



AKP *newsletter*

The AKP Studio Course

TRAINING DESIGNERS FOR THE NON-WESTERN WORLD

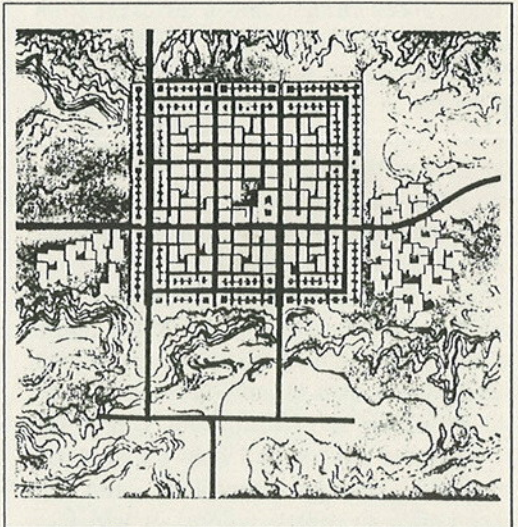
The principal pedagogical vehicle used by AKP faculty to prepare architecture students to deal with Third World urban problems is the studio, or studio-workshop, course. At present, studio and studio-workshop courses are offered both at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) and in the Design for Islamic Societies (DIS) Unit in the Department of Architecture at MIT.

Before students even enter the classroom, months of preparation and site visiting go into the selection of the urban environment to be studied and the actual site and urban design, planning or architectural problems to be addressed. Up-to-date documentation is gathered, much of it found only in the city to be studied. In this respect, the cooperation, assistance, and good will of the local municipal authorities, academic institutions and members of the profession in the selected city are absolutely essential. Base maps must be provided at a number of differing scales and detailed photographs of the city and the micro-site assembled. Detailed case studies are prepared documenting the evolution of prototypical building types at the problem site, and an illustrated monograph containing historical and current information on the city and the selected neighborhood is assembled.

Continued next page

Top: Student design for a new, mixed-used satellite development for industrial workers in Helwan, Egypt, completed for the GSD 1988 Cairo Studio

Bottom: MIT students in the process of constructing an arch as part of the two-week workshop on traditional building materials and techniques taught by architect Jody Gibbs in the DIS studio-workshop course.



"AKP Studio" continued from pp.1

THE GSD APPROACH

At Harvard, although the studio course is part of the GSD curriculum, there is no degree program on the Muslim or developing world *per se*. The advanced students in the course are all working towards a second professional degree in urban design and the studio is the only elective choice open to them on the developing world. "We emphasize the 'generality' of a problem rather than what is Islamic," according to Dr. Mona Serageldin, one of the organizers of the course. "Our aim is to train students to work in any developing context, be it the Muslim World or Latin America."

The students at Harvard are mainly from the West and therefore regard the studio as an opportunity to investigate urban design issues faced by professionals outside the United States and to explore approaches that respond to the needs of a population living under circumstances different from their own. The fact that the selected site is 5,000 miles or more from Cambridge provides an additional challenge, placing added responsibility on the organizers to compile meticulous documentation so as to simulate accurately the variety of environmental, social, economic, cultural, and urban situations that will train a good future planner and urban designer. In addition, the students of the 1989 studio will have access to two computer simulation models recently developed at the AKP Housing and Urbanization Unit at the GSD; these models will help the students evaluate design standards and to incorporate an endless number of variables concerning housing affordability and the financial aspects of planning for large-scale projects.

The GSD studio course offered this spring by Professor François Vigier and Dr. Mona Serageldin explores the implications of undertaking a large-scale housing intervention in a bidonville section on the southern fringe of Rabat, the capital of Morocco. The area contains three disparate elements: the squatter settlements of Douar Doum which are now being upgraded through World Bank financing, the La Butte relocation housing project which is the result of a government dedensification effort, and the public housing project of

Takkadoun, built in the 1950's to provide affordable housing for an urban population swelled by migrants to the city, a project which today has doubled its population while being radically transformed by its inhabitants.

Working individually or in small teams, the students will design a new housing development for moderate-income households on a vacant site adjacent to these three projects. In their final presentation at the end of the term, each student will propose a comprehensive approach for the development of the site, integrating the existing elements into a coherent urban fabric. Technical consultants for the Rabat studio will include David Cook, an architect and planner who is an expert on infrastructure, and Dr. Samir Abdulac, a research associate of the Program, who developed the case studies for the studio.

DESIGN FOR ISLAMIC SOCIETIES

In the DIS Unit at MIT, almost all the students come from the non-Western world and have a first-hand experience of its context and problems; most also come with some practical experience in architecture and planning.

Students in the DIS studio-workshop actually visit the project site for two-weeks before the beginning of the spring term, where they are given an intensive program of lectures by architects, art historians, sociologists, planners and urban designers. They tour the selected site extensively, visiting its monuments and meeting its inhabitants, all-the-while keeping the design problem in mind. Additional documentation and photographs are collected to be used in their presentations later on.

The theme of the 1989 DIS studio is "Designing for Community Health in Old Cairo: Issues of Function, Typology, and the Initiation of Urban Rehabilitation;" it is being taught by Professor Ronald Lewcock and Lecturer Masood Khan. The project site is located in the Gamaliya quarter of Cairo, one of the oldest parts of the city, just to the south of the Hakim mosque, between the Bab El Futuh and Bab El Nasr gates. Dating back to the tenth century, the

quarter represents one of the richest repositories of the Islamic tradition of buildings, with examples dating from the Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk, Ottoman and Mohammed Ali period. The project site has empty pockets of land and recent substandard and temporary buildings which house small industries based on textiles and scrap metal. Cheap labor is provided by the people in the surrounding neighborhoods. Basic facilities are sorely lacking, particularly those relating to community health.

The DIS students will be asked to consider appropriate ways to regenerate the district, taking the historical urban fabric into account. The studio focuses on the design of a community health facility in an urban context where traditional *bimaristans*—medieval hospitals—still exist. The urban form and typology to be generated and the requirements of contemporary health care, including housing for staff, will be treated in conjunction with the physical and functional relationship that the new buildings will have within the surrounding urban fabric. Finally, giving the project a role as a catalyst and exemplar in urban rehabilitation will be of central concern.

A traditional component of the studio-workshop is a two-week workshop that introduces students to traditional building materials and techniques still in use. Methods of updating these techniques using modern materials and scientific testing are also explored. The workshop is taught by architect Jody Gibbs of Tucson, Arizona. Under his direction students construct parts of buildings using such techniques as the Catalan vault, rammed earth, and mud bricks. The aim of these exercises is to familiarize the students with updated appropriate technologies and to demonstrate the strength and practicality of traditional materials for building today.

Visiting faculty for the spring DIS studio-workshop will include architects Abdelhalim I. Abdelhalim and Mohammed El-Husseiny (S.M.Arch.S. '87, MIT) of Cairo and Thomas Payette and other partners in his Boston architectural firm, one of the leading designers of medical buildings in the U.S., and architect of the Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi.

At periodic intervals in both the GSD and DIS courses, consultants are brought in to lecture to the students or to review their work up to that point. These consultants are usually experts on the site being studied and often come from the city itself. At the conclusion of the course, a final review is held to which a jury of experts is invited to criticize the students' work.

In the GSD studio, the solutions and drawings prepared by the students will be incorporated into a report to be submitted to the governor of Rabat. At MIT, plans are under way to exhibit the work on Cairo in that city, with the hope it will stimulate a renewed interest in the 1984 World Bank proposal for the rehabilitation of the Gamaliya quarter. In addition to this spring's focus on Cairo and Rabat, previous AKP-sponsored studio-workshop courses have been held on Istanbul, Lahore, Tunis and Bahrain.



Positions for Practical Training Wanted!

Each June, the Design for Islamic Societies (DIS) Unit graduates six to eight students, most of whom come from South Asia, the Middle East, or Southeast Asia; all have at least two professional degrees in architecture, and often work and research experience. The AKP is eager to develop relationships with companies and organizations which need the specialized talents of these graduates.

According to current visa regulations, these graduates may continue to stay in the United States for an additional 18-month period of practical training. Many students find this training invaluable to have before returning to their own countries. Hiring companies with business in the developing world also find this practice helpful, for if the trainee proves useful, he or she may later continue with them overseas, having acquired a thorough knowledge of the home-office operations.

Some of our students prefer to return immediately to their own country or other countries of the developing world where they seek placement with leading local and international firms or governmental organizations. Often they too are looking for positions.

Potential employers, either in the U.S. or abroad, are asked to contact AKP Director Barbro Ek, whenever they have suitable openings for our graduates. We will be happy to circulate descriptions of the position and to supply you with resumes to review.



1988 Research Fellows

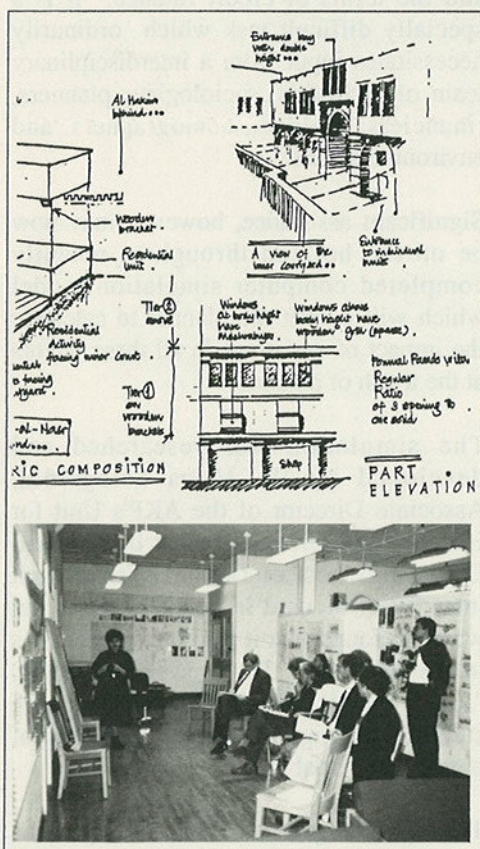
Hugh Andrew O'Neill who visited the Program in the fall term is Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Early in his career, in 1958, he took a position as Lecturer at the Akademi Teknik in Bandung, Indonesia, and so began a 30-year fascination with the architecture of Indonesia, particularly its traditional mosque architecture. Since that time he has returned many times to continue his research and to document what threatens to become a vanishing timber tradition, as minarets, domes and arch construction quickly replace the traditional, wooden structures which make Indonesia's mosque heritage so unique. Through his interest in Indonesia, he has served as President of the Australian Indonesian Association of Victoria and of the Indonesian Arts Society of Victoria. He is also Chairman of the Overseas Service Bureau, Australia's equivalent to the U.S. Peace Corps.

While at the AKP, Mr. O'Neill made intensive use of Harvard and MIT's library resources for his research on the traditional mosque architecture of Indonesia. Before completing his fellowship in February,

Mr. O'Neill gave a public lecture on "The Transformation of Islamic Architecture in Indonesia."

Jo Tonna began his interest in Islamic architecture when he was Associate Professor of Architecture at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 1978 to 1983. He was the winner of the 1987 Arab Architecture Study Award sponsored by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce and the author of numerous articles and a book called *The Pearl in the Oyster: An Approach to Architectural Expression in Arab Countries Today*, which is soon to be published. In addition to his teaching experience, Mr. Tonna is a practicing architect and has designed a number of public buildings and private residences in Malta and Saudi Arabia, including a residence for Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani.

Mr. Tonna spent six months with the AKP on leave from the University of Malta, completing research and writing on the determinants of architectural form in modern buildings in the Arab World. In late November, he gave a talk on "The Poetics of Arab-Islamic Architecture."



Top: Preliminary student sketches for DIS 1989 Cairo studio-workshop.

Bottom: DIS student defending her work for 1988 studio-workshop on the walled city of Lahore.

AKP Joint Workshop with U.C. Berkeley

In the fall of 1988, the Design for Islamic Societies Unit at MIT and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at the University of California at Berkeley embarked on a unique collaborative venture. Identical studio-workshop courses focusing on the old city of Ahmedabad in India and the lower Casbah of Algiers were offered simultaneously at the two institutions, using the same background materials and visual documentation. The aim of this parallel teaching experiment was to familiarize students with Islamic and other non-Western urban and social fabrics, their ordering and organization, and the influences that such contexts might have on architectural and environmental interventions. The Algiers workshop focused particularly on facilitating an understanding of the relationship between the urban structures of traditional societies and those developed under Western influences; the problem of the character of new architectural and urban designs was also addressed.

In preparation for the workshops, and following the format employed successfully by the Design for Islamic Societies Unit, faculty members from the two institutions traveled to Ahmedabad and Algiers in the summer months to select the urban design problems to be studied and to collect the necessary documentation. The Ahmedabad workshop benefited from having been previously offered in 1986 at MIT, but Algiers was a wholly new undertaking. Differences between the Muslim and Hindu neighborhoods, or *pols*, of Ahmedabad were noted and students were assigned the task of finding appropriate means by which they could be rehabilitated and improved. In the Casbah of Algiers, the French intervention along the waterfront was studied, and the students asked to devise architectural solutions for reknitting the traditional urban fabric in two specific areas while still accommodating such requirements of modern living as traffic, parking, and over crowding.

The responsible faculty members also participated in each other's studio reviews. Akhtar Badshah of MIT went to Berkeley in late August to introduce the Ahmedabad studio. He returned in October to participate in the final review on Ahmedabad and to introduce the problem of the lower Casbah of Algiers. The Berkeley final review was attended by Aga Khan Professor Ronald Lewcock; in turn, U.C. Professor Kenneth Simmons and one of his students participated in the final review of both the Ahmedabad and Algiers workshop at MIT.

Participants in the MIT workshop included the first-year graduate students in the Design for Islamic Societies Unit; at Berkeley, both undergraduates and graduates were enrolled.

The College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Berkeley is planning to offer a developing-country program in design, and the joint workshop provided that program with a modest beginning. It fit well with the AKP's desire to assist in developing educational programs in architecture, urban design, and the history of art and architecture of the Islamic world. The Berkeley architectural faculty and its dean, Richard Binder, hope to continue this collaboration.

Affordable Housing HELP FROM A COMPUTER SIMULATION

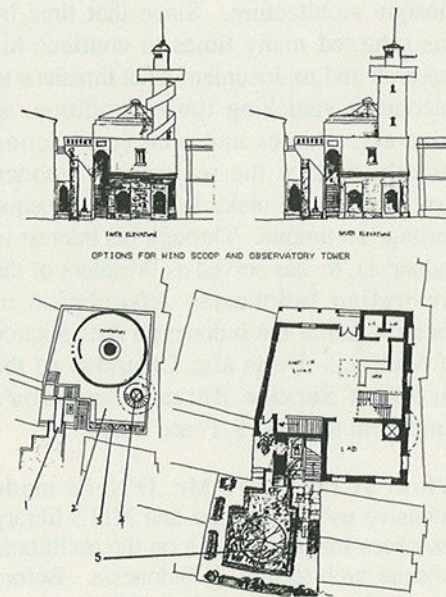
The lack of affordable housing is a world-wide problem that affects developing and industrial countries alike. Today, fully 100 million of the world's population have no shelter at all; almost a quarter live in substandard and overcrowded housing.

This situation presents a special challenge to public and international agencies who must come up with housing that poor to medium-income families can afford and that is at the same time sensitive to local culture, tradition and the environment. In finding appropriate solutions, planners have to deal with a great number of variables which determine the ability of individuals to pay for housing, the cost of various housing options, planning criteria, engineering standards, design parameters and the terms of credit finance. It is a specially difficult task which ordinarily necessitates input from a interdisciplinary team of architects, sociologists, planners, financiers, builders, demographers, and environmentalists.

Significant assistance, however, may now be on the horizon through a recently completed computer simulation model which will permit the planner to calculate the impact of variations in all these factors at the touch of a button.

The simulation was researched and developed by Dr. Mona Serageldin, Associate Director of the AKP's Unit for Housing and Urbanization at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. "It was first intended to be used in public agencies but we soon found that it also has applications in the classroom," Dr. Serageldin explains. "It is a simple but effective way to teach students in design fields the implications of non-design variables."

Through a sequence of five modules, the program can match supply and demand under a number of alternative-policy options; this permits the user to make a series of programmatic and policy decisions which will determine the needed subsidy and point to other budgetary implications.



Study drawings of a windscoop and observatory tower by Alexander Vondeling of U.C. Berkeley for the Ahmedabad Workshop.

Step by step, the decisions the user makes are linked automatically to information in the five modules, leading to a final budgetary statement for the project. The five modules are supply, demand, finance (i.e. credit), policy (i.e. subsidies) and budget.

For example, in the classroom the students may be asked to design a number of housing prototypes suitable for a particular site. The site will have certain constraints such as soil quality or topography which affect building costs. The physical dimensions of the prototypes and the site can be entered into the model along with the costs of different materials, stone, wood, brick, cement, etc. In sorting this information the model moves back and forth between the different modules in a kind of balancing act, providing the user with variations in costs depending on the

size of the house or the materials used in its construction. It is then an easy matter to flip to the demand module to define the income group that can afford the housing at any particular cost. If variations in available credit or government subsidies are then thrown in, the outcome will shift accordingly.

The model has a broad range of practical applications commensurate with the user's requirements and level of expertise. At the simplest level it can perform tests showing the consequences of alternative prototypical designs; for the more sophisticated user it can define the stages for structuring phased development using a variety of housing policies and marketing strategies.

The model was produced as part of the research materials prepared by the AKP Housing and Urbanization Unit. It is now

being tested in courses at the Harvard Graduate School of Design with particular applicability to the spring 1989 studio course on Rabat, Morocco, taught by Dr. Serageldin and Professor François Vigier.

Other computer simulation models prepared by the Unit are for use in developing large-scale, multi-purpose public projects and financing public utilities. Additional research projects concern the modeling of water quality changes on the urban fringe, a user-friendly geographic information system for land management, and low-maintenance public landscape design for arid climates. The research projects of the Unit are particularly directed towards addressing problems of the developing world.



1988 Entering Students: Design for Islamic Societies Unit

Sabri Mohammad Jarrar

received his B.S. in Architecture from the University of Jordan. He has been particularly influenced by Hassan Fathy and Raseem Badran with whom he has worked on various projects and design competitions.

Nader Mohammad Khan was trained at the National College of Art in Lahore, Pakistan, and is interested in exploring the problems related to regional architecture in the Sub-Continent, particularly the synthesis of regional styles with western forms. Before entering MIT he worked on a research project to document a historical city in Pakistan.

Kayed Lakhia enters the AKP directly from the Sir JJ School of Architecture in Bombay, India, where he received his M.Arch. degree. He will focus his studies on the physical,

socio-political, technical and aesthetic inter-relationship of the built environment of Muslim cities.

Jalal Bezee Mejel, a recent recipient of the M.Arch degree from the Southern California Institute of Architecture, received first prize in a UCLA design competition for housing the homeless. Before coming to MIT, he worked for architectural firms in Los Angeles.

Suhair Abdul Qadir Al Mosully was born and educated in Iraq. A practicing architect in Kuwait before coming to MIT, she has 18 years of professional experience in the Middle East. Suhair's research at MIT will concern the techniques, economics and administrative feasibility of the conservation of historic buildings.

Samia Rab worked with Pakistan Environmental Planning and Architectural Consultants, Ltd., after her graduation in 1987 from the National College of Arts in Lahore. Her work, which included input on the conservation plan for the Walled City of Lahore, gave her the opportunity to study Lahore's urban morphology and street configuration. While at MIT, Samia plans to explore the use of historical and cultural evidence as a tool for design.

Aladeen Rashad Shawa, a Palestinian from Gaza, finds that his background has influenced his approach towards architecture. At MIT, he hopes to focus his research on the restoration and revitalization of the old city of Gaza. A graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, he has worked for architectural firms in Philadelphia and New York over the past three years.



A Meeting of Minds

WORKSHOP IN SINGAPORE

A unique collaborative workshop on the environmental concerns of Southeast Asian cities has quietly been convening in Singapore over the past three years. With seed money provided by the Aga Khan for the development of parallel centers of research and education to the Program, it has brought together architectural and planning students, academics, practicing architects, planners, businessmen and government officials from some twelve countries in the region, all with a shared concern about the future direction of research and education on the Southeast Asian city.

The workshops are organized by William Lim, Tay Keng Soon, and Ken Yeang of the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore and by Professor Ronald Lewcock and Akhtar Badshah of the Aga Khan Program. They stress in particular the rehabilitation of historic districts and the need to integrate them into future plans for urban development by engaging local practitioners and academics in environmental concerns directly affecting cities in the region.

"Heritage and Change in Southeast Asian Cities" was the theme for the two-week workshop held in Singapore last August and attended by representatives from the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Hong Kong. The workshop took a two-pronged approach, one comparing workshop strategies employed by the participants in a number of countries, the other bringing the energies and solutions of the assembled group together to work on one joint revitalization problem.

After the initial day devoted to welcome and introduction attended by, among others, Mr. Liu Tai Ker, Chairman of the Singapore Housing Development Board, who gave the opening address, and Mr. Ho Pak Toa, head of the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore, the next three days were devoted to the presentation of a number of urban revitalization research projects and case studies conducted by the participants at their home institutions over the preceding 12-month period. The fourth-year students of the School of Architecture at the National University of Singapore gave an extensive presentation on the Little India district of Singapore, prepared by three working groups of 18 students each. Representatives from the People's Republic of China focused on "The Restoration of a Hui Settlement in the Old City of Jinan". Their presentation included 10 drawings and a large-scale model of the site. The group debated the value of the solutions suggested in these and in five other projects from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia. Discussion was lively, productive and often heated as political, social and economic issues entered the debate.

With this animated start, a closed, week-long session followed, during which the participants tackled the problem of how to revitalize the dilapidated and decaying Little India section of Singapore, testing the best strategies that had come out of the earlier case-study presentations. During the morning hours they met on specific issues, either as a group or in a series of sub-groups, with afternoons and evenings on location at the Little India site. Three of the Indonesian participants even moved into the district to better sense the rhythm and life of its inhabitants. Two leading Singapore sociologists provided invaluable, additional data. The group's concluding sessions generated spirited debate followed by a general spirit of consensus.

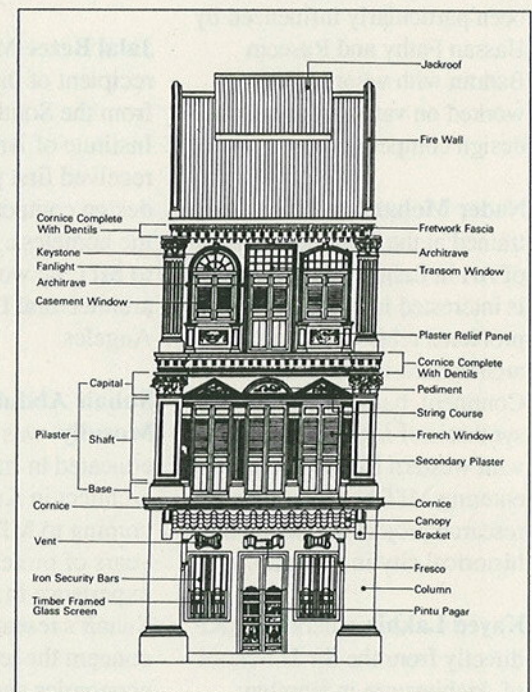
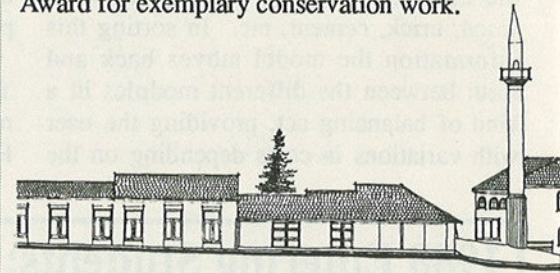
A final report was presented at a public meeting and attended by representatives from the Singapore Housing Development Board, the Director of Tourism, local business concerns and academia.



Internship in Yugoslavia

WITH THANKS TO AMIR PASIC!

Last summer, Mohammad Nasri, a Lebanese architect studying in the DIS unit at MIT, and Andrew Herscher, an American student from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard, spent six weeks in Yugoslavia thanks to the generosity of the Stari-Grad Company and its director, architect Amir Pasic. Stari-Grad is responsible for the restoration work carried out on the old city of Mostar which won the 1986 Aga Khan Award for exemplary conservation work.

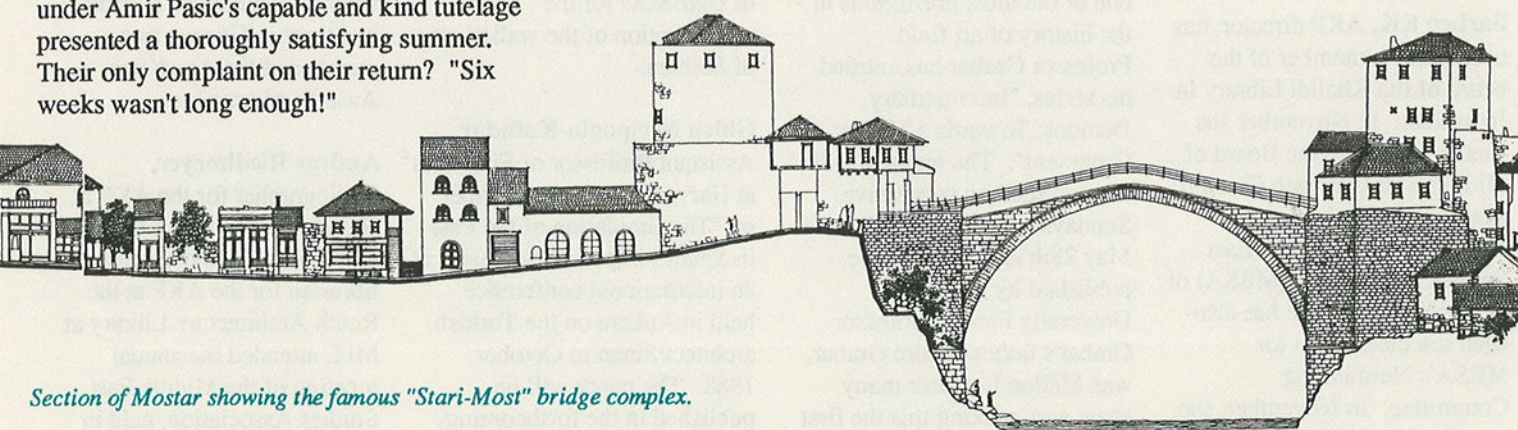


Conservation guidelines of common architectural elements to be found in shophouse facades in the Little India section of Singapore.

Architect Pasic took the two students under his charge and integrated them into the work at Stari-Grad Mostar by giving them each a design project to complete during their six-week stay. The project concerned a residential/business structure connecting a 16th-century mosque complex designed by the architect Sinan with a street network demonstrating 19th century Austro-Hungarian architectural influences. Both received an "excellent" rating for their work.

Mohammad and Andrew also found time to visit other historic cities of Yugoslavia such as Dubrovnik, Sarajevo, Stolac and Pocitelj. The training, guidance and experience gained under Amir Pasic's capable and kind tutelage presented a thoroughly satisfying summer. Their only complaint on their return? "Six weeks wasn't long enough!"

The success of this first venture has encouraged an expanded program for summer 1989 which will include a lecture program as well as work at Mostar over a six-week period. The lecture program will center on the theme, "The Encounter of Islam and Christianity in the Architecture of Herzegovina" and will include ten days of travel to the principal towns in the region: Sarajevo, Dubrovnik, Salona, Split, Stolac, Osanici, Pocitelj, Mogorjelo, and Ljubuski. Four architecture students from Harvard and MIT will join a similar Yugoslavian team. 



Section of Mostar showing the famous "Stari-Most" bridge complex.

The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture

Harvard University and Massachusetts
Institute of Technology

This is a special introductory issue of what will become a semi-annual newsletter of the Aga Khan Program. Readers' comments are welcomed and encouraged.

Executive Council:

Oleg Grabar
Ronald Lewcock
William Porter
Frank Vigier (Chairman)

Central Office:

Barbro Ek, Director
Nina Kaull, Fiscal Officer
Kim Watson, Administrative Assistant
Jill Bogosian, Staff Assistant
Karen Brown, Staff Assistant

Address:

Building 10-390, MIT
Cambridge, MA 02139
Tel: (617) 253-1400
Telex: 467747 AKPIA CI
Fax: (617) 258-8172

Summer Internships

The AKP is seeking summer internship positions in the Muslim world for Harvard and MIT graduate students, either with private architectural companies or with international or governmental organizations dealing with architectural design, restoration, conservation, planning or environmental problems in the region. Most interns will have an architectural degree and several years work experience behind them, and at least one year additional training towards a second professional degree in urban planning or design. Others are art history students preparing their Ph.D. degree in the history of Islamic art and architecture. Many will also be fluent in the languages of the region and have lived in a Muslim country.

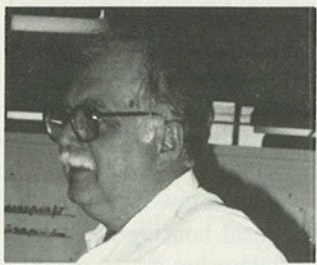
Under the terms of an internship the student is responsible for his own travel costs to the internship country while the local organization agrees to cover local housing and living expenses in return for services rendered. The usual length of an internship is two months, although other arrangements may be made to fit the needs of the host. Because of their training, AKP interns can accomplish much in a two-month period. They can measure buildings or draw plans related to a survey of monuments, perform research or design related to historic restoration, or assist with the design of new buildings, to name only a few possibilities. In addition, many are excellent photographers!

Anyone interested in collaborating with the Aga Khan Program in such an internship is requested to contact the AKP's director, Barbro Ek, as soon as possible. 

News from the Faculty and Staff

Akhtar Badshah who has worked as a Research Associate and Lecturer with the DIS Unit since its inception in 1985, was admitted into the Ph.D. program in the MIT Department of Architecture last fall. He is continuing to work in the DIS unit on a part-time basis.

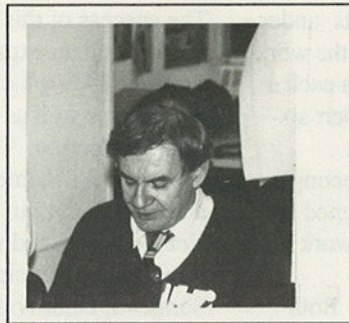
Barbro EK, AKP director, has been made a member of the board of the Khalidi Library in Jerusalem. In November she was re-elected to the Board of Middle East Outreach Council, a national organization affiliated to the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America. She has also been selected to run for MESA's Nominating Committee. In November, she attended the MESA Annual Meeting in Beverly Hills where she represented the AKP at the board meetings of the American Institute of Yemeni Studies (AIYS) and the American Institute of Maghrebi Studies (AIMS).



Oleg Grabar, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art at Harvard, is on sabbatical leave in AY '88-'89. His book, *The Great Mosque of Isfahan*, based on a series of lectures given in New York last year will be published this summer by the

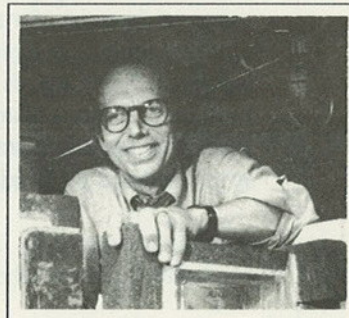
NYU Press. He has recently been appointed a Cabot Fellow in the Humanities by Michael Spence, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard, an award given each year to three humanists for eminence in their field. He has also been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. At present he is working on six lectures to be given at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. where he has been appointed Mellon Lecturer. The Mellon Lecture Series is one of the most prestigious in the history of art field. Professor Grabar has entitled his series, "Intermediary Demons: Towards a Theory of Ornament". The lectures will be presented on successive Sundays between April 21 and May 28th and will later be published by Princeton University Press. Professor Grabar's father, André Grabar, was Mellon Lecturer many years ago, making this the first instance where both father and son have been given this singular honor.

Ronald Lewcock, Aga Khan Professor of Design for Islamic Societies at MIT, had an article entitled "Jemenitische Architektur in Mittelalter" (The Medieval Architecture of Yemen) published in *Jemen* (Innsbruck & Frankfurt/Main). In addition, "Working with the Past" forms a chapter in *Theories and Principles of Design in the Architecture of Islamic Societies* recently published by the Aga Khan Program. He and Akhtar Badshah hosted a seminar on "Heritage and Change" in Singapore in August, 1988, at which participants reported on experiments with workshop studies in six countries. In January, he was honored with



an award by the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen for his work as Technical Coordinator of the International Campaign of UNESCO for the rehabilitation of the walled city of Shibam.

Gulru Necipoglu-Kafadar, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts at Harvard, presented a paper on "The Emulation of the Past in Sinan's Imperial Mosques" at an international conference held in Ankara on the Turkish architect Sinan in October, 1988. The paper will be published in the forthcoming proceedings of the conference. In addition, the *Art Bulletin* will publish her paper on "Sultan Suleyman and the Representation of Power in a Context of Papal-Hapsburg-Ottoman Rivalry" in a forthcoming issue. Her spring '89 course on "The Age of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent: Art, Architecture and Ceremonial at the Ottoman Court," a core course for Harvard undergraduates, has attracted well over 100 students.



William Porter became Head of the MIT Department of Architecture in September, 1988. While continuing his teaching, and directing the research activities of the AKP Information Services and Technology Unit, he has also found time to participate in an interdisciplinary course on development, business and technology in the Middle East taught by Professors Nazli Choucri (Political Science) and Fred Moavenzadeh (Engineering). During the last week in January, he attended meetings in Geneva as a member of the Aga Khan Award's Master Jury.

Andras Riedlmeyer, bibliographer for the AKP at Harvard's Fine Arts Library, and **Omar Khalidi**, reference librarian for the AKP at the Rotch Architecture Library at MIT, attended the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, held in Beverly Hills, California, in November 1988. While there, Andras also attended the affiliated meetings of the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) and that of the National Association of Historians of Islamic Art (NAHIA) and arranged a major slide exchange with Tom Lentz (Ph.D. Fine Arts, Harvard, '79), Curator of Islamic Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Mona Serageldin, Associate Director of the AKP Unit on Housing and Urbanization at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, presented a well-received paper on "The Development and Morphology of Informal Housing" at the Aga Khan Awards Seminar held in Zanzibar last October. During the fall term, she and

Professor **François Vigier** were heavily involved in teaching and organizing the GSD's 4-week intensive International Training Program for international planners and government officials held in Cambridge on "Land Use Planning".

Jeffrey Spurr, AKP Islamic cataloguer at the Harvard Fine Arts Library, has recently developed a new classification system to facilitate the retrieval of scenes depicting such contemporary visual activities as building techniques, the making of arts and crafts, the practice of religion, commercial scenes, domestic activities, and the like, which often become lost under traditional art and architecture classifications of diagrams, models and particular monuments. He has also developed an in-house tracing system for Islamic gardens, Islamic painting (i.e. wall paintings), and Islamicizing architecture in the West.

François Vigier, Norton Professor of Regional Studies at the GSD, took on the chairmanship of the AKP Executive Council for academic year 1988-89. At the same time, he resigned after six years as Chairman of the Special Programs Committee of the GSD. Dean Gerald McCue lauded his work on that committee, stating that "under Frank's leadership ...the Special Programs Office has greatly expanded its varied programs for alumni and other design professionals, young people interested in exploring the field, and members of the general public. On behalf of the thousands of people who benefit from the School's professional educational programs each year, I commend Frank on his contributions."

Welcome To New Staff

Zeynep Çelik has joined the AKP as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the MIT Department of Architecture during the 1988-89 academic year. While teaching one course per term in the History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Urbanism in Non-Western Cultures Program, Dr. Çelik is continuing her teaching obligations at Columbia University where she is an Assistant Professor of Architecture. Originally trained as an architect at Istanbul Technical University, she received her M.Arch from Rice University in 1978 and her Ph.D. from U.C., Berkeley, in 1984. She received the Distinguished Teaching Associate Award at Berkeley for two years running and was awarded the Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award in the Humanities by the Middle East Studies Association in 1984. Her recent book, *The Remaking of Istanbul: Portrait of an Ottoman City in the Nineteenth Century* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1986) received a publications subsidy from the Aga Khan Program and was the winner of the Turkish Studies Association's 1988 award as the best book on Turkey to appear in the last two years. In the fall term Dr. Çelik taught a

course on "Cross Cultural Developments in Architecture and Urbanism in the 19th Century" and this spring is offering "The Architecture of Islam."

Masood A. Khan has been appointed Lecturer in the Design for Islamic Societies Unit at MIT. He was trained as an architect at the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan, and then spent fifteen years in private practice and teaching. In 1981, he came to MIT as a graduate student in history, theory and criticism. During his graduate studies, Mr. Khan participated in the activities of the AKP and worked as a teaching assistant. He received his S.M.Arch.S. in 1983 and returned to Pakistan Environmental Planning and Architectural Consultants in Lahore as senior architect in charge of major projects. His responsibilities included the Conservation Plan for the Walled City of Lahore which involved planning for urban rehabilitation and historic preservation, large health projects and several office buildings, including a competition-winning design for the armed-forces headquarters.



1989: Year of the Timurids

April marks the beginning of a series of activities celebrating the history, society and culture of the Timurid dynasty. Below are the highlights:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| April 16
- July 6 | Exhibition on " <i>Timur and the Princely Vision</i> " opens at the Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Organized by Glenn Lowry (Ph.D. Fine Arts, Harvard '82), Curator of Near Eastern Art, the exhibition focuses on the art and architecture which emerged during the 15th century dynasty of the legendary warlord Timur. Over 50 institutions in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. have loaned some 160 items of Timurid paintings, works in metal, ceramics, examples of calligraphy, jade, wood carvings and textiles. |
| April 22 | Seminar on " <i>New Approaches to Persian Art and Culture</i> " at the Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian. Preceded by a concert of traditional Persian music on the 21st, the seminar participants will include Shreve Simpson, Wheeler Thackston, Bernard O'Kane, Michael Rogers, Linda Komaroff and Oleg Grabar, among others. |
| Aug. 13
- Nov. 5 | " <i>Timur and the Princely Vision</i> " will be at the Los Angeles County Museum. |
| Nov. 15-19 | A conference on " <i>Steppe Societies in Transition: Timurids and Turkmen</i> " will be held in Toronto, Canada, within the context of the 23rd annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America. Organized by Dr. Lisa Golombek, Curator of West Asian Art at the Royal Ontario Museum, the conference will include ten panels on Timurid and Turkmen history, society and the arts. |

Alumni Notes

'79 Perween Hasan (Ph.D. Fine Arts, Harvard), an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Islamic History and Culture in Dhaka University, reports that she attended a recent conference in Richmond, Virginia, on South East Asian Art and Archaeology where she presented a paper on "Mihrab in Bengali Mosques".

'80 Nancy Pyle (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) is currently Associate Director for External Relations for the Harvard Institute for International Development in Cambridge.

'81 Stephen Urice (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) writes that he is working as an attorney for the Los Angeles firm of Irell and Manella.

Sheila Canby (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) is living in Bahrain while on a two-year leave of absence from her position as Associate Curator of Islamic Art at The Brooklyn Museum. While in Bahrain she has been writing a book on Riya-Yi 'Abbasi, the leading painter at the court of Shah 'Abbas I, as well as preparing an article on Persian painting.

'82 Eva Hoffman (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) is teaching at the Rhode Island School of Design where she is Assistant Professor of Art History.

Glenn Lowry (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) as Curator of Near Eastern Art at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, is preparing a major exhibition on

the Timurids to open later this spring. The exhibition will also travel to the Los Angeles County Museum.

'87 Hana Alamuddin (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) has joined J.S. Bonnington Partnership in Herfordshire, England, as an architect.

Khaled Asfour (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is a Ph.D. student in the History, Theory and Criticism Program at the MIT Department of Architecture. He plans to take his comprehensive exams in June and September and then depart for Cairo to conduct research for his Ph.D. thesis.

Mohamed El-Husseiny (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) reports that he is now the principal of a small architectural firm in Cairo and is working on a number of private houses. One of his earlier residences, the "Taimour" house has been nominated for the 1989 Aga Khan Award for Architecture. He returned to the DIS unit for two weeks in February, 1989, as a consultant for the Cairo studio.

Howyda Al-Harithy (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) worked one year for the Riyadh Development Authority, becoming the first and only Saudi woman architect to work there. In spring, 1988, she was accepted into the Fine Arts Ph.D. program at Harvard, where she is currently enrolled.

Shamim Javed (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) has been working with The Architects Collaborative of Cambridge since graduation as part of his post-graduate training.

Akel Ismail Kahera (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) completed practical training with the Boston Housing Authority on graduation and was recently appointed Chief Architect and Director of Architecture for ENPPI (Engineering for the Petroleum and Process Industries) in Cairo. His responsibilities include the construction of its headquarters building, designed by Perkins & Will International of Chicago, and the design and construction management of all future ENPPI projects throughout Egypt.

Michael Brand (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) began a new position as Curator of Asian Art at the Australian National Gallery in Canberra on Sept. 1. Prior to that he was in Pakistan completing the first year of field work on a 3-year project on the Mughal Gardens funded by the Smithsonian.

Yasir Sakr (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) has been involved in both practice and teaching since his return to Amman upon graduation.

Shraddha Sejpal (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is working with the Boston Housing Authority on the development of local housing projects.

'88 Jamal Abed (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is now an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Architecture at the American University in Beirut.

Shahnaz Arshad (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) has returned to Pakistan and is currently working the National Engineering Services of Pakistan in Islamabad.

Kazi Khaleed Ashraf (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is working as an architect with Coggins Associates, a Cambridge-based architectural firm, as part of his 18-month post-graduate training period. He was also invited to participate in the October, 1988, Aga Khan Award Seminar held in Zanzibar.

James Deemer (Ph.D., Fine Arts, Harvard) has received a fellowship from the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman to do research on medieval trade through Jordan.

Shakeel Hossain (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) receives our warmest congratulations for his recent marriage to Gerlinde Endl in Austria in February.

Abdul-Halim Jabr (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is completing his practical training with the Boston architectural firm of Communitas, Inc. which recently won an unprecedented two first prizes at the 1988 Boston Visions Competition. Abdul-Halim had an instrumental role in developing the prize-winning scheme for the Boston Harbor entry.

Sikander Khan (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) has returned as Project Manager to the Kuwaiti Engineers Office in Kuwait where he worked before coming to MIT.

Amer Moustafa (S.M.Arch.S., MIT) is a designer with the Boston architectural firm, Mintz Associates, as part of his practical training. His responsibilities include a joint venture project with Cannon Associates.

Student Happenings

Tawfiq Abu Hantash (DIS Unit, MIT) interned with the Boston architectural firm, Arrowsmith, during the Jan. break.

Tulay Artan (Ph.D. Cand., H.T.C., MIT) completed her dissertation, "Architecture as a Theater of Life: Profile of the 18th Century Bosphorus" in the fall of 1988 under the direction of Professors Oleg Grabar (Harvard) and Stanford Anderson (MIT). Her third adviser was Professor Suraiya Faruqi of the University of Munich.

Mohamed Al-Asad (Ph.D. Cand., Fine Arts, Harvard) has been appointed to the Technical Review Team for the 1989 Aga Khan Awards.

Julia Bailey (Ph.D. Cand., Fine Arts, Harvard) has been named Assistant Curator of Islamic Art at the Sackler Museum at Harvard.

Richard Brotherton (Ph.D. Cand., H.T.C., MIT) is working hard to complete his dissertation by next fall. He also presented a paper on "Ceremonial Spaces of the Medieval Syrian Residential Dar" at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual meeting held in Beverly Hills last November.

Kara Hill (Ph.D. Cand., H.T.C., MIT) has recently identified her dissertation topic ("Islamic Influence on 19th Century French Architecture through the Work of Pascal Coste") and is now organizing her research plan.

Khadija Jamal (DIS Unit, MIT) returned to Pakistan during the January break to collect data for her dissertation.

Mohammad Nasri (DIS Unit, MIT) interned with a Los Angeles-based architectural firm during the January break. Last summer he held an internship with the Stari Grad company in Yugoslavia, responsible for restoring the medieval city of Mostar.

Iffet Orbay (Ph.D. Cand., H.T.C., MIT) returned to Cambridge this winter after spending the past year in Istanbul researching Ottoman architecture in the 16th Century.

Nasser Rabbat (Ph.D. Cand., H.T.C., MIT) presented a paper at the 1988 MESA annual meeting on "The Mamluk Chateau in Cairo: The Development of the Citadel in the Bahri Mamluk Period". He also received an ARCE (American Research Centre in Egypt) grant this past fall and returned to Cairo in January to continue his dissertation research on the Citadel palace complex during the reign of Al-Nasir Muhammad.

Beatrice St. Laurent (Ph.D. Cand., Fine Arts, Harvard) is teaching Islamic Art at Wellesley College.

Joo Heng Teh (DIS Unit, MIT) returned to Singapore during the January break to visit with his parents.

Some things never change....

The Aga Khan Program is concerned with tradition and change. But it seems that over the centuries some things never change, as witnessed by this anecdote from a 13th-century Persian joke book giving a father's view of the academic profession:

"A tumbler scolded his son and said, "You do no work and you waste your time in idleness. How often must I tell you to practice somersaults and to learn how to dance on a rope and to make a dog jump through a hoop so that you can achieve something with your life. If you don't listen to me, I swear by God I shall abandon you to the madrasa to learn their dead and useless science and to become a scholar so as to live in contempt and misery and adversity and never be able to earn a penny wherever you go."

Ubayd-i Zakani, Kulliyat

Next Stop Timimoun

AKP TRAVEL GRANT

Imagine having the opportunity to take off to such exotic sounding places as Nouakchott, Jogjakarta, Marrakesh, Peshawar, Xinkiang or Sanaa during the summer months to research such equally exotic topics as illegal settlements, vernacular architecture, or Mughal gardens? Well, with the help of the Aga Khan Program, graduate students at Harvard and MIT have just that opportunity!

To promote interest in the art and architecture of the Muslim World, the Aga Khan Program offers a number of travel grants each year to Harvard and MIT graduate students on a competitive basis. Through this program, approximately 100 Harvard and MIT students have to date immersed themselves culturally and academically into such widely divergent topics as Sufi shrines in India, illegal settlements east of Amman, the funerary complex of Shah-I-Zinda in Samarquand, the vernacular architecture of Malaysia, the Chowk of Lucknow, the Mughal heritage of Lahore, and Islam-influenced architecture in the Ivory Coast, Mali and Nigeria.

Although preference is given to graduate students in the Department of Fine Arts or the Graduate School of Design at Harvard or in the School of Architecture and Planning at MIT, any continuing graduate student at either institution may present a proposal, as long as the proposed research and field work makes a contribution to the purposes of The Aga Khan Program.



Recent Publications

HOUSING IN TUNIS

by François Vigier

The first in a series of teaching monographs on cities in the Islamic world being prepared by the AKP Housing and Urbanization Unit at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, *Housing in Tunis* provides background documentation on the city, recounts its morphological evolution, and identifies significant issues of concern to the public officials and professionals responsible for its management, improvement and growth. Supplementary information—base maps at various scales, photographic surveys, keyed to a location map, of major streets and representative residential areas and buildings—are also made available. 1987. 7 x 10. 113 pages. Plans, tables, and halftone illustrations. ISBN 0-935617-09-4. \$15.00 plus shipping.

THEORIES AND PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF ISLAMIC SOCIETIES

This collection of papers from a seminar held at MIT in 1987 deals with the various principles—geometric, astronomic, religious, etc.—that underlie Islamic architectural design and decoration in the past and today. Renata Holod, Aptullah Kuran, Yasser Tabbaa, Lisa Golombek, Ronald Lewcock, Klaus Herdeg consider aspects of architectural design through history and the use of historical precedent in building today. Jamal Akbar, Keith Critchlow, Ibrahim Allawi, S. Gulzar Haider look at the role of religion, society, astrology, and cosmology; Ahmet Gulgonen and Mete Turan consider tradition and vernacular architecture; and finally A.I. Abdelhalim, Raseem Badran, Kamil Khan Mumtaz, Thomas Payette, and Chris Abel show in various ways how all of these aspects of design are reflected in the architecture now being built in the Islamic world. 1988. 7 x 10. ca. 100 pages. Many halftone illustrations. ISBN 0-922673-10-1. \$20.00 plus shipping.

A CENTURY OF PRINCES

Selected, introduced and translated by Wheeler Thackston.

Persian sources on Timur and his successors compiled in conjunction with an exhibition of Timurid art to be held at the Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and the Los Angeles County Museum in 1989. 1989. 398 pp. 8 1/2 x 11. ISBN 0-922673-11-X. Maps, genealogies, and frontispiece. \$20.00 plus shipping

Ordering information: All orders from individuals must be prepaid in US dollars, by check drawn on an American bank or by international money order or banker's draft, payable to MIT/Aga Khan Program. All titles are available to trade customers and booksellers. Please send for discount information. Address orders and inquiries to: Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Building 10-390, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139.



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