



AKPIA AKTC

2015 - 2016

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

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AKPIA

Established in 1979, the Aga Khan Programs for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA) at Harvard University and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are supported by endowments for instruction, research, and student aid from His Highness the Aga Khan. 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 a standard of excellence in professional research, AKPIA also continually strives to promote visibility of the pan-Islamic cultural heritage.

AKTC

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

2015-2016 HARVARD LECTURE SERIES: A FORUM FOR ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE

AKPIA lectures are held on Thursdays, 5:30–6:30 pm, in Room 318 of the Arthur M. Sackler Building, Harvard University, 485 Broadway. Lectures are free and open to the public. For additional information, please visit <http://agakhan.fas.harvard.edu/>.

September 24

“The Landscapes of Post-Byzantine Anatolia”

Nicolas Trépanier

Harvard AKPIA Associate; Associate Professor of History, University of Mississippi

October 8

“Landscape of Sovereignty: The Villa in Umayyad Córdoba”

Glaire Anderson

Associate Professor of Art History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Co-sponsored with the Committee on Medieval Studies

November 19

“Eḡşancı Garden: Questioning the Ideal of Ottoman Garden Design in the Sixteenth Century”

B. Deniz Çaliş Kural

Harvard AKPIA Associate; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Bilgi University

February 18

“Poetry, Policy and Landscape Representation in Akbari Painting”

Mika Natif

Harvard AKPIA Associate; Assistant Professor of Art History, The George Washington University

March 24

“Lodging Along the Trade Routes: Hans and Caravanserais in Bosnian Pashadom in the Early Modern Period”

Darka Bilic

Harvard AKPIA Associate; Institute of Art History, Centre Cvito Fisković, Split

April 21

“Figural Representation in the Stucco Ornament of Religious Architecture in Khorasan”

Amirhossein Salehi

Harvard AKPIA Associate; Lecturer, Department of Art Studies, Semnan University

Special lecture added:


April 14

“Congress of Kings: Notes on a Painting of Muhammad Shah Rangila”

Kavita Singh

Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute Fellow 2015-16; Professor at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

**2015 – 2016 AKPIA LECTURE SERIES
A FORUM FOR ISLAMIC ART & ARCHITECTURE**

 <p>Thursday, September 24, 2015 “The Landscapes of Post-Byzantine Anatolia” Nicolas Trépanier, Harvard AKPIA Associate; Associate Professor of History, University of Mississippi</p>	<p>Thursday, February 18, 2016 “Poetry, Policy and Landscape Representation in Akbari Painting” Mika Natif, Harvard AKPIA Associate; Assistant Professor of Art History, The George Washington University</p>
<p>Thursday, October 8, 2015 “Landscape of Sovereignty: The Villa in Umayyad Córdoba” Glaire Anderson, Associate Professor of Art History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <i>Co-sponsored with the Committee on Medieval Studies</i></p>	<p>Thursday, March 24, 2016 “Lodging Along the Trade Routes: Hans and Caravanserais in Bosnian Pashadom in the Early Modern Period” Darka Bilic, Harvard AKPIA Associate; Institute of Art History, Centre Cvito Fisković, Split</p>
<p>Thursday, November 19, 2015 “Eḡşancı Garden: Questioning the Ideal of Ottoman Garden Design in the Sixteenth Century” B. Deniz Çaliş Kural, Harvard AKPIA Associate; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Bilgi University</p>	<p>Thursday, April 21, 2016 “Figural Representation in the Stucco Ornament of Religious Architecture in Khorasan” Amirhossein Salehi, Harvard AKPIA Associate; Lecturer, Department of Art Studies, Semnan University</p>

**THE AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

Lectures are free and open to the public. They are held Thursdays, 5:30–6:30 p.m., at the Arthur M. Sackler Building, Room 318, Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge MA 02138. For further information, call 617-495-2355 or email agakhan@fas.harvard.edu.

View from the Sierra Morena mountain range above Madinat al-Zahra, Córdoba, Spain. (Photo: Glaire Anderson)

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

2015-2016 ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The Aga Khan Program at Harvard University actively promotes, nurtures, and disseminates research on the history of art and architecture in the Islamic world through the scholarship and teaching of its faculty, the activities of its students, the sponsorship of the Aga Khan Associateship Program, the AKPIA Lecture Series, and the publication of *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World*.

AKPIA Library Acquisition Events

October 21 2015; March 23, 2016; April 20, 2016

Andrés Riedlmayer, Bibliographer in Islamic Art and Architecture in the Fine Arts Library, hosted three "Show and Tell" events to discuss recent additions to the library's collections. These were informal gatherings for students, faculty, associates and other members of the AKPIA community.



Andrés Riedlmayer, Bibliographer in Islamic Art and Architecture in the Fine Arts Library and Gwen Collopy, Visual Resources Librarian for Islamic Art and Architecture, host an informal gathering to discuss a selection of recent additions to the library's collections.

Come join us for "Show and Tell" Recent Library Acquisitions
Wednesday October 21, 2015
 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.

Digital Images & Slides Collection of the Fine Arts Library
 Sackler Building basement (to the left of the auditorium)
 485 Broadway, Cambridge

Andrés Riedlmayer
 Bibliographer
 Islamic Art and Architecture
 617-495-3272
riedlmayer@fas.harvard.edu

Gwen Collopy
 Visual Resources Librarian
 Islamic Art and Architecture
 617-495-3276
gcollopy@fas.harvard.edu



Andrés Riedlmayer, Bibliographer in Islamic Art and Architecture in the Fine Arts Library, and
 Gwendolyn Collopy, Visual Resources Librarian for Islamic Art and Architecture,
 host an informal gathering to discuss a selection of recent additions to the library's collections.

Come join us for "Show and Tell" Recent Library Acquisitions
Wednesday March 23, 2016
 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.



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Come join us for "Show and Tell" Recent Library Acquisitions
Wednesday April 20, 2016
 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.



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 Sackler Building basement (to the left of the auditorium)
 485 Broadway, Cambridge

Andrés Riedlmayer
 Bibliographer
 Islamic Art and Architecture
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riedlmayer@fas.harvard.edu

Gwendolyn Collopy
 Visual Resources Librarian
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gcollopy@fas.harvard.edu

Supporting Student Travel to Conferences

The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture was pleased to provide either full or partial support for the following students attending conferences during the 2015-16 year: Graduate student **Mira Xenia Schwerda** traveled to the 2015 Ginkgo Library/British Institute of Persian Studies Conference, Iran's Constitutional Revolution of 1906 and the Narratives of the Enlightenment, held September 14-16, 2015 at the British Academy. Mira presented her paper "Picturing Revolution: Social and Political Aspects of Qajar Photography."

Graduate student **Melis Taner** traveled to the 15th International Congress of Turkish Art, held September 16-18, 2015 in Naples, Italy. Melis presented her paper "Illustrating the Divan: The Divan of Baki."

Graduate student **Abbey Stockstill** traveled to the two day workshop, What is the City but the People? Urban Identities between the Civic and the Ethnic, held at Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities, Oxford University, March 11-12, 2016. Abbey presented her paper "A Mediterranean Form in a Maghrebi Context: Understanding Almohad Marrakech."

Guest lecture at Tsinghua University, Beijing, and travel through China with graduate students, August 2015

Professor David Roxburgh presented a lecture at Tsinghua University, Beijing, in the Department of History in August 2015, before embarking on site visits throughout Beijing, Zhengding, Xi'an, and Dunhuang with Eugene Wang, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Professor of Asian Art, and graduate students in the fields of Chinese, Japanese, and South Asian art.



15th International Congress of Turkish Art, in Naples Italy September 16-18, 2015

Professor Gülrü Necipoğlu was a participant in the 15th International Congress of Turkish Art, held September 16-18, 2015 in Naples, Italy. She chaired the panel “The Image of the Turk in Italian Art.”



Travel to India and the Deccan, January 2016

David Roxburgh traveled to India and the Deccan in January 2016 with Professor Jinah Kim, Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture, with seminar students on the South Asian temple. Together, they visited Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, and Muslim monuments in Mumbai, Kanheri, Elephanta, Ajanta, Ellora, Aurangabad, Dawlatabad, Khuldabad, Bijapur, Pattadakal, and Badami.



Spring 2016 class trip to Florence, Pisa and Genoa

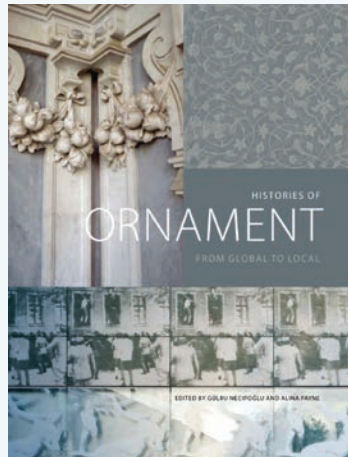
Gülrü Necipoğlu's History of Art & Architecture 122X Proseminar, *Architecture in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: A Cross-cultural Perspective*, featured a class trip to Florence, Pisa and Genoa during the spring 2016 term (March 14-19, 2016). The course explored the architecture of the Mediterranean with emphasis on cross-cultural and transregional dynamics, receptions of the Roman-Byzantine heritage, uses of spolia, interactions between architecture and history of science, architectural treatises, ornament, building types and materials. Particular focus was placed on the Eastern Mediterranean (Ottoman and Mamluk lands, and Renaissance Italy), though not excluding the Western Mediterranean. Professor Alina Payne (Alexander P. Misheff Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University and Paul E. Geier Director of Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies) was the host of the class excursion.



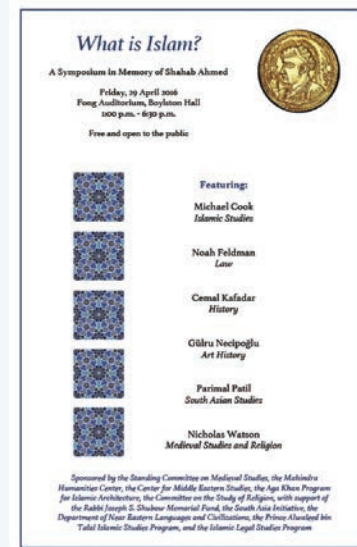
Histories of Ornament: From Global to Local
 Edited by Gülru Necipoğlu and Alina Payne
 Princeton University Press, 2016

This lavishly illustrated volume, published in March 2016, is the first major global history of ornament from the Middle Ages to today. Crossing historical and geographical boundaries in unprecedented ways and considering the role of ornament in both art and architecture, *Histories of Ornament* offers a nuanced examination that integrates medieval, Renaissance, baroque, and modern Euroamerican traditions with their Islamic, Indian, Chinese, and Mesoamerican counterparts. At a time when ornament has re-emerged in architectural practice and is a topic of growing interest to art and architectural historians, the book reveals how the long history of ornament illuminates its global resurgence today. Featuring contributions by 26 authors, including Gülru Necipoğlu, Alina Payne and David Roxburgh.

present their current studies in figurative painting of the pre-Modern Islamic lands, examining Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman illustrated manuscripts, which were produced in the 13th-17th century in Iraq, Greater Iran, and the Ottoman Empire.



specific fields of academy study. Speakers included Michael Cook, Noah Feldman, Hadel Jarada, Cemal Kafadar, Gülru Necipoğlu, Parimal Patil, Arafat Razaque, Nicholas Watson with opening and closing remarks by Nora Lessersohn.



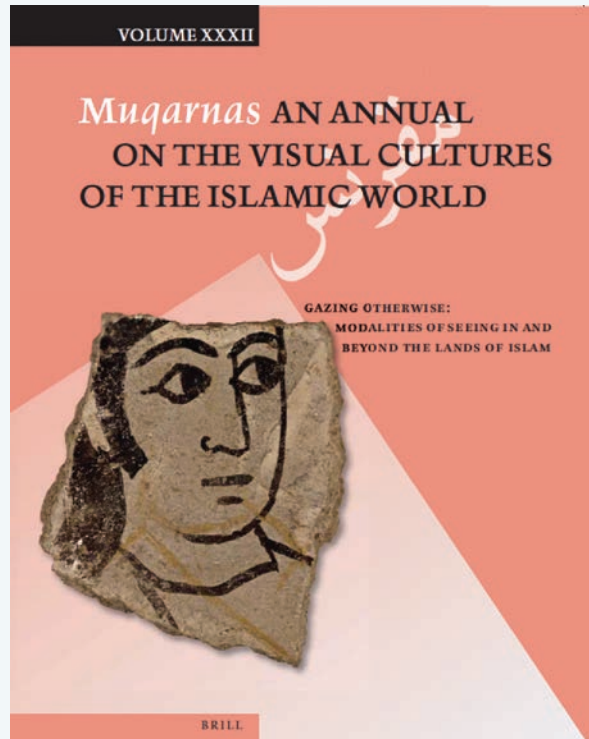
Myers Symposium: New Studies in Islamic Painting, Northwestern University
 April 14–15, 2016

David Roxburgh was a participant in the Myers Symposium: New Studies in Islamic Painting. This two day event was held at Northwestern University, Evanston IL on April 14-15 2016, and was organized by Dr. Bilha Moor, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow of Islamic Art and Architecture, Department of Art History, Northwestern University. The event brought together a group of Islamic art historians to

AKPIA Symposium Sponsorship
What is Islam? A Symposium in Memory of Shahab Ahmed
 April 29, 2016

The Aga Khan Program was a proud co-sponsor for the event What is Islam? A Symposium in Memory of Shahab Ahmed, held April 29, 2016 at Harvard University's Fong Auditorium in Boylston Hall. The symposium explored the ways in which AKPIA Associate Shahab Ahmed's recent publication, *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic* (Princeton University Press 2015) speaks to, affects, and challenges

MUQARNAS: AN ANNUAL ON THE VISUAL CULTURES OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD



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The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University is pleased to announce the publication of *Muqarnas* 32 (2015). This volume is now available for purchase through Brill Publishers:

www.brill.nl.

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AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE &
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2015–2016 RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

Veronika Poier, HAA doctoral student
Intense Arabic training at the Qalam Wa Lawh language school
Rabat, Morocco

Mira Xenia Schwerda, HAA doctoral student
Nationalbibliothek, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Institut für Iranistik
Vienna Austria
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des Estampes et de la Photographie, Louvre
Paris, France
Istanbul University Library Rare Books Collection, Nadir Eserler Kutuphanesi, the SALT Foundation
Istanbul, Turkey

Meredyth Winter, HAA doctoral student
Russian Language tutoring, in preparation for 2017 research in St. Petersburg, Moscow
Cambridge, MA

Özge Yıldız, HAA doctoral student
Classical and Modern Arabic summer program, Qasid Arabic Institute
Amman, Jordan

2015-2016 COURSES

FALL 2015

Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding 40 Monuments of Islamic Architecture

Gülru Necipoğlu and David J. Roxburgh

An introduction to ten iconic monuments of the Islamic world from the beginning of Islam to the early modern period. The course introduces various types of buildings—mosques, palaces, multifunctional complexes—and city types, and the factors (artistic, patronal, socio-political, religio-cultural, and economic) that shaped them. Each case study is divided into two lectures. The first presents the monument or city by “walking” through it. The second is devoted to themes elicited from the example, developed in light of comparative monuments, sites, and/or written sources, and to problems of patronage, production, audience and meaning as they pertain to architectural history.

History of Art and Architecture 223M Transregional Connections: Architecture and the Construction of Early Modern Islamic Empires

Gülru Necipoğlu

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, three empires—the Mediterranean-based Ottomans, Safavids in Iran, and Mughals in India—developed interconnected yet distinctive architectural and visual cultures with individualized ornamental idioms by fusing their common Timurid heritage with cosmopolitan regional traditions. This course explores the

connections between empire building and architecture, with respect to aesthetics, religion, imperial ideology, identity, and theories of dynastic legitimacy.

History of Art and Architecture 310A Methods and Theory of Art History

David J. Roxburgh

Designed specifically for students entering the PhD program in the History of Art and Architecture, the seminar provides an introduction to a wide range of art-historical methods, both established and more recent, that are likely to be encountered in the course of graduate study and doctoral research. Participating faculty members selected the topics and readings and will lead weekly discussions. Topics include social history of art, semiotics, reception theory, ethnography, psychoanalysis, gender and sexual difference, with sessions also devoted to the seminal work of art historians and cross-cultural study.

SPRING 2016

**History of Art and Architecture 122X
Proseminar: Architecture in the Early Modern
Mediterranean World: A Cross-Cultural
Perspective**

Gülru Necipoğlu

This seminar focuses on the architecture of the Mediterranean with emphasis on cross-cultural and transregional dynamics, receptions of the Roman-Byzantine heritage, uses of spolia, interactions between architecture and history of science, architectural treatises, ornament, building types and materials. Particular focus is placed on the Eastern Mediterranean (Ottoman and Mamluk lands, and Renaissance Italy), though not excluding the Western Mediterranean. Two classes are taught by Professor Alina Payne, host of the class excursion in Italy during March break.

**History of Art and Architecture 123N
Islam and Image**

David J. Roxburgh

A common stereotype is that Islam is against images, a deficit resulting from religious doctrine and endemic iconoclasm that in turn fostered the arts of writing and geometric abstraction without figuration. Such assertions are misleading and incomplete. The seminar looks at the broad scope of two-dimensional images produced throughout the Islamic lands from the formation of Islam in the seventh century to the present day. Selected case studies span diverse subject matters, media (from ink

and watercolor to print and photography), functions, and contexts of use, and invite examination of a spectrum of formal operations and modalities of representation.

HAA 310B

Works of Art: Materials, Forms, Histories

David J. Roxburgh

This series of team-taught workshops is designed to sharpen skills in the observation, analysis, and historical interpretation of works of art and Architecture.

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Faculty



Gülrü Necipoğlu

Gülrü Necipoğlu is the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art at Harvard University's History of Art and Architecture Department. As Director of the Aga Khan Program for Architecture, she hosted the AKPIA Post-Doctoral Associates, and the annual lecture series "A Forum for Islamic Art." As Editor, she oversaw the publication of *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World*, volume 32 (2015) and preparations for the next volume. She was an academic consultant for an exhibition juxtaposing old and new photographs of Istanbul, titled "A City Transformed: Images of Istanbul," held the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, where she attended the opening on February 4, 2016.

Having been invited by His Highness the Aga Khan to serve as a member of the Steering Committee of the Aga Khan Architecture Award for the next 3-year cycle, Gülrü attended meetings of the committee with the jury, held in Boston and Geneva. She also served on the Harvard University Steering Committee of the Alwaleed Program of Islamic Studies, the Standing Committee of Middle Eastern Studies, attending board meetings at the Sakıp Sabancı Museum in Istanbul, and the Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio in Vicenza. Her recent articles include "The Scrutinizing Gaze in the Aesthetics of Islamic Visual Cultures: Sight, Insight and Desire," *Muqarnas* 32 (2015) 23-61, and "Early Modern

Floral: The Agency of Ornament in Ottoman and Safavid Visual Cultures," in *Histories of Ornament: From Global to Local*, co-edited by Gülrü Necipoğlu and Alina Payne, with an "Introduction" by both editors (Princeton, 2016).

Gülrü delivered several lectures in the summer of 2015, one of these was titled "Contextualizing the Mangalia Mosque (mid-1570s): The Waqf Empire of an Ottoman Power-Couple, Princess İsmihan Sultan and Her Husband Sokollu Mehmed Pasha," presented on June 12, 2015 at the From Riverbed to Seashore: Art on the Move in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean in the Early Modern Period conference, directed by Alina Payne and funded by the Getty Foundation's Connecting Art Histories Initiative, in New Europe College, Bucharest. Her other summer lecture co-sponsored by the Universität Zürich and Orient-Institut in Istanbul, "Persianate Images between Europe and China: The 'Frankish Manner' in the Diez and Topkapı Albums, ca. 1350-1450," was presented on June 5, 2015 at the Orient-Institut. She was also invited by the Universität Zürich History Department Summer School in Istanbul to give a lecture on June 6, 2015 titled "The Topkapı Palace in Istanbul: Center of Ottoman Imperial Rule," followed by her guided tour of the palace to the MA degree students.

Gülrü chaired the panel "The Image of the Turk in Italian Art," at the 15th International Congress of Turkish Art in Naples on September 18, 2015. In a Harvard symposium (April 29, 2016) that explored the ways in which the late AKPIA Associate Shahab Ahmed's (1966-2015) recent book,

titled *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic* (Princeton, 2015) addresses different disciplines of Islamic Studies, she lectured on the book's representation of the field of Islamic Art History. She was invited to lecture by Mimarlık Kültürü ve Mirası Araştırmaları Derneği (Association of Research on Architectural Culture and Heritage) to give an evening lecture at Istanbul Technical University on May 17, 2016 in Turkish, titled "Architectural Culture and the Concept of Decorum in the Age of Sinan: Observations on Today's Misinterpretations and Contradictory Architectural Practices." In the interdisciplinary Eurasian Empires conference held at the University of Leiden, she gave the opening keynote lecture titled "Transregional Connections: Architecture and the Construction of Early Modern Islamic Empires," on June 15, 2016.

The courses Gülrü taught were: *Aesthetic & Interpretive Understanding 40 General Education Program, Monuments of Islamic Architecture* co-taught with David Roxburgh (fall 2015); *History of Art & Architecture 223M Seminar, Transregional Connections: Architecture and the Construction of Early Modern Islamic Empires* (fall 2015); one class session titled "Architecture, Visuality, and the Gaze in Cross-Cultural Perspective," at the HAA Department's *Methods Seminar* for first year graduate students (fall 2015); *History of Art & Architecture 98ar Undergraduate Faculty Junior Tutorial, "Readings in Orientalism"* (spring 2016); *History of Art & Architecture 122X Proseminar, Architecture in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: A Cross-cultural Perspective*, accompanied by a spring vacation class trip to Florence, Pisa and Genoa; and also a lecture titled

“Taj Mahal: The Mausoleum as Eternal Garden” in the *History of Art & Architecture 11 Team-taught Undergraduate Course* (spring 2016).



David J. Roxburgh

David J. Roxburgh is Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History. In the academic year 2015-16, David Roxburgh continued in his role as Director of Graduate Studies in the History of Art and Architecture Department. His fall semester courses comprised the lecture course *Monuments of Islamic Architecture*—co-taught with Gülru Necipoğlu—and the graduate methods seminar based on the study of seminal texts in the discipline and the various approaches to art history they propose. In the spring semester he offered a new seminar titled *Islam and Image*, a problem-oriented inquiry into the various media, forms, and technologies of the image spanning the 13th through 19th centuries, and the second portion of the methods seminar focused on the firsthand study of works of art across mediums in the collections of Harvard University. He presented a lecture at Tsinghua University, Beijing, in the Department of History, August 2015, before embarking on site visits throughout Beijing and also in Zhengding, Xi’an, and Dunhuang with Professor Eugene Wang and graduate students in the fields of Chinese, Japanese, and South Asian art. He also traveled to India and the Deccan, in January 2016, with Professor Jinah Kim and her seminar students on the South Asian temple. Together, they visited Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, and Muslim monuments in Mumbai, Kanheri, Elephanta, Ajanta, Ellora, Aurangabad, Dawlatabad, Khuldabad, Bijapur, Pattadakal, and Badami. In

April 2016 he participated in a conference on new approaches to the study of Islamic painting at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., organized by Dr. Bilha Moor. During the summer, Roxburgh joined a small group of critics, artists, and curators of contemporary art of North Africa and the Middle East to lecture on “The Ideas of Written Art in Islamic Art History,” in *Language in the Arts—Presence and Future, Part II: Art and Writing in the Arab Countries, Iran, and North Africa*, organized by the Fondation Hartung Bergman with the Written Art Foundation (Frankfurt), Antibes, 29-31 July 2016.

Three publications appeared in print in AY15-16: his review of the Walid Raad retrospective at MoMA (“Walid Raad: Museum of Modern Art, New York,” *Art Forum* 54, 5 [January, 2016], 232–34); “Art and Literature in Timurid Herat, 1469–1506: The Life and Times of Sultan Ali Mashhadi,” in *Pearls on a String: Artists, Patrons, and Poets at the Great Islamic Courts*, ed. Amy S. Landau (Seattle and London: Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, in association with University of Washington Press, 2015), 115–40; and a contribution to the edited volume on ornament edited by Gülru Necipoğlu and Alina Payne (“Timurid Architectural Revetment in Central Asia, 1370–1430: The Mimeticism of Mosaic Faience,” in *Histories of Ornament: From Global to Local*, ed. Gülru Necipoğlu and Alina Payne [Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2016], 116–29). Two additional essays should be in print this year. He is currently working on other essays about a Timurid pilgrimage scroll dated 1433 in the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, the two *Kalila wa Dimna* manuscripts made for

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Timurid prince Baysunghur, and the formation of a canon in the arts of calligraphy and painting for the journal *Muqarnas* and edited volumes to be published by the Getty and ILEX Foundation, respectively. He also completed writing and editing a monograph on a Qajar-period album of drawings owned by the Harvard Art Museums. It will be published in conjunction with its display in 2017 in an exhibition curated by Roxburgh and Mary McWilliams tracing the impact of new technologies of representation in Iran in the 1800s, chiefly photography and lithography. The monograph is a co-authored volume with essays contributed by ten graduate students from a seminar Roxburgh led in Spring 2015. Whenever he can find the time, Roxburgh continues to work toward the other book length studies mentioned in previous reports.

Roxburgh became Chair of the Department of History of Art and Architecture on July 1. He was also elected President of the National Committee on the History of Art (NCHA) on September 19 at the quadrennial Congress of the Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA) in Beijing. He will serve a four-year term as President of the NCHA, the committee representing United States membership in CIHA. As a member of the CIHA bureau one of his objectives will be to expand membership among the countries of North Africa and the Middle East.

2015-2016 Post-Doctoral Associate



Shahab Ahmed

Shahab (1966-2015) was a scholar of Islamic Studies. His book, *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic* was published in November 2015 by Princeton University Press. A second book, *Before Islamic Orthodoxy: The Satanic Verses in the Thought of the Earliest Muslim Community (ca. 632-800)*, will be published by Harvard University Press in 2017.

Shahab earned his PhD from the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University in 1999, after which he served as Assistant Professor of Classical Arabic Literature at the American University in Cairo, and as a Junior Fellow at Harvard University's Society of Fellows (2000-2003). He returned to Harvard in 2005 as Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2010.

Shahab was looking forward to presenting his lecture "Some Exploratory Thoughts on Ottoman Islamic Aesthetics" for the Aga Khan Program in spring 2016. A symposium on *What is Islam?* was held on April 29, 2016, and invited speakers explored the ways in which his work speaks to, affects, and challenges the fields of Islamic Studies, Law, History, Art History, South Asian Studies and The Study of Religion.



Darka Bilić

Darka is a Research Associate at the Institute of Art History, Centre Cvito Fisković, Split, Croatia. She focuses on history of architecture in early modern period in Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia. She is exploring artistic networks and transmission of ideas on the examples of Venetian and Ottoman architecture.

Darka's book *Inženjeri u službi Mletačke Republike* (Književni krug, Split 2013) was awarded the Charter of Croatian Society of Art Historians for outstanding contribution to Croatian art history. She just concluded her participation in seminar "From Riverbed to Seashore: Art on the Move in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean" led by Professor Alina Payne and supported by Getty Foundation. Darka's project focused on Lazaretto in Split and Bosnian caravanserais as an example of trans-cultural transfer of architectonic model. As an AKPIA Associate, she developed her project entitled "Lodging along the trade routes in Bosnian Pashadome in early modern period," and enthusiastically explored the vast resources of Harvard's libraries.



Elaheh Kheirandish

Elaheh is a historian of science, with a PhD from Harvard University's Department of the History of Science. She has served as a lecturer at various departments at Harvard University, curated exhibits at Harvard and Brown Universities, and offered courses and workshops internationally. Her work focuses on the history of mathematical and physical sciences—such as optics and mechanics—and her projects range from the Arabic and Persian scientific traditions to the applications of advanced technologies to historical studies.

Elaheh has published books, starting with a two-volume dissertation, as well as several articles, and major chapters in edited volumes. Her productions include short documentary films, historical plays, interactive maps, and other multimedia work. Among her most recent activities were short courses offered during Harvard University's winter session, and the International Summer School held at Istanbul's Museum of History of Science and Technology in Islam. Her most recent affiliation has been as a research associate at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University's Department of History of Art and Architecture. Major publications include the recent "Light and Dark: The 'Checkered History' of Early Optics," *God Is the Light of the Heavens and the Earth: Light in Islamic Art and Culture* (Yale 2015), and

forthcoming publications expected in 2016: "An Early Tradition in Practical Geometry: The 'Telling Lines' of Unique Arabic and Persian Sources," *Muqarnas* Supplement; "Optics and Perspective In and Beyond the Islamic Middle Ages: A Study of Transmission through Multidisciplinary Sources in Arabic and Persian," *Renaissance Cultures of Optics and Practices of Perspective* (Brepols); and "Astronomical Poems from the 'Four Corners' of Persia (c. 1000–1500 CE)" in *Essays in Islamic Philology, History, and Philosophy* (de Gruyter).



B. Deniz Çalış Kural

Deniz is an Assistant Professor at Bilgi University, Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul, Turkey. She received her BArch at METU Middle East Technical University, Ankara; MArch at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY and her PhD at METU in 2004. She was a junior fellow at Dumbarton Oaks Garden and Landscape Studies in 2003–2004, and held scholarships from TUBITAK, The Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey. Before Bilgi University, she taught at METU of Ankara; Yeditepe and Bahçeşehir universities of Istanbul, and at University of Virginia, School of Architecture. Her work focuses on the history of space culture; perception and construction of space. Her research interests include both contemporary and historical gardens and landscape, as well as the urban history of Istanbul. Her book *Şehrengiz, Urban Rituals and Deviant Sufi Mysticism in Ottoman Istanbul* has been published by Ashgate in 2014, discusses the significance of the concept of "imagination" and the theory of "in-between space" in the appropriation and construction of gardens and landscape and related practices in Ottoman Istanbul from early sixteenth to the early eighteenth century. Her recent work is diverse and focuses on the sixteenth century garden culture in Ottoman Istanbul; cross cultural interactions in the early modern eastern Mediterranean through designed and imaginary

gardens; and vernacular construction of gardens and landscapes along with the vernacular self. Deniz teaches both architectural design and the history of architecture, gardens and landscape at Istanbul Bilgi University. She also practices architectural and landscape design at UrbAr Office of Urbanism and Architecture at Istanbul, Turkey.



Mika Natif

Mika is an Assistant Professor of Art History at The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She is a historian of Islamic art focusing on the intercultural exchanges and global connections that Muslim societies forged with the European sphere in the pre-Modern era. Her primary field of research is book culture and painting, with special interest in Central Asia and India. Her publications include articles and book chapters on Islamic book arts, visual culture, idol anxiety, and objects of pilgrimage. Her current book manuscript, *Mughal Occidentalism*, explores the intercultural and artistic exchanges between Muslim India and Europe (to be published in 2017). She is also the co-editor and co-author of *Eros and Sexuality in Islamic Art* (Ashgate, 2013). As an AKPIA Associate, Mika finished writing the fourth chapter of her book, on gardens, landscape vignettes and micro architecture in Mughal illustrated manuscripts and paintings.



Amirhossein Salehi

Amirhossein is a lecturer at the Department of Art Studies and Department of Tourism in Semnan University, Iran where he received the teacher of the year award in 2010 and 2014. He holds a PhD in Islamic Archaeology (Tarbiat Modares University, Iran, 2014) and MS in pre-Islamic Archaeology (Tarbiat Modares University, Iran, 2008). Amirhossein was also a visiting scholar in Fine Arts Department at Boston College in 2013. His research interests include Islamic art and architecture in greater Iran before Timurid, as well as Islamic coins. He has published several articles on Ilkhanid architecture and Ilkhanid coins. His focus is on figural representation in the Stucco Ornament of Religious Architecture in Khorasan. He is currently writing a book about the history of the Ilkhanid period based on a multidisciplinary research.



Nicolas Trépanier

Nicolas is an Associate Professor at the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History, at the University of Mississippi. He earned his PhD in the History and Middle Eastern Studies Program at Harvard University in 2008. He previously studied at McGill University, where he received his BA and MA, and was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the American Research Institute in Turkey (2007-8).

His research interests revolve around social history and worldviews in the late medieval period in Anatolia. Based on his doctoral dissertation, Nicolas' first book is entitled *Foodways and Daily Life in Medieval Anatolia* (University of Texas Press, 2014). The book paints a picture of daily life in a region that was soon to become the heart of the Ottoman Empire by examining the various points of interaction between people and food. This includes meals and the rituals that surrounded them, but also activities such as farm work, the state collection of agricultural products as taxes and a variety of religious ideas and practices such as fasting. As an AKPIA associate, Nicolas continues his exploration of the minds of the late medieval Anatolians by examining the many ways in which they perceived the land they worked, owned, traveled and, more generally, inhabited.

2015-2016 Graduate Students



Gwendolyn Collaço

Gwendolyn will be entering her fourth year as a PhD student in Middle Eastern Studies and History of Art and Architecture. She received her MA from the University of Chicago in Middle Eastern Studies and her BA from Vassar College in Classics and Medieval/Renaissance Studies. This year she presented her research on Ottoman costume albums at the international symposium *The Politics of Dress and Identity in Eastern Mediterranean Societies, Past and Present*, held in Amsterdam. She completed her qualifying paper on waterfront festivity in 18th c. Istanbul and the paintings of Levni. Additionally, she began her work with Harvard University's Fine Arts Library as their Visual Resources Librarian for Islamic Art and Architecture. This fall she is looking forward to presenting her dissertation prospectus and gearing up for research in Turkish collections and those across Europe the following next year.



Farshid Emami

Farshid is in the fifth year of the PhD program in the History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. Following his fieldwork and archival research, he has completed two chapters of his dissertation on the urban history of Safavid Isfahan. In April 2015, he presented a paper entitled "The Sher Mandal and Guldasta Pavilion: Shared Architectural Practices of the Mughals and the Safavids," at the 68th Annual Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians in Chicago. In February 2016, he presented parts of his dissertation at the 38th Annual New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Student Symposium in Boston.

In addition to pursuing his dissertation project, Farshid has been preparing articles for publication. His essay entitled "Coffehouses, Urban Spaces, and the Formation of a Public Sphere in Safavid Isfahan" will appear in *Muqarnas* 33 (2016). He is also preparing an essay on the dual Friday mosques of Isfahan and a comparative study of the architecture of the *kitab-khana* in the Safavid and Mughal contexts. During the 2015-2016 academic year, Farshid also served as a graduate student intern at the Harvard Art Museums, where he was involved in the Qajar art exhibition project. His essay on lithography in Qajar Iran and his entries on selected lacquer objects will appear in the respective exhibition catalogues. He looks forward to writing up his dissertation in the next academic year.



Bronwen Gulkis

Bronwen is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. She is the recipient of two Aga Khan Graduate Fellowships in Islamic Art (2013-2015), and was awarded an AKPIA summer grant in 2014 to travel to Samarqand, Uzbekistan. Her scholarly interests focus on the arts of the book in Mughal India and their intersection with South Asian and European aesthetic traditions. During the past year, she traveled to India with Harvard's History of Art and Architecture program, visiting Islamic, Hindu, and Buddhist sites in the Deccan and beyond. She also conducted work at the Harvard Art Museum, where she is contributing to a forthcoming catalogue on a collection of Qajar workshop drawings and related objects. As the recipient of a Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, she will be spending the 2016-2017 academic year abroad in Europe and India, conducting research towards her dissertation project on the formation of an early modern identity in Shahjahani painting.



Jesse Howell

Jesse is a PhD candidate at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and Department of History. His research on overland travel in the Ottoman Balkans centers on the caravan road that linked Istanbul to the Adriatic Sea at Dubrovnik, Croatia. This past summer Jesse returned to Istanbul as coordinator for Harvard Summer School's "History and Human Rights" program, directed by Cemal Kafadar and taught in partnership with Sabancı University. In the winter he led a new J-term student excursion organized by CMES, bringing students to sites in Istanbul and the Turkish Aegean. In the fall he taught a world history survey course at Soka University of America, in Aliso Viejo, California. A contributor to the Digital Ottoman Platform inaugurated by Amy Singer in 2015, Jesse is currently developing a digital project on Ottoman infrastructure and international travel networks in the Balkan Peninsula.



Veronika Poier

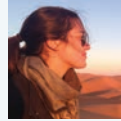
Veronika is a second year graduate student of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. Before joining the program she completed a Mag. Phil. in Art History and Architecture and a Mag. Phil. in Romance languages at Vienna University, as well as a MA in History with a focus on Ottoman History at Bilgi University in Istanbul. Veronika also studied Middle Eastern studies at Leiden and interned at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Prior to coming to Harvard, Veronika was an intern in the Islamic Art Museum in the Pergamonmuseum in Berlin, where she assisted Julia Gonnella in curating the exhibition "Love for Pleasure. Wine, Tobacco and Drugs in Indian paintings." Veronika is spending her summer learning Arabic in an intensive summer program in Rabat, Morocco.



Mira Xenia Schwerda

Mira is a student in Harvard University's dual PhD program in Middle Eastern Studies and History of Art and Architecture. Her main interests are Middle Eastern and Central Asian photography and print. Mira's dissertation focuses on the visual imagery of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution. Her main adviser is Professor David J. Roxburgh. Currently, Mira is working with Mary McWilliams, the Curator of Islamic Art at the Harvard Art Museums, to prepare for a 2017 exhibition and catalogue on Qajar Iran. She will be a graduate intern at the HAM during the academic year 2016/2017.

Before coming to Harvard, Mira earned two MA degrees, from Princeton University in Islamic Art History, and from the University of Tübingen in Modern History, Iranian Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies. In the summer of 2015 Mira was a Smithsonian History of Art Pre-doctoral fellow, and in October 2015 Mira's article "Death on Display: Mirza Reza Kirmani, Prison Portraiture and the Depiction of Public Executions in Qajar Iran" was published in the *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* (Brill).



Abbey Stockstill

Abbey is in the fifth year of her PhD, which she has spent working on her dissertation and teaching in the department. She designed and taught one of the sophomore tutorials, a course titled *Objects, Identity and Exchange in the Medieval Mediterranean*, which explored—through artistic production—how religious, ethnic and social identities were fluid categories that responded to changing political, economic and personal circumstances. She presented at Dumbarton Oaks' graduate student workshop *Frontiers in Urban Landscape Research*, in November 2015, and in January 2016, participated in Morocco's first annual *Festival de l'Architecture* at the behest of the *Ministère de l'Urbanisme*. In March 2016, she gave a talk at Oxford University titled "A Mediterranean Form in a Maghrebi Context: Understanding Almohad Marrakesh" as part of the Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities' conference titled *Urban Identities Between the Civic and the Ethnic*. She was named a William R. Tyler Fellow in Dumbarton Oaks' Garden and Landscape Studies department, where she will begin working in September 2016.



Melis Taner

Melis is a seventh-year PhD candidate, interested in early modern painting. She has recently completed her dissertation titled, "Caught in a Whirlwind: Painting in Late Sixteenth-Early Seventeenth Century Baghdad." She is interested in questions of sub-royal patronage, painting in the provinces, as well as Ottoman-Safavid relations. She is also preparing an essay on an illustrated manuscript of the *Farhad and Shirin* of Vahshi (d. 1583), which is among the collection of Persian manuscripts of Bernard Berenson (1865–1959) at Villa I Tatti, and on an illustrated manuscript of the *Divan of Baki* at the Harvard Art Museums. Following her doctoral degree, she will be taking up a one-year post-doctoral research fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Deniz Türker

Deniz is in the seventh and final year of her graduate studies. She holds a Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship and is currently finishing up her dissertation titled “Ottoman Victoriana: Nineteenth-Century Sultans and the Making of a Palace, 1836-1909.” This past academic year, she was invited by Simmons College’s History and Archives Management Program to give a lecture on the contents and organization of the Ottoman archives that she utilized during her dissertation research. She has also completed the manuscript of her essay, “Ottoman Horticulture after the Tulip Era: Botanizing Consuls, Garden Diplomacy, and the First Foreign Head-Gardener” that will appear in the volume of essays entitled *Botany of Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century* published by the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Museum. Deniz has spent the rest of her time delighting in watching her fourteen-month-old son Rui grow into an active, inquisitive member of the family. In the coming year, she will begin a lectureship at the University of Cambridge as the Fari Sayeed Fellow.



Meredyth Winter

Meredyth, a PhD candidate in Middle Eastern Studies and History of Art and Architecture, has just completed her third year and her general exams. She holds a BA from the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, and an MA from the Bard Graduate Center, New York. Her work engages with the material culture of the Late Abbasid period, especially textiles. Over the academic year, she gained her first exposure to teaching, instructing courses on architecture, an experience she found very rewarding.

This summer Meredyth will be engrossed in archives and historical texts. In the fall, her attention will turn to European museum collections in possession of medieval Islamic silks. As she undertakes the first stages of research for her dissertation on luxury silks associated with the Buyids and Seljuks, she is keen to explore the societal mechanisms which led dynasties to emulate one another and which prompted ruptures in style and technique.



Özge Yıldız

Özge is a first-year PhD student in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. Her main advisor is Professor Gülru Necipoğlu. Before coming to Harvard, Özge earned an MA degree from Koç University in Archaeology and History of Art Department, and she was nominated for the Graduate School of Social Sciences and Humanities Excellence Award from her faculty. She holds two Bachelor’s Degrees, from the Department of History of Art at Istanbul University (2003), and following a brief professional career in arts management, from the Department of Archaeology and History of Art at Koç University (2013). Her main focus is on seventeenth-century Ottoman architectural culture in Istanbul and Edirne. Özge has given several conference presentations in the last few years, including a presentation at a Graduate Workshop in Ottoman Studies at University of Oxford. She is looking forward to learning Arabic in Jordan during the summer 2016 break.

2015-2016 Visiting Student



Mustafa Çağhan Keskin

Çağhan is a PhD candidate at Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Faculty of Architecture, History of Architecture Program. His dissertation focuses on the Yorguc Pasha Family's Architectural Patronage in the 15th Century Ottoman Vilâyet-i Rûm. He received his MS from ITU Faculty of Architecture in 2011, History of Architecture Program; he received his BA from ITU Faculty of Architecture in 2008. Çağhan has been a research assistant in ITU's Department of Architecture since 2011. He received a research fellowship from The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) in 2015, and for the 2015-16 academic year he was a visiting scholar at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. Çağhan's area of interest is Early Ottoman Architecture, and he has published several articles and given conference presentations focused on the actors of 15th century Ottoman Architecture as architects, masters and patrons.

Staff



Karen A. Leal

Karen is the Managing Editor for *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World*. The fall of 2015 saw the publication of *Muqarnas* 32, a special issue guest-edited by Olga Bush and Avinoam Shalem and subtitled "Gazing Otherwise: Modalities of Seeing In and Beyond the Lands of Islam." Karen is currently editing *Muqarnas* 33, containing articles that range chronologically and geographically from a study of architectural innovations in the early mosque under the Umayyads to an analysis of archaeological finds in medieval Armenia, the book culture of Bijapur, and a discussion of a nineteenth-century Muslim cemetery in Malta. Karen is also editing the next volume in the Supplements to *Muqarnas* series.

Karen received her AB *summa cum laude* in the Classics (Greek and Latin), as well as her AM and PhD in History and Middle Eastern Studies, from Harvard University. After finishing her dissertation on "The Ottoman State and the Greek Orthodox of Istanbul: Sovereignty and Identity at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century," she was an editor and translator for the Ottoman Court Records Project. She later taught in New York at St. John's University, where she was named a Vincentian Research Fellow and served as an adviser to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. She has held fellowships from the Library of

Congress, the Fulbright Commission, the Packard Humanities Institute, and the Institute for Turkish Studies, among others. She is currently working on an article on "An Ottoman Egyptian Obelisk in New York: An Examination of Shifting Landscapes in the Gilded Age." However, her research normally focuses on the relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in the Ottoman Empire, Ottoman and European cross-cultural exchange, and the effects of the Greco-Roman tradition on Ottoman culture. A chapter she wrote on "The Balat District of Istanbul: Multiethnicity on the Golden Horn" appears in *The Architecture and Memory of the Minority Quarter in the Muslim Mediterranean City*, ed. Susan Gilson Miller and Mauro Bertagnin (Aga Khan Program, Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Harvard University Press, 2010).



Cecily Pollard

Cecily is the Program Administrator for the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture in the History of Art and Architecture Department at Harvard University. Cecily received her BA, *summa cum laude*, from Northeastern University in Boston, majoring in Art with a concentration in Art History in 2002. Her field of interest is Italian Renaissance Art History, and she spent two undergraduate semesters in Florence before returning there in 2004 to work as a teaching assistant for a year. She has worked in the development departments of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Peabody Essex Museum of Salem; and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She is currently a candidate for a Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies, field of Museum Studies, at Harvard University Extension School, and expects to graduate in 2017. Cecily joined the AKPIA as Program Administrator for the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture in November 2013.



András Riedlmayer

As bibliographer in Islamic art and architecture, András has directed AKPIA's Documentation Center at Harvard's Fine Arts Library since 1985. He is responsible for acquiring, preserving, and providing reference and access to North America's largest and most comprehensive research collection on the visual cultures of the Islamic world. What he enjoys most is assisting students, faculty, and visiting scholars with their research.

In October 2015, András spoke at an intensive short course, *Islamic Manuscript Collections in Conflict Zones: Safeguarding Written Heritage*, organized by the Islamic Manuscript Association and held at the Royal United Services Institute and held at the Whitehall in London. In November, he was invited to present a lecture, "Islamic Art and Culture in Bosnia: Past and Future of a 600-year-old European Heritage," at the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah in Kuwait. In January 2016, he was part of a panel of experts at the premiere showing in New York of the documentary film, *The Destruction of Memory: The War against Culture, and the Battle to Save It*, sponsored by the World Monuments Fund. The film is based in part on András' work with heritage in the Balkans.

2015-2016 ACTIVITIES

2015-2016 SYMPOSIUM



Scales of Syria Symposium
March 25, 2016

The symposium explored the Syrian refugee crisis as a result of the civil war. In view of the unprecedented scale of exodus—now surpassing that of Europe during and in the wake of World War II—the symposium offered a set of reflections about Syria’s own future, as it remains intimately connected to its countryside. Questions examined were: What does it mean

to re-establish roots in this context? How do we grapple with the complex ways in which displacement has affected, and been affected by the Syrian countryside? As a potential ground for refuge, one of the most significant aspects of that countryside, which composes the vast majority of Syrian land, is that it remains unexplored: agriculture, technology, archaeology, and infrastructure are all waiting to happen. The afternoon included remarks by Harvard GSD Dean Mohsen Mostafavi, reflections by experts in the field, and student presentations.

2015-2016 AGA KHAN PROGRAM LECTURES

Detachment Down South: On Salvage Operations and City-Making
AbdouMaliq Simone
April 6, 2016

This lecture explored the ways that cultural interchanges, economic flows, governance regimes, histories, and alliances actively articulate places in multiple and shifting ways. The global South (composed by Jakarta, Johannesburg, Sao Paulo, Delhi, and other metropolitan areas in the Southern Hemisphere) conventionally refers to urban zones in the Southern Hemisphere, constituted by shared subjections to colonialism, underdevelopment, and city-making processes that proceed by culturally dystonic impositions of planning, infrastructure, policy, and provisionally assembled local compensations. The presentation focused on analyzing the quick transformation that the “global South” is

facing and on exploring the idea of an urban South, with the aim of relocating it “as a kind of elsewhere at the interior of a seemingly hegemonic trajectory that converts urban space into a uniform everywhere.”



“The Contested Heritage of the Old City of Saida, Lebanon”
Howayda Al-Harith
May 5, 2016

“Islamic Landscape: Environmental and Sensory Paradigms”
D. Fairchild Ruggles
May 10, 2016

Under the auspices of the Aga Khan Program, Howayda Al-Harith, professor at the American University in Beirut, Department of Architecture and Design, and D. Fairchild Ruggles, professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Landscape Architecture, were invited to deliver talks on their current work and research in Muslim societies.

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

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2015-2016 COURSES

FALL 2015

Extreme Urbanism IV: Looking at Hyper Density, Dongri, Mumbai

Rahul Mehrotra

This course addresses the challenge of leveraging the existing extremes of metropolitan and parcel-scaled development policies in Mumbai, India. It investigates the development promoted by this approach through a series of transects in the inner city of Mumbai and explores strategies to reinforce and extend existing urban fabrics—making these transitions easier for local communities. This course is offered in Dongri, a dense residential neighborhood in Mumbai that historically was largely inhabited by the Ismaili community. It houses the Jammat Khana, a religious space integral to its local identity, and is bound by major transit corridors on two sides with a strong trade-oriented street culture. Students are asked to take up an individual block within the site and reconfigure it while imagining more accommodative and pleasurable futures for the scale and uses of existing street networks.

Living in the Kinetic City: Mapping Housing in a Landscape of Flux, Mumbai

Rahul Mehrotra

This course explores housing typologies in Mumbai. Students examine a set of sites from different perspectives, including politics and policy of housing, questioning notions of

affordability and amenities, historic evolutions of form and infrastructure, issues of public health and sanitation, and access to broader urban systems such as transportation. Housing types include slum relocation schemes, incremental approaches to slum upgradation, site and service projects, historic worker's chawls and private community-built housing, a sampling of diverse public-private development initiatives as well as privately-driven redevelopment projects. At the end of the course, students prepare proposals in the following areas: mappings and projection of the location of the site in relation to larger urban systems, speculations at the scale of the building artifact, and identifying potentials at the scale of the individual unit.

GSD Publications

New Geographies 8: ISLAND

Editors: Daniel Daou and Pablo Pérez-Ramos

“Everything is connected to everything else’ is the unofficial slogan of our times. But is it really, and if so, is this desirable?” Based on this reflection, *New Geographies 8* explores the geo-philosophic notion of boundaries through the figure of the island, and proposes new limits for this master metaphor, suggesting a basis for a reinvigorated universalism.



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

Faculty



Rahul Mehrotra

Rahul is the Professor of Urban Design and Planning. During the 2015–2016 academic year, Rahul continued teaching several courses at the Harvard Graduate School of Design focused on urban planning and design. A practicing architect and urban designer, he founded RMA Architects in Mumbai and has designed and executed projects for clients that include government and non-governmental agencies, corporations as well as private individuals, and institutions. The firm is currently working on a social housing project for 100 elephants and their caretakers in Jaipur as well as a corporate office in Hyderabad and several single family houses in different parts of India.

Rahul has written and lectured extensively on issues to do with architecture, conservation, and urban planning in Mumbai and India. His current research involves looking at India's medium-sized cities and the broader emergent patterns of urbanism in India. He has run several studios looking at various aspects of planning questions in the city of Mumbai, under the rubric of "extreme urbanism." Rahul is a member of the steering committee of the South Asia Initiative at Harvard, curating their series on urbanization, in addition to leading a University-wide research project called "The Kumbh Mela— Mapping the Ephemeral City."



Sibel Bozdogan

Sibel is Lecturer in Urban Planning and Design. During the 2015–2016 academic year, Sibel continued to serve as a lecturer and scholarly writer at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, focusing on the cross-cultural histories of modern architecture and urbanism in Europe, the U.S., the Mediterranean, and the Middle East, with a specialization in Turkey. She currently serves as chair of the new Architecture Department of Istanbul Kadir Has University. With her research interests refocused on Istanbul's urban history, especially on issues of public space, urban heritage and collective memory, she is also coordinating the Istanbul portal of the Harvard Urban Humanities Research project, funded by the Mellon Foundation.



Hanif Kara

Hanif is Professor in Practice of Architectural Technology. Over the 2015–2016 academic year, Hanif continued his work as a practicing structural engineer in addition to his role as professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. His work is recognized as being linked with the research and education areas of design. As design director and co-founder of AKTII, a London-based structural engineering firm, his particular "design-led" approach and interest in innovative form, sustainable construction, and complex analysis methods have allowed him to work on pioneering projects such as Phaeno Science Centre, Peckham Library, and Masdar Institute of Science and Technology. Hanif was appointed to the steering committee for the Aga Khan Awards for Architecture in 2015. He also serves as a review panel member of the National Centres of Competence in Research (Digital Fabrication) at ETH Zurich. Hanif has contributed to a number of widely-published works. Most recently he edited "Deliverance of Design—making, mending and revitalising structures," a look at the works of AKT II from 1996–2016, and *Design Engineering Re-Focused* by Wiley Publications.

2015-2016 Students



Samaa Elimam

Samaa is a second-year PhD student interested in the intersection between aesthetics, preservation, and technology. She studies the way modern institutions, technologies, and attitudes are articulated across the built environment in the transnational context, and how they shape the spatial imaginary. Past research has explored the way 18th-century surveying and mapping techniques coalesced to imagine broader geographies in the Mediterranean, and aesthetic and intellectual exchanges between modernist architecture and large-scale engineering works in the late 19th century. Samaa holds a master's in architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and a bachelor's in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley.

As a designer in the U.S. and the Middle East, Samaa collaborated on projects that ranged from residences in Los Angeles and Dubai, an urban center on the Nile alongside Cairo's largest informal settlement, and a vision to expand the Grand Mosque of Makkah. She also served as a research and teaching assistant while at the Graduate School of Design, and as a visiting design studio instructor at the American University in Cairo. At Harvard, Samaa helped organize several conferences and events, including curating an exhibition at the Radcliffe Institute on the transformation of public spaces in Cairo.



Tamer Elshayal

Tamer is a PhD candidate whose research lies at the intersection of urban theory, critical geography, environmental anthropology, and science and technology studies. His current work seeks to examine the shifting spatiality of mega-engineering in the Middle East through the study of spatial and cultural politics of large infrastructural projects. Tamer is a member of the Spatial Ethnography Lab and of Neil Brenner's Urban Theory Lab at the Graduate School of Design. He holds a master's in urbanism, landscape, and ecology from Harvard, a master's from FH Anhalt, Germany, a post-professional certificate in GIS and environment from Salford University, England; and a bachelor's in architecture from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Egypt.

Tamer previously worked as a research assistant for the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure, focusing on water and energy infrastructure in the U.S. His research proposal on the nexus of international development, national planning institutions, and mega-projects of infrastructure in Mubarak's Egypt has been recently awarded the Social Science Research Council's Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship to conduct exploratory fieldwork and archival research in Cairo. He was also awarded the Penny White summer grant to conduct fieldwork in Egypt, investigating the

infrastructural landscapes of coastal engineering works in the Nile Delta. Tamer has previously worked as landscape architect in Germany and Egypt, and as an environmental researcher at the Center for the Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Cairo.



Natalia Escobar

Natalia is an instructor of architectural conservation and a PhD candidate interested in urban and architectural conservation. She examines the concept of place resulting from the intersection of memory and space in modern Western countries. Trained as an architect, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Universidad de Sevilla in Spain and L'Ecole Nationale d'Architecture de Strasbourg in France, respectively, and her master's in design studies from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She recently presented "Historic Cities in Continuous Evolution" at the Society of Architectural Historians conference in Chicago and is currently the invited editor for the upcoming journal publication *Materia Architectura* on "Conservation as an Expanded Field." Natalia has recently completed a stint at the UNESCO World Heritage Center in the Department of Historic Cities.



Ghazal Jafari

Ghazal is a designer, researcher, and a doctor of design candidate at Harvard Graduate School of Design. Her research focuses on logistical landscapes, and her work investigates the new modalities of management and governance, their hardware/software infrastructure, currency, territorial integrity, securitization, and organizational protocols. She is also interested in exploring the trajectory of geographic knowledge and logistical space in the military. Ghazal is cofounder of Op.N, an interdisciplinary design and research office based in Cambridge and Toronto. She has also worked with established design firms in Toronto and Tehran, most recently at Planning Alliance and Regional Architects. She holds a master's in design studies in urbanism, landscape, and ecology from Harvard, and two professional degrees in urbanism and architecture from University of Toronto, Canada, and Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, Iran. Ghazal has received several awards and her work has been exhibited in Toronto, New York, San Francisco, and Montreal, and has been featured in *Azure*, *MONU*, *Harvard Design Magazine*, and *Domus*.

2015-2016 STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Admitting One New PhD Student

Sarah Rifky

MFA Malmo Art Academy
Graduation 2021

Admitting Three New SMArchS Students

Rio Fischer

BA Claremont McKenna College
Graduation 2017

Ali Khodr

BAR American
University of Beirut
Graduation 2017

Alexis LeFort

2016 Admission Deferred
MA University of Texas
San Antonio

Graduating One PhD Student

Yavuz Sezer

Dissertation: The Architecture of Bibliophilia:
Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Libraries

Graduating Three SMArchS Students

Muneerah Alrabe

Thesis: *Spatial Practice: The Politics of "Activating"
Public Space in the State of Kuwait*

Tanya Ismail

Thesis: *Passive Architecture Tool for Exploratory
Design: Case of Qatar*

Francesca Liuni

Thesis: *Experiencing Mathematical Proves: Syntax
of an Astrolabe*

Student Travel Grant Awards

Suzanne Harris-Brandts

*The role of architecture in transforming the public
imaginaries of post-Soviet Baku, Azerbaijan*

Francis Goyes

*Refugees, Incremental Housing, and Shelter in the
21st Century
Amman, Jordan*

Valeria Vidal Alvarado

*Refugees, Incremental Housing, and Shelter in the
21st Century
Amman, Jordan*

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Filippo De Dominicis

University IUAV of Venice
In MIT residence 01/16- 05/16
Topic: *Islamic sub-Saharan Africa and Post-War
Modern Urbanism. The Khartoum, Fort-Lamy and
Dakar testing-ground experiences (1958-1968)*

Jan Haenraets

Director, Atelier Anonymous, Vancouver
In MIT residence 09/15- 02/16
Topic: *The Mughal Terrace Gardens of Kashmir,
India: A comparative inquiry into the origins,
typology and horticulture*

Mika Natif

The George Washington University
In MIT residence 09/15- 11/15
Topic: *Concepts of city-scape architecture,
landscape and perspective in early Mughal
painting*

Anas Soufan

University of Geneva
Maison des Artistes de Paris
In MIT residence 09/15-02/16
Topic: *The appropriation of Syrian urban space
by an Islamic art in the era of modernity: Case of
Damascus 1839-1963*

2015-2016 LECTURES & ACTIVITIES

FALL 2015 LECTURE SERIES



September 28

Premises for Practice

Hashim Sarkis

Dean, MIT School of Architecture & Planning

October 5

When Politics and Architecture Collide

Hisham Munir

Architect & Planner, Hisham Munir & Associates

October 19

The Role of Micro-architecture and Topography in Early Mughal Planning

Mika Natif

The George Washington University, AKPIA@MIT Post-Doctoral Fellow

November 9

A Shift to Modernity in the Art and Architecture of Damascus, 1860-1963

Anas Soufan

AKPIA@MIT Post-Doctoral Fellow

SPRING 2016 LECTURE SERIES



February 22

Terrace Gardens in Mughal Kashmir

Jan Haenraets

AKPIA@MIT Post-Doctoral Fellow
Director, Atelier Anonymus, Vancouver

February 29

*In collaboration with MIT ACT
Drafting exhibitions: empathy and artistic relations. An old way that might be the best way of doing things - beyond the notion of professionalism*

Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev

Director of Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Turin

March 14

Omani 'New Towns' of the 17th Century: Birkat Al-Mawra and Al-Hamra

Soumyen Bandyopadhyay

Sir James Stirling Chair in Architecture
University of Liverpool

April 4

*Towards a Multiscale Human Environment:
Islamic sub-Saharan Africa and Post-war Modern Urbanism*

Filippo De Dominicis

AKPIA@MIT Post-Doctoral Fellow

2015-2016 SYMPOSIUM

Symposium: New Frontiers in Gulf Urbanism
March 11-12, 2016



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

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2015-2016

Presentations and Closing Remarks

James Wescoat

Aga Khan Professor, MIT

Soumyen Bandyopadhyay

Sir James Stirling Chair in Architecture
University of Liverpool

Samia Kirchner

Architecture + Urban Design
Morgan State University

Stephen Ramos

College of Environment & Design
University of Georgia

Attilio Petruccioli

Msheireb Properties Chair in
Architecture, Qatar University

April 29, 2016

Presentations by the 2015-16 AKPIA@MIT Travel
Grant Recipients

Karthik Rao Cavale

*The Road to Dalit Mobility: Rural Roads and Caste
Relations in India*
Tamil Nadu, India

Dina El-Zanfaly

Making to Learn and Learning to Make
Turkey

Alpen Sheth (Via Skype)

*Disaster Insurance as planning? Field Visit to
Disaster-prone Areas.*
India

March 12

Roundtable: New Frontiers in Gulf Urbanism,
with the same group as above

Welcome

Hashim Sarkis

Dean

School of Architecture & Planning, MIT

Opening Remarks

Sharon Smith

Program Head

Aga Khan Documentation Center, MIT

2015-2016 COURSES

FALL 2015

4.612

Islamic Architecture & the Environment

James Wescoat



Studies how Islamic architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning reflect and transform environmental processes in various regions and climates of the Islamic world, from Andalusia to Southeast Asia, with an emphasis on South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Using systematic approaches to environmental data collection and analysis, examines strategies behind the design of selected architectural elements and landscape design types, ranging in scale from the fountain to the garden, courtyard, city, and agrarian region. Critically explores cultural interpretations of Islamic environmental design (e.g., paradise gardens), as they developed over time in ways that enrich, modify, or obscure their historical significance.

4.625J /11.378J

Water Planning, Policy & Design

James Wescoat



Focuses on water in environmental planning, policy, and design. Draws together faculty and students who are working on water-related research projects to develop and maintain a current perspective on the field from the site to metropolitan and international scales.

4.614

Architecture in the Islamic World

Christian Hedrick



Introduces the history of Islamic cultures that spans fourteen centuries and three continents - Asia, Africa, Europe and recent developments in the United States. Studies a number of representative examples, from the House of the Prophet to the present, in conjunction with their urban, social, political, and intellectual environments. Presents Islamic architecture both as a full-fledged historical tradition and as a dynamic and interactive cultural catalyst that influenced and was influenced by the civilizations with which it came in contact.

4.621

Orientalism & Representation

Sibel Bozdogan



Seminar on the historiography and politics of representation with special focus on Orientalist traditions in architecture, art, literature, and scholarship. Critically analyzes pivotal texts, projects, and images that informed the cross-cultural encounters between the West and the Orient from Antiquity to the present. Discusses how political and ideological attitudes and religious beliefs informed both the construction and reproduction of Western knowledge about the Islamic world as well as the revisionist Oriental self-representations. Research paper required.

SPRING 2016

4.623

Islamic Gardens & Geographies

James Wescoat



This seminar focuses on the historical geography of Islamic gardens, from Andalusia to Southeast Asia, with an emphasis on the Indian subcontinent. We critically engage evidence from archaeological, art historical, and cartographic sources, and explore strategies for generating integrative interpretations of historic landscapes. Topics include gardens, cities, cultural landscapes, and political territories, along with their contemporary significance for cultural heritage conservation and design. Limited to 15.

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Faculty



Nasser Rabbat

Nasser, the Director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT, was on sabbatical 2015-16. He spent the summer and fall 2015 as Senior Fellow, Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, at the University of Bonn, Germany, and the spring 2016 as a resident fellow at the Institut d'études avancées, Paris, France. His main project of research for the year was to complete an intellectual biography of the 15th century historian al-Maqrizi who wrote the first true urban history of Cairo. He is also editing a book of collected essays on Islamic art in French.

During the year, Nasser published several articles and reviews in journal and edited books, including *Artforum*, *Yale Law School Occasional Papers*, and *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Arab Culture*. He also continued to contribute regularly to two Arabic newspapers, *al-Hayat* and *al-Arabi al-Jadid*, on current political and cultural issues. He became involved in the debate on the preservation of the heritage in Syria and in the planning for reconstruction in his devastated native country. He was guest in several episodes of the BBC series: the Museum of Lost Objects <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0738jc2/episodes/player>, and in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfkPOFH7fwM&nohtml5>.

He also consulted on a number of museum exhibitions, including the Jardins d'Orient at the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA) in Paris,

<http://www.imarabe.org/exposition/jardins-d-orient>, and a planned show on the history of Syria in the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. During the year, Nasser participated and gave keynote speeches in conferences in Kavala, Greece; IUAV, School of Architecture, Venice, Italy; Bonn University, Germany; Harvard Seminar, Cambridge University, UK; AUB, Beirut, Lebanon; Middle East Center, Oxford, UK; Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; and the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris.



James Wescoat

Jim is an Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture with research and teaching interests in Indo-Islamic gardens and water systems. He became Associate Department Head and director of the Architecture and Urbanism program at MIT in 2015. He also serves on the MIT Planning Committee and MIT Tata Center for Technology and Design steering committee.

Jim collaborated with the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services, India, on a symposium and student design workshop on water in peri-urbanizing areas that led to a book titled, *Design to Sustain – Towards Effective Water Management through Habitat Development* (Mumbai, 2015). A related essay on the “Political ecology of environmental risks and hazards” was published in the *Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology* (2015).

When back from sabbatical he launched two new AKPIA graduate seminar courses, one on *Islamic Architecture and the Environment* and the other on *Islamic Gardens and Geographies*. Working with AKPIA graduate students and Dr. Sharon Smith of the Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT, they organized a symposium on *The Future of Gulf Urbanism*, which featured talks by Dean Hashim Sarkis, former AKPIA director Attilio Petruccioli, AKPIA alumna Samia

Kirchner, AKPIA GSD alumnus Stephen Ramos, and Soumyen Bandhopadhyay of the University of Liverpool.

In 2015-16, Jim initiated research with the MIT-Tata Center for Technology and Design on “Rural Water Planning in Maharashtra” and “Evaluating Off-Grid Hydro Energy Systems in Irregular Channel Flow for Intensive Agriculture in Developing Countries.” His research group published an article on national and state rural water monitoring in India in *Water Policy* (2016). He continued his longstanding research on historical and contemporary water systems in Pakistan as a member of the Advisory Board for the Syed Babar Ali School of Science and Engineering at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). In 2016, LUMS launched a new Centre for Water Informatics and Technology, for which Jim serves as chair of the international Advisory Group.



Sibel Bozdogan

Sibel is Lecturer at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University (since 2000) and Chair of the new Architecture Department, Kadir Has University in Istanbul (since 2014); she holds a professional degree in architecture from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey (1976) and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania (1983); she has taught at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, MIT and Istanbul Bilgi University, offering courses on critical theories and transnational histories of modern architecture and urbanism. Her many publications include *Modernism and Nation Building: Turkish Architectural Culture in the Early Republic* (University of Washington Press, 2001) which was the recipient of the 2002 Alice Davis Hitchcock Award of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Köprülü Book Prize of the Turkish Studies Association and *Turkey: Modern Architectures in History* (Reaktion Books, 2012, co-authored with Esra Akcan). She is currently working on Istanbul’s social, cultural and urban history, both at Harvard University where she is the Istanbul Portal Coordinator of the Mellon Urban Humanities project and in the Istanbul Studies Center of Kadir Has University.



Christian Hedrick

Christian holds a PhD in architectural history from MIT’s doctoral program in the History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. He recently taught Architecture in the Islamic World at MIT and two courses on the global history of architecture at Northeastern University. He is currently Digital Humanities Research Associate at the Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT where he is leading a new research initiative focused on pedagogy and architectural history. The project involves the design and development of online course curricula and other exclusively digital content for instructors teaching subjects related to Islamic art and architecture. Christian was also recently a co-recipient of a grant from the Global History of Architecture Teaching Collaborative for a project titled “Islamic Architecture: A Global History.” He has recently published in the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians and he continues to work on his book manuscript based on his dissertation entitled *Modernism with Style: Form, Meaning and the Origins of Modern Architecture in Berlin, 1780-1870*.

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

2015-2016 Post-Doctoral Fellows



Filippo De Dominicis

Filippo (Rome, 1982), studied Architecture in Brussels and Rome. Erasmus and Cornelius Hertling EU fellow in 2006 and 2012, he holds a PhD in Architectural Design and Theory from Sapienza University of Rome (2012) and a MArch from the same University (2008). His research at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT investigates the relationship between the sub-Saharan environment and the multiscale planning process established by the European planners and the most prominent Panafrican leaders. Filippo's current research topic arises from a three-years study of the traditional sub-Saharan environment, carried out during his post-doctoral appointment at the University IUAV of Venice during which he pursued a special focus on the ecological and morphological mechanisms set up along the southern border of the Great Desert.

Filippo complements his academic involvement with a solid professional training. As architect and urban designer he has been involved in several projects in Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, collaborating both with international institutions and local stakeholders.



Jan Haenraets

Jan is Landscape Architect and Conservation Specialist, and Director at Atelier Anonymous, Vancouver, BC, a consultancy team in landscapes and public space, and is a co-founder of the AA-Global Landscape Foundation. He received his MA (University of York, UK, 2001) and PhD (De Montfort University, Leicester, 2010) in Conservation Studies (Historic Gardens & Landscapes). In 2015-16 he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at AKPIA at MIT with a research on the Mughal Terrace Gardens of Kashmir, India. His research conducted a comparative inquiry into the origins, typology and horticulture of this Mughal garden heritage. His research identified links between site selection and Mughal sovereignty and historic routes in this Himalayan region, and identified garden characteristics and typologies. Jan presented findings in the AKPIA's lecture series at MIT and is preparing a monograph and scholarly articles. He continues with on-site research and conservation advice, and identification of forgotten sites.



Mika Natif

Mika is an Assistant Professor of Art History at The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She is a historian of Islamic art focusing on the intercultural exchanges and global connections that Muslim societies forged with the European sphere in the pre-Modern era. Her primary field of research is book culture and painting, with special interest in Central Asia and India. Her publications include articles and book chapters on Islamic book arts, visual culture, idol anxiety, and objects of pilgrimage. Her current book manuscript, *Mughal Occidentalism*, explores the intercultural and artistic exchanges between Muslim India and Europe (to be published in 2017). She is also the co-editor and co-author of *Eros and Sexuality in Islamic Art* (Ashgate, 2013). As an AKPIA fellow and Associate, Mika is finishing writing the fourth chapter of her book, on gardens, landscape vignettes and micro architecture in Mughal illustrated manuscripts and paintings. Biennale Entitled "Between East and West: a Gulf".

2015-2016 PhD Students

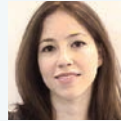


Anas Soufan

Anas is a Syrian artist and architect, and is founder of the Center of the History of Arab Modernity's Studies in Paris. He holds a bachelor and MA from the Faculty of Architecture in the University of Damascus, a DEA in History from Université Paris I – Pantheon – Sorbonne, and a PhD in Art History from Ecole pratique des Hautes Etudes – Sorbonne. Since 2013, he has held a postdoctoral position at the University of Geneva.

His scholarly interests include the history and historiography of architecture of Modernity in Syria during the 19th century until 1963, the Ottoman tanzimat and colonial and post-colonial criticism. In addition to several articles in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish, Anas' first manuscript, a critical study related to the Ottoman and French administrative and legislative influences on the architectural mutations in Syria, will be published in Paris in the end of 2015.

Among the lectures Anas gave in 2014 are "Istanbul – Damascus: transcultural memory and architecture of Modernity prototyping," Istanbul 29 Mayıs University, May, 2014; "Post-conflict urban and architectural reconstruction process: 1910-1950s Syrian Style as experimented historic case," University of Southern Denmark, Odense, May, 2014; "Arab Nationalism in the emergence of the 1910-1950s Syrian Style," University of Basel, Switzerland, September 2014.



Sara Berger

Sara is a PhD candidate with interests in aesthetics, film, and literary theory. Her dissertation reconsiders questions of time and the image as they relate to the pre-history of cinema in nineteenth-century France.

Sara holds an AM in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University, where she concentrated on Arabic literature and poetics. Prior to that she received a BA in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies from Boston College. She has also previously worked as a teacher and translator.



Azra Dawood

Azra is an architect and fifth-year PhD candidate with research interests in American patronage and philanthropy, post/colonial architecture, and the historiography of objects and collections. Her dissertation, "John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and the Architecture of Protestant Internationalism (1919-1946)," challenges architectural history's emphasis on architects as authors of buildings, positing instead the patron as an ideological and architectural form-giver. By presenting Rockefeller's theological and political ideology as a unifying foundation for his patronage, Azra shows how to conceptualize his eclectic architectural legacy into a coherent oeuvre. She focuses primarily on Rockefeller's projects in the U.S., France, and the Near East.

Azra has worked as an architect in Karachi, Austin and New York. She received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin (2001) and a Master of Science in Architecture Studies from MIT (2010). She is also a recipient of the SOM Foundation's 2010 Travel/Research Fellowship.



Chantal El Hayek

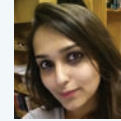
Chantal is a third year SMArchS student. She will be joining the PhD program at MIT in Fall 2015. Her research interests concentrate on the intersection between trade and the production of space with an emphasis on connections between France and the Eastern Mediterranean world in the nineteenth century through WWII. She applies political and economic concerns to studying urban development and planning and architectural history. Her thesis examined the marketplaces of Beirut in the late Ottoman and French Colonial periods and their transformation as they become hitched to a new international economic network.

Chantal holds a post-professional Masters in Architecture from Princeton University and a Bachelor in Architecture from the Lebanese American University. Before joining MIT, she was a tutor at the Lebanese American University in Beirut. She has taught architectural design and theory and conducted workshops on Mediterranean cities in the Levant and in Europe with the Mies van der Rohe Foundation. Chantal has also worked as an architect in Lebanon and the United States.



Iheb Guemarmazi

Iheb is a PhD student, His research interests include the place of postmodern architectural theory in postcolonial contexts, modern and contemporary narratives of regionalism and questions of identity and representation in architecture. In his Master's thesis "Archeology of Postmodern Architecture," he tried to understand the emergence of Postmodernism and its relationship to late Modernism while examining the discursive dimension of the two movements. As a Fulbright Scholar, Iheb completed a Masters in History and Theory at the University of Washington. He also holds a Bachelor and a Masters in Architecture from the University of Carthage in Tunisia. He has worked at various architectural practices in France and China where he was involved in the design of cultural projects, social housings and high-rise buildings. Aside from English, Iheb speaks Arabic and French, along with some Spanish.



Huma Gupta

Huma is a fourth year PhD candidate in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. Her dissertation is tentatively titled "Informal Settlements and the Formation of Modern Iraq." She previously graduated from MIT's Department of Urban Studies with a Master's in City Planning in 2011 and has a BA in Middle Eastern History from the University of Cincinnati. Her research interests lie in twentieth century urban planning practices and development discourses in the Middle East and Central Asia, specifically Baghdad, Damascus and Kabul. From 2011 to 2013, Huma worked in Afghanistan for Integrity Watch Afghanistan on training communities in seven provinces to monitor small infrastructure projects. Huma worked in Damascus for the Syrian Ministry of Local Administration & Environment in 2008. Her publications include, "Home Sweet Home: Housing Practices and Tools that Support Durable Solutions for Urban IDPs," www.internal-displacement.org (2015), "Community-Based Monitoring Toolkit," www.communitymonitoring.org (2013), and "Sex and Age Matter: Improving Humanitarian Response in Emergencies" (2011).



Sarah Rifky

Sarah is a PhD student of History, Theory and Criticism, currently in her second year. A writer and curator, she formerly co-founded and directed *Beirut*, an art institution in Cairo. Her scholarly interests include historiography of modern and contemporary art and institutions of the modern Middle East, language ideology, and cultural semiosis.

Sarah is a regular contributor to art publications, including *Art in America*, *Bidoun* and *Chimurenga* amongst others. She is currently writing a series of futuristic fables about a polyglot heroine named *Qalqalah*. Most recently, *Qalqalah's* story from language to art was published in the "The Curatorial Conundrum: What to Study? What to Research? What to Practice?" (MIT Press, 2016) edited by Paul O'Neill, Mick Wilson and Lucy Steed.

Sarah is the author of "The Going Insurrection: Der Gehende Aufstand" (Hatje Cantz, 2012) and co-editor of the book "Zeitgenössische Künstler aus der Arabischen Welt" (Steidl, 2013).



Yavuz Sezer

Yavuz was born in Istanbul in 1979. He graduated from the History Department of Boğaziçi University in Istanbul in 2002. He received his MA from the same department with a thesis on the perceptions of traditional residential architecture as a category of historic heritage in the early twentieth century in 2005. He began his PhD study at MIT-AKPIA in 2008. He is currently writing his dissertation, entitled "Architecture of Bibliophilia: Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Libraries," under the supervision of Nasser Rabbat. He presented a version of one of his chapters with the title "Pilgrimage to the Library: The Baytul Mamur Analogy in Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Libraries" in the workshop "Ottoman Manuscript Cultures" held at Deutsche Orient Institut in Istanbul in May 2014, and a section of another chapter with the title "Fatih I. Mahmut Kütüphanesi" (The Mahmut I Library at Fatih) in the conference "I. Mahmut ve Dönemi" (Mahmut I and His Period) organized at Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul in September 2014.

2015-2016 SMArchS Students



Muneerah Alrabe

Muneerah is a Master of Science of Architecture (SMArchS) candidate in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She holds a BArch from Syracuse University and has professional experience in the field of architecture and design in Kuwait and Germany. Her interests lie in the intersection of politics, sociology, economics and design in the Arab World. As a student of AKPIA, she has conducted research on the transnational power relations of the Gulf Cooperative Council's interconnection grid as a tool for regional power and nation building. In addition, she has investigated the current and past socio-political movements in Kuwait to understand their impact on urban form and urban life within Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf. For her thesis, she is investigating the socio-spatial politics of public space within Kuwait City. Muneerah was also in charge of the Student-led discussion following this year's AKPIA's Symposium titled, *New Frontiers in Gulf Urbanism*. Currently, she is the publication coordinator and editor for the upcoming research publication of the Kuwaiti Pavilion at the 2016 Venice.



Rio Fischer

Rio is a second year Master's student in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in philosophy and Middle Eastern Studies from Claremont McKenna in California. Rio's undergraduate thesis examined the works of Syrian novelist Hana Minah.

At MIT, Rio's research interests focus on intersecting spaces of theology, politics, and aesthetics. He continues to work with Professor James Wescoat. Their paper on Kalcutta's changing waterscape tracked land use and land reclamation in Bengal during Mughal rule.



Tanya Ismail

Tanya is a graduating student in the SMArchS program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her primary research explores sustainable strategies for improving the thermal comfort and resource efficiency of architecture and urbanism in hyper arid regions. She will be spending the summer as a research assistant with the Sustainable Design Lab producing an urban building energy model for Abu Dhabi.

Tanya holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Nottingham and a Masters of Science in Construction Economics and Management from University College London. Prior to joining MIT in Fall 2014, she worked for several years in Doha and London.



Ali Khodr

Ali is a SMArchS candidate at MIT in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. Ali received his Bachelor in Architecture from the American University of Beirut in 2015, where his thesis examined the creation of a museum of civilization to target the fragmentation of identity in the Levantine basin. His current research aims to tackle notions of nationalism and identity in the successive reconstructions of Beirut, his home city.

Administration



Francesca Liuni

Francesca is currently a graduating SMArchS student at MIT and she is conducting interdisciplinary research between Astronomy, Geometry, Mathematics and Architecture on medieval Islamic astronomy, which focuses on theories, instruments and buildings. The goal of her research is to create an interactive Lab/ Museum on Islamic historical astronomy, where visitors can understand theories, play with reconstructed instruments and view models of buildings.

She graduated in Architecture in Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy, and she started her professional career working on the archaeological reconstruction of the Hellenistic city of Kos, Greece. She also co-designed the interior renewal outfitting of the Archaeological Museum of Durazzo in Albania, and collaborated with the National Ministry for Cultural Heritage on landscape and architectural preservation.



José Luis Argüello

José Luis is responsible for all administrative and graphics/web-related tasks for the AKPIA Program. About his musical efforts, this year brought the rediscovery of Schumann's Kreisleriana, the last Hungarian Rhapsodies by Liszt and an interest in Aaron Copland's piano music. Studying the disturbing and satisfying Copland Variations, after maybe 40 years of fearful admiration, was an excellent adventure.

Aga Khan Documentation Center

Fiscal year 2015 has been busy and productive for AKDC@MIT. We are particularly proud to note that this year AKDC@MIT gained the status of an international research center. Within four years of establishing AKDC, our global reach is impressive. The Center has been sought out as a place for high quality research in the material and visual culture of Muslim societies from across the globe; in May 2015 alone, scholars from Australia, Italy, UAE, and Iran have come to the Center to do primary research. This is not an anomaly.

The Center has also gained a reputation for being on the forefront of digital humanities, with focus in material and visual culture of Muslim societies. Institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the British Library, and Cyark have sought to initiate partnership with AKDC. AKDC staff have worked diligently to establish the Center as a resource for primary research and as an authority in our field through discussions, skype calls, presentations, and collaborations, and these efforts, in tandem with those of AKPIA faculty, have succeeded. In meetings with the Metropolitan Museum of Art Islamic art department and their digital team, when asked why it was important to team with us, the curator responded, "Because they are the authority." We are actively working with a number of international institutions in a variety of ways: partnering on lectures; exhibitions (virtual and not); and publishing, to name a few.

AKDC@MIT has become a repository for select archives of noted academics, scholars, and architects working in the field. Through the

efforts of AKPIA and AKDC, some of most highly regarded scholars of Islamic art and architecture have donated their personal archives, including: Lisa Golombek and The Royal Ontario Museum; Yasser Tabbaa; and Hisham Munir.

AKDC staff have lectured widely this year on all aspects of our Center, topics concerning documenting cultural heritage, and in the field of Islamic art and architecture; including, but not limited to, Yale University; Aga Khan Museum; Middle East Studies Association annual meeting (panel organizer and speaker [two different panels]); Renaissance Society of America annual meeting; and at MIT.

The Aga Khan Documentation Center received an "at-risk collection" grant from Artstor to support the digitization of 35mm slides from the Mohamed Makiya Archive. Approximately 1,400 slides will be selected for digitization and added to Artstor's Shared Shelf Commons, the Digital Public Library of America, and Archnet.

The development of the Pedagogy Project—led by Sharon C. Smith and hosted on Archnet—is underway. The goal of the project is to make resources publicly available for teaching the subject of Islamic art and architecture.



Sharon C. Smith

Sharon earned her PhD in Art History from Binghamton University (SUNY) in 2009. Her areas of specialization include the history of art and architecture of the Middle East and of Early Modern Italy. Currently, she serves as the Program Head for the Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT where she is responsible for creating, developing, and leading a full array of services and programs in support of faculty, students, and researchers of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture and the larger community. Sharon also serves as Co-Director of Archnet, a globally-accessible, intellectual resource focused on architecture, urbanism, environmental and landscape design, visual culture, and conservation issues related to the Muslim world. Sharon has lectured widely on issues of documentation, digitization, and the dissemination of knowledge, as well as on art historical topics primarily focused on visual and material culture in the Early Modern Mediterranean.



Elisabeth Baldwin

Since 2008, Betsy has worked at MIT Libraries in varying capacities. She began at the Aga Khan Documentation Center processing the Mohamed Makiya Archive in 2012. She has been renewed for another 1-year term, and continues to process and catalog the archives donated to the Center. These include the Lisa Golombek, Marilyn Jenkins-Madina, Adrienne Minassian, Yasser Tabbaa, Isfahan Urban History Project, and the Timurid Architecture archives. Betsy assists faculty, students, and researchers from AKPIA MIT and Harvard, and others, with these archives, and selects items for digitization.

Betsy holds a BA from Hampshire College, earned her MLIS from Simmons in 2010, and her archivist certification through the Academy of Certified Archivists in 2012. Prior to working at MIT, Betsy was an archivist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Betsy is studying Arabic, and she is active with the Society of American Archivists, its Architectural Records, Visual Materials, and other committees.



Michael A. Toler

Michael works in the Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT, where he is Content Manager of Archnet. Prior to that he served as the program Director for the Al Musharaka Initiative of NITLE. He was responsible for development of content for the Arab Culture and Civilization Online Resource, and for coordinating inter-institutional, collaborative endeavors of faculty, librarians, and technologists using technology to enhance teaching and research on topics relating to Islam, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Michael received a PhD in Comparative Literature with a Certificate in Translation Studies from Binghamton University (SUNY), after teaching in Morocco at Al Akhawayn University, L'Ecole Supérieure Roi Fahd de Traduction, and the Faculté des Lettres et Science Humaines in El Jadida. He also holds an MA and BA in English from New York University and Virginia Commonwealth University, respectively. Michael is a Board Member of the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies.

