is collaborating with Professor Hasan-Uddin Khan to publish the proceedings of this symposium with additional contributions.

In August, Omar attended the second annual conference on Islamic manuscripts held at Queen's College in Cambridge University, UK. A Guide to Architecture in Hyderabad, Deccan, India, is a new project Omar has undertaken. The Guide will consist of short descriptive text, photos, and plans of some 200 heritage buildings and precincts in the historic Islamic city in south-central India. *The Guide to Architecture in Hyderabad* will be published electronically in early January 2007. A hard copy publication is also under consideration.

Omar's professional interests are in the scholarship of Islamic architecture, Orientalism, and Occidentalism.

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City Center, Hyderabad, India



**AGA KHAN  
TRUST FOR CULTURE**

**USA Tour of Via Kabul: Central Asia Without Borders**

Music and musicians have historically played a vital role in the cultures of Central Eurasia and the Middle East. Music traditionally served not only as entertainment, but as a way to reinforce social and moral values, and musicians provided models of exemplary leadership. Whether bringing listeners closer to God, sustaining cultural memory through epic tales, or strengthening the bonds of community through festivity and celebration, musicians have been central to social life. In 2000, recognition of this important role led His Highness the Aga Khan to establish the Aga Khan Music Initiative in Central Asia (AKMICA) with the aim of assisting in the preservation of Central Asia's musical heritage by ensuring its transmission to a new generation of artists and audiences, both inside the region and beyond its borders.

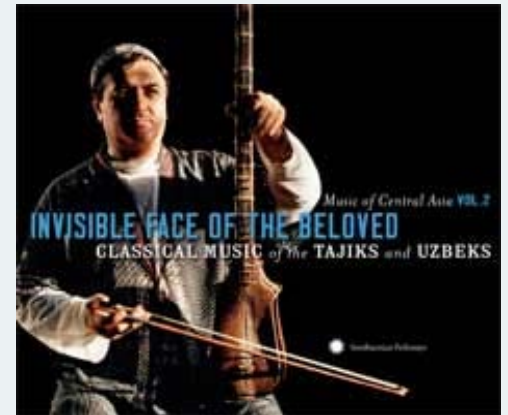
The inaugural 2006 European tour presented masters of Central Asia's traditional music as well as performers who are revitalising the art form through new approaches to performance style, repertory, and technique. For information about venues and dates, please see:

<http://www.akdn.org/Music/2006europetour.htm>

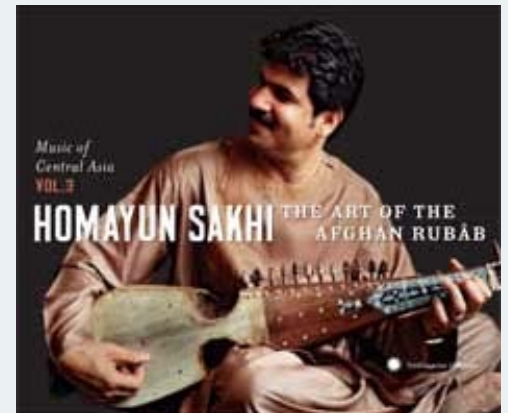
AKMICA sponsored *The Music of Central Asia, volumes 1-3*, which was released by Smithsonian Folkways in March 2006. The innovative series, which will eventually comprise 10 volumes, includes a CD as well as a DVD featuring a documentary film on the musicians as well as interactive instrument glossaries and maps.



The Music of Central Asia, volume 1



The Music of Central Asia, volume 2



The Music of Central Asia, volume 3

## AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

### Education Programme: Architectural Education Workshop

The Education Programme has three interrelated goals: improving the training of architectural professionals for work in the Muslim world; increasing cross-cultural understanding of Islamic architecture and the intimate connection between architecture and culture in Islamic civilisations; and creating greater awareness and appreciation of the diversity and pluralism of Muslim cultures within the Muslim world itself as well as in the West.

In July 2006, the Education Programme of the Trust invited and hosted 11 educators from the Muslim world to participate and act as editors in an Architectural Education Workshop in Geneva with the aim of conducting an in-depth survey of architecture, planning and environmental design education in the Muslim world. The survey aims to probe into the architecture, planning and related educational milieu, in the Muslim World, by broaching issues of historical, institutional and pedagogical developments, as well as providing more comprehensive assessments of present and persistent problems, opportunities and needs.

The Workshop will meet again in 2007 to review and analyze the findings of the survey, which will be conducted both regionally and country-specifically by each of the editors.



**Budi Sukada, Indonesia, Jamal Al-Qawasmī, Jordan, Hammad Husain, Pakistan, Mashary Al-Naim, Saudi Arabia, Shiraz Allibhai, Naima Chabbi-Chemrouk, Algeria, Saodat Mukimova, Tajikistan, Fuad Mallick, Bangladesh, Peter Rowe, Wael Samhourī, Syria, Akhtar Chauhan, India, Ali Cengizkhan, Turkey, and Ashraf Salama, Egypt**

**AGA KHAN  
TRUST FOR CULTURE**

**Architectural Journalism and  
Criticism Conference**

A seminar entitled Architectural Journalism and Criticism, co-organised by the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the Kuwait Society of Engineers, was held in Kuwait City on the 6th and 7th December 2005. The meeting was planned in collaboration with the International Committee of Architectural Critics and the Kuwait League of Architects.

The seminar was the final component of the Middle-East Architecture and Design Conference and Exhibition that began in Kuwait on 3rd December 2005. The conference and exhibition are one of the most important events of their kind, bringing together a range of interests in the field of urban planning and architectural design and building, interior design, and landscape architecture, as well as other design-related services, in this region where construction and urban development activity has witnessed unprecedented growth in recent years.

Themes for discussion at the seminar included the role, context and purpose of architectural journalism and criticism, the relations between practicing architects and critics and journalists, and the role of media and photography in the field of architecture and urban planning.

**AKTC and CyArk Partner on a 3D  
Pilot Project**

In September 2006, AKTC partnered with CyArk to conduct a High Definition Documentation (HDD) of the Bab al-Barqiyya located on the Ayyubid Wall in Al-Azhar Park, Cairo, Egypt. The pilot project with AKTC aimed to create a comprehensive and accurate 3D digital base dataset of the Bab al-Barqiyya from which will be derived a set of 3D and 2D tools for site planning, site management, and conservation, and digital deliverables that may be used for promotion, public outreach, and education.

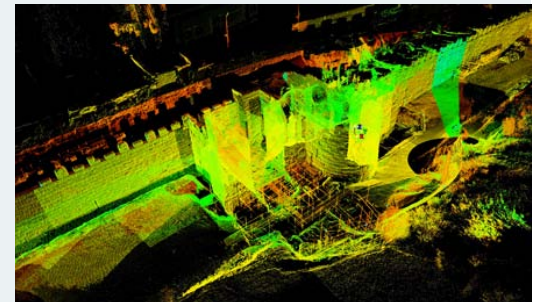
High Definition Documentation (HDD) is an integrated method that utilizes advanced survey and imaging technologies consisting primarily of high definition laser scanning, and high resolution high resolution, high dynamic range photography. HDD creates a 3D dimensionally precise dataset that constitutes a more accurate and more detailed survey record than surveys produced by traditional methods. The 3D image data generated by HDD forms an accurate survey record, that constitutes a comprehensive, dimensionally precise base dataset which site managers, archaeologists, and conservators can use in a variety of ways that are not possible with traditional survey records.



*Architectural Journalism and Criticism Conference, Kuwait*



*Leica 3D scanner inside the Bab al-Barqiyya, Al-Azhar Park, Cairo, Egypt*



*3D point cloud scan of the Bab al-Barqiyya, Al-Azhar Park, Cairo, Egypt*

## AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

### World Habitat Award 2006 for Aga Khan Planning and Building Service

The Aga Khan Planning and Building Service (AKPBS) received the World Habitat Award. AKPBS was cited for its efforts to improve housing conditions in Pakistan through its Building and Construction Improvement Programme (BACIP).

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme presents the World Habitat Awards each year. Projects nominated for the award must demonstrate practical, innovative and sustainable solutions to current housing issues faced by countries of the South and North. These solutions must be replicable in a variety of environments.

AKPBS has developed over 60 low-cost, seismic-resistant, energy- and resource-efficient housing construction methods and standards. These range from smoke-free stoves and screened kitchen cabinets for storing food to water heaters and ventilation systems.

Many of these products and low-cost technologies are designed to address the prevailing housing conditions in poor areas of the developing world. These include rooms that are dark, damp, dusty, poorly constructed and suscepti-

ble to earthquake damage. They often lack proper ventilation for wood fires, which then leads to acute respiratory disease, pneumonia and eye conditions. The excessive use of wood for cooking, heating and construction also results in high levels of deforestation and a loss of biodiversity. The complex problem is made more difficult by the general lack of construction skills and limited natural resources.



**The Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS) works to improve the built environment, particularly housing design and construction, village planning, natural hazard mitigation, environmental sanitation, water supplies, and other living conditions.**

### Water Flows Again in Baghe Babur

As part of a comprehensive AKTC rehabilitation programme in this 16th century garden in Kabul, water is again flowing down the 8 levels of the restored central axis. The centre-piece of a garden originally laid out in the 16th century by the Mughal emperor Babur, the system of pools, channels and distinctive marble waterfalls has been reconstructed using traditional materials and techniques, above the traces exposed by archaeological excavations that took place between 2003-5.

Drawing also on historical accounts and images of the garden, there has been extensive landscaping of the terraces along the central axis, in order to restore something of the character of the original 'avenue garden' of which Babur was so fond, and where he is buried. Of the 3500 trees planted to date, the majority are of species which he mentions in his memoirs, the Baburnama.

Since the re-location of the public swimming pool outside of the garden, there has been a marked increase in the numbers of families groups having picnics on the shady orchard terraces that extend on both sides of the central axis. As the trees that have been planted beside the pools and channels grow in size, it will be possible for visitors to share Babur's delight in

## AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE



sitting under the shade of tall panjachinar trees, listening to the sound of water flowing down the waterfalls.

[Read about AKTC work in Kabul](#)



**Water channel, Baghe Babur, Kabul, Afghanistan**



**Baghe Babur, Kabul, Afghanistan**

## AKTC Library and Collections



**William O'Reilly**

At the current time, documentation is being received from architects and clients for projects nominated for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture's 10th cycle. During this cycle, several hundred contemporary buildings, as well as conservation and rehabilitation projects, are presented to the Master Jury. The documentation includes presentation panels, images and drawings, and information on the history and scope of projects, often backed up with texts, films and videos. It is processed and catalogued on arrival and will be used by the Master Jury during their meetings in 2007 as the basis for their assessment, which will culminate in the selection and presentation of Awards later that year. Once this process is complete, the materials will become part of the AKTC library collections

Much of the documentation on the work of the Historic Cities Support Programme (HCSP) of the Trust is generated on-site. Ongoing efforts are being made to ensure that a full account of HCSP activities around the world are available in the Geneva archive and library. At present, records of the Programme's work in Zanzibar are being reviewed to ensure a comprehensive coverage in Geneva, as has already been done with its work in Cairo, Mostar and Syria. The results of this process will, in turn, become available to a wider audience through ArchNet.



**Slide archives, AKTC, Geneva, Switzerland**



**Library, AKTC, Geneva, Switzerland**

# ARCHNET

## Accomplishments in 2006

As of October 2006, ArchNet has over **39,000 members** from 173 countries. The holdings of its Digital Library (DL) have increased to **47,750 images and 3,820 files**, illustrating more than 5000 historic and contemporary buildings and urban projects in ninety-five countries around the world. It supports an impressive average of some **8,400** unique users on a daily basis who download **35GB** of information in the form of images and publications on a weekly basis. This translates to **369,917** publications and files downloaded between January – September 2006.

During the last academic year, graduate students Rana Amirtahmasebi, Mohamed Elshahed, Onur Yüce Gün, Marta Morais, Gena Peditto and Olga Touloumi have prepared architectural descriptions and image galleries for core Islamic monuments in Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and Jerusalem. The documentation of 45 historic monuments in Afghanistan is now complete, comprising 700+ new images including a large donation of pre-war photographs from the **1968-1971 PeaceCorps volunteers**. Rare historic views of endangered monuments such as the Jam Minaret, Mas'ud III Minaret (Ghazni), Gawhar Shad Musalla Complex (Herat) and No Gumbad Mosque (Balkh), and of heavily restored structures such as the Arch at Bust were digitized from the Harvard Fine Arts

Library collections. 650 additional images of Afghan sites were obtained from the **Aga Khan Trust for Culture** in Kabul to bring up-to-date information on ongoing restoration and community works to ArchNet users. Acquisitions to the Turkey section of the Digital Library include the Sinan Collection, photographs (Reha Günay) and isometric drawings (Arben Arapi) of Sinan's monuments from Professor Gülru Necipoğlu's "*The Age of Sinan*", which are to be complemented with architectural descriptions.

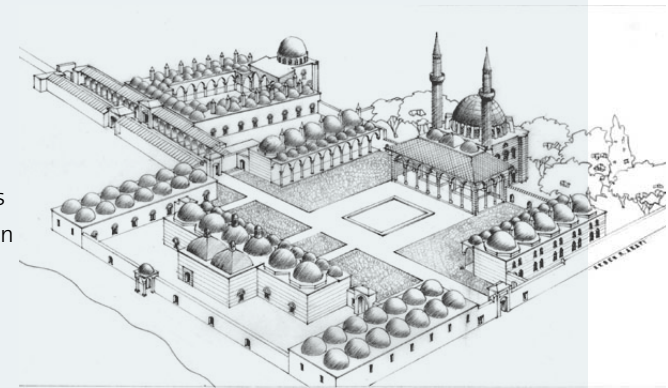
With the core collection of Islamic monuments almost complete, new student RAs (Aftab Jalia, Gordana Jakimovska, Tsitsi Gora and Cassim Shepard) will revise existing **India** sites, draft CAD plans of core monuments, process a special collection on **Swahili architecture** and compose introductory texts for historic cities. The development of the ArchNet CAD collection (located under the DL Project Files) gained speed this summer with Professor Nasser Rabbat's donation of 95 early Islamic and Mamluk plans (drawn by Saeed Arida) from his teaching archive. Each CAD plan is duplicated in .jpg format in the image gallery of the related monument; these plans are being compiled under a new collection entitled **Architectural Drawings**, which will soon be accessible from the main site of the Digital Library. ArchNet is



**Hazrat-i Ali Shrine (Mazar-e Sharif) from southeast, taken from roof of bazaar since demolished** (Photographer: Oskar von Niedermayer, c. 1916-1917)



**Hazrat-i Ali Shrine, same view as above, with modern landscaped parkway leading to the southeast gateway (formerly a bazaar portal).** (Photographer: Stephen Shucart, 2005)



**Elevated view of Sulayman I Takiyya Complex, Damascus** (Drawn by Arben N. Arapi)

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

3  
issue

AKPIA  
AKTC

OCTOBER 2006



## ARCHNET



also looking forward to the addition of 2500+ images of Syrian cities and monuments taken by Architect/Planner **Michel Ecochard** between 1930 and 1936 (courtesy of the AKTC Library in Geneva), and the complete anthology of writings by Professor Emeritus **Oleg Grabar**.

Please contact Özgür Basak Alkan (Project Coordinator, [boalkan@mit.edu](mailto:boalkan@mit.edu)) if you wish to donate images or make corrections to the ArchNet Digital Library. General questions regarding the website can be directed to Ophelia Celine (Project Assistant, [oceline@mit.edu](mailto:oceline@mit.edu)).

### ArchNet Commences Research On Version 2.0

ArchNet has been very successful in creating an unmatched and unparalleled resource for the study of Islamic civilizations and architecture. At its start, ArchNet had two ambitious goals: it aimed to create a digital community that shares expertise, local experience, resources, and dialogue; while at the same time, ArchNet sought to become an indispensable tool for the teaching of architecture by creating a free, unique, archival resource. ArchNet has over 38,000 members registered from over 120 countries. The Digital Library contains more than 47,000 images of architecture in the Muslim world and over 3,500 publications, reports and technical



**William J. Mitchell,**  
*Professor of Architecture  
and Media Arts and  
Sciences, MIT*

documents. It supports an impressive average of some 8,400 unique users on a daily basis who download 35GB of information in the form of images and publications on a weekly basis.

The original design of the ArchNet site was innovative for its time, and the site has succeeded in its goals of providing wide and convenient access to an extensive digital library and building a global community around that resource. However, in the seven years since ArchNet was initiated in 1999, it has become increasingly outdated, and the time has come to replace it with a completely redesigned, more robust and functionally sophisticated version.

The central goal of the proposed ArchNet 2 is not only to provide enhanced functionality and access to 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. ArchNet 2 will take much greater advantage of the energy and creativity of the user community, which will be less one of passive content consumers and more one of active content creators.

The re-structuring, re-thinking, and re-visioning of ArchNet will be supervised by Professor William J. Mitchell, Professor of Architecture and Media Arts and Sciences, MIT.

AKPIA:  
<http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/>

AKDN:  
[www.akdn.org/](http://www.akdn.org/)

ArchNet:  
<http://archnet.org>



**ArchNet team** (From left to right) Front row: Tsitsi Isabel Gora, Shiraz Allibhai, Ozgur Basak Alkan, Mohamed Kamal Elshahed. Back row: Cassim Shepard, Ophelia Celine, Aftab Jalia, Rana Amirtahmasebi, Gordana Jakimovska