

# BUILDING LIKE A STATE

## ARCHITECTURE AND NOMAD-STATE RELATIONS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

A Symposium Presented by The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023 - 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM - ROOM 56-114**



Throughout history, states and empires have used architecture to subdue and defend against nomadic peoples perceived as troublesome and threatening. Architectural history tends to read such building projects solely as evidence of top-down state control, and to position nomadism and permanent architecture as mutually exclusive. This symposium contests these narratives, highlighting the diversity of building practices among nomadic communities and the nuanced ways in which nomads engage with and respond to state building projects. Through papers offered by historians, anthropologists, architects, and artists, with a global focus spanning North America, Scandinavia, the Middle East, and Asia, this symposium uses architecture as a lens onto understanding and reframing nomad-state relations in the past and present.

### ALL DAY PROGRAM

#### PANEL I - BUILDING FOR THE STATE

**Presenters:** Yasser Elsheshtawy, Columbia University • Ismael Biyashev, University of Illinois • Maggie Freeman, MIT

**Respondent:** Huma Gupta, MIT

#### PANEL 2 - BUILDING IN THE STATE

**Presenters:** Jarmila Ptáčková, Czech Academy of Sciences • Alun Thomas, Staffordshire University • Sofia Singler, University of Cambridge

**Respondent:** Thomas Barfield, Boston Univ.

#### PANEL 3 - BUILDING WITH THE STATE

**Presenters:** Joar Nango, Independent Artist • Noam Shoked, Tel Aviv University • Alain Fournier, EVOQ Architects

**Respondent:** Mark Jarzombek, MIT



The MIT campus is now open to the general public and this event is free and open to all. Please see the symposium's web page <https://akpia.mit.edu/symposium-building-like-a-state> for registration requirements, program details, and updates.

*Illustration: 'The Giant Lavvu Syndrome' by Joar Nango depicts the artist's observation of the use of the Sámi lavvu architectural typology by architects of non-Sámi heritage and the resulting reduction of Sámi culture and heritage to a single architectural symbol. © Joar Nango.*