



# AKP newsletter

## The Divine Axis: Pre-Modern Palaces in West Asia, India and the Maghrib

*The Symposium on Pre-Modern Islamic Palaces, held May 15 and 16, 1992, was organized at Harvard University by Gülru Necipoğlu, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities, Department of Fine Arts, and sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. AKP student Gauvin Bailey, a PhD student at Harvard's Department of Fine Arts, attended the symposium and prepared the following report.*

The palace as a metaphor for sovereign and celestial power is one of the issues receiving the most attention in the study of Islamic architecture today. The prominence of the palace in myth and official ideology, its ability both to observe and be observed, and its complex relationship with the city and realm were also the focus of the *Symposium on Pre-Modern Islamic Palaces*.

The conference opened with a much-needed look at pre-Islamic precedents in the Near East. Irene Winter, Harvard University, and Lionel Bier, Brooklyn College, presented the latest reconstructions of ancient Mesopotamian and Persian palace architecture in their respective papers, "Ancient Near Eastern Palaces," and "The Sasanian Palaces and Their Influence in the Early Islamic Period." They considered several forms which became prevalent after the Islamic conquest and examined monuments that came to dominate traditional Islamic mythology. Winter raised the issue of ritual destruction of palaces by subsequent rulers, a phenomenon which carried on into the Islamic period. Slobodan Curcic, Princeton University, considered the relationship of the palace with the city and its role as a "feast for the eyes" in his discussion of late-antique palaces, "Late-Antique Palaces: The Urban Context and Forms." He introduced the concept of the "palace city"—the city as an extended patriarchal household.

The afternoon session focused on the image of the palace in legend and literature. Priscilla Soucek, New York University, stressed the importance of the Solomonic legend in palace architecture in "Solomon's Throne, Solomon's Palace: Model or Metaphor?" The complex iconography associated with Solomon's throne is an enduring feature of Byzantine and Islamic palace architecture and came up again in subsequent papers. Another important image in the mythology of Islamic palace architecture is the Qubbat al-Khadra' ("Green Dome"), a metaphor for the dome of heaven.

*The Alhambra in Granada, Spain. Patio de los Leones from the northern entrance to Sala de los Mocárabes with pavilion and Sala des los Reyes in background. Photo c. 1870 by J. Laurent courtesy of the Visual Collection at Harvard's Fine Arts Library. c. 1360 Nasrid*



## Visiting Faculty

**Charles Correa** taught "Architectural Design in Islamic Societies: Alternate Paradigms" with Michael Brawne at the MIT Design for Islamic Societies unit this fall. As an architect and planner, he has designed buildings and townships in various parts of India, including the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Museum at the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, the National Crafts Museum in Delhi, the Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur, the new State Assembly for the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Cidade de Goa in Dona Paula, the Institute of Astrophysics in Poona, as well as urban planning projects in Bombay, Bangalore and other cities of India. From 1970-75, he was Chief Architect for the planning of New Bombay and in 1985 was appointed chairman of the National Commission on Urbanization.

Correa has taught at several universities, both in India and abroad, and is the author of *The New Landscape*. His work has been published in various architectural journals and monographs, and he has received several awards and honors, including the Padma Shri by the president of India in 1972, the Royal Gold Medal by the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1984, the Gold Medal of the Indian Institute of Architects in 1986, and the Gold Medal of the International Union of Architects in 1990.

**Michael Brawne** is a professor at the University of Bath in England and has been the principal of Michael Brawne & Associates since 1963, designing primarily museums, libraries, and university buildings. In 1969, he was made a Fellow to the Royal Institute of British Architects, and as a consultant to UNESCO, Brawne has traveled to the People's Republic of China, Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, and Yugoslavia. He has made numerous contribu-

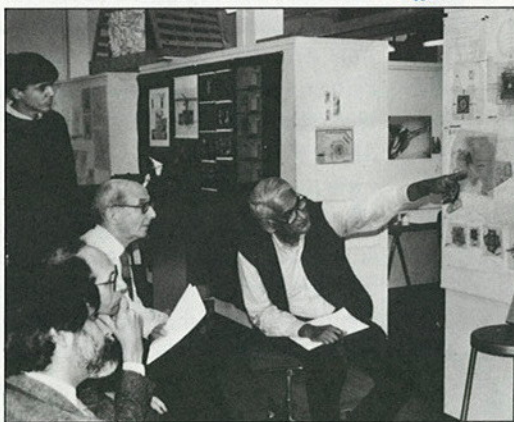
tions to international conferences on museums and libraries and was British Council lecturer in India in 1968. *The New Museum* and *From Idea to Building: Issues in Architecture* are two of his publications.



Visiting Associate Professor Jerrilynn Dodds in her Harvard office.

**Jerrilynn Dodds** is associate professor of architectural history at the School of Architecture of City College of the City of New York. She has taught at Columbia University, Duke University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was a visiting associate professor at Harvard University this fall semester. Her current area of research centers on issues of representation and the meaning of monumental painting for Christians and Muslims on the medieval Iberian peninsula.

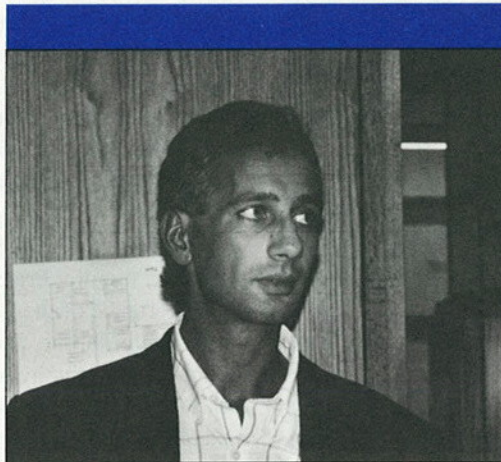
Dodds is the author of *Architecture and Ideology in Early Medieval Spain*; winner of the American Society of Hispanic Art and Historical Studies Distinguished Publication Award; editor of *Al Andalus: The Islamic Arts of Spain* and *Essays in Honor of Whitney Stoddard*; co-editor with V. Mann and T. Glick, of *Convivencia: Art and Society in Medieval Iberia*; and special consultant to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for the exhibition *Al Andalus*. She has collaborated on two documentary films: a screenplay written with Pablo Romero for Canal + España titled *Al Andalus: Las Artes Islamicas de España*, and *A Mosque in Time*, created with filmmaker Edin Velez under the auspices of the Program for Art on Film. This fall she taught "Principles of Cultural Interchange in the Middle Ages, Islam and the West," and "Romanesque Architecture and Sculpture" in the Department of Fine Arts at Harvard. ♦



Design for Islamic Societies studio fall review. Seated from left to right are professors: Masood Khan, Bill Porter, Michael Brawne, and Charles Correa. AKP student Vivek Agrawal is standing.

## Visiting Scholars

**Arben Nuri Arapi** arrived from Tirana in July to become the Program's first visiting scholar from Albania. He is currently director of the National Institute of Cultural Monuments, an organization responsible for preserving the architectural, artistic, and archaeological heritage of the country. Before his 1991 appointment as director, Arapi restored buildings for the institute and assisted in the design of the two largest modern museums. In December 1990, the Albanian government lifted the 22-year ban



AKP visiting scholar Arben Arapi

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## Ottoman Costume-Album Exhibit



**V**iews of Others, Views of Self: Ottoman Costume Albums from the 16th to the 19th Century was exhibited at Harvard's Fine Arts Library, September through December, 1992. The exhibition presented pictorial works produced by European and Ottoman artists, primarily for the benefit of Western travelers and diplomats. Many of these albums go beyond depicting costumes and show scenes of daily life and panoramic views of Istanbul. Subject matter and style reveal a great deal about how Europeans saw—or wished to see—their Ottoman counterparts. In work by local artists, one can find intimations of an insider's view and a reinterpretation of a foreign reading of the artist's culture.

Materials exhibited ranged from facsimiles of sixteenth-century painted albums and prints to nineteenth-century versions of the genre that used the new medium of photography. AKP Bibliographer András Riedlmayer prepared the show with the assistance of PhD candidate Leslie Schick. The many books and photographs displayed were all from purchases with AKP funding. ♦

*A detail from a sixteenth-century woodcut, "Moeurs et fashons de faire des Turcz" (Antwerp, 1553) by Pieter Coecke van Aelst, showing a Turkish cemetery*

## News from the Parallel Centers

### Dawood College

In November 1992, DCET's Department of Architecture Bachelor of Architecture course received approval for full accreditation by The Commonwealth Association of Architects Education Committee. This means that BArch degree recipients from DCET are exempt from taking part I and II of the Royal Institute of British Archi-

tecs' qualifying examinations. The accredited status with the CAA is the highest form of recognition of any architecture program in Pakistan.

An urban design graduate program curriculum for a Masters of Urban Design (MUD) has been completed and is presently being considered by the university and the Board of Governors of Dawood College. The program is expected

to commence in fall, 1993, and with it the publication of the first issue of *DCET Architecture & Planning Journal*. The annual journal will accept contributions from academics and professionals performing original research nationally and regionally.

### University of Jordan

In Amman, Visiting Aga Khan Professor Elmar Dittman, Aga

Khan Program coordinator and chairman of the Department of Architecture Kamel Mahadin, and members of the department of architecture faculty developed a graduate program plan that widens the existing program from urban design into a combination of three fields with a special emphasis on regional problems: urban design and housing in Arabic countries,

*Continued on page 6*

on religious worship, and Arapi became the official architect for the Muslim Committee of Albania that was established to build new religious structures as well as reconstruct damaged ones. He will be spending this academic year at the AKP researching the history and tradition of Islamic architecture and becoming familiar with modern architectural practices in the Islamic world.

**Gautam Bhatia**, principal and partner of the Architecture Alliance in New

Delhi, joined the AKP as a visiting scholar in May and returned to India in September 1992. While in residence at MIT, he completed a manuscript on vernacular mud architecture and submitted it for publication. The book is the result of two years of documented architectural research into the forces that affect the design of mud dwellings. Bhatia builds a case for mud architecture, suggesting how a fusion of the traditional, cultural, and climatic advantages of mud with newly developed

building techniques could regenerate the art of earth construction and provide possible alternatives to the housing problems in the developing world. In New Delhi, Bhatia is on the panel of architects for the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, chairman of the Laurie Baker Building Center, a member of the Center for Science and Environment, a member of the governing council of the Crafts Museum, and on the editorial board of *Inside Outside* magazine. ♦



## Recent PhD Titles



PhD recipient Akhtar Badshah and Professor Masood Khan

**Howyda Al-Harithy**, (FAS, Harvard) "Urban Form and Meaning in Bahri Mamluk Architecture" (November 1992)

**Akhtar Badshah**, (Urban Housing & Planning, MIT) "Sustainable and Equitable Urban Environments in Asia" (February 1993)

**Kara Hill**, (HTC, MIT) "Pascal-Xavier Coste (1787-1879): A French Architect and Egypt" (February 1992)

**Nuha Khoury**, (FAS, Harvard) "The Mihrab Concept: Palatial Themes in Early Islamic Religious Architecture" (May 1992)

### SMArchS Program

**Raya H. Ani** received her BS from the Department of Architecture at the University of Baghdad. She practiced architecture in Baghdad and Frankfurt, Germany, before joining the program at MIT and is interested in continuing her study of architectural paradigms in non-Western cultures. Raya also paints and has exhibited her work in Iraq and Germany.

**Zulfiquar Hyder** received his BArch degree from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Dhaka. He is studying city traditions and urban spaces to ascertain how they assist in retaining the identity of a city. He has worked as an architect in Bangladesh and organized an exhibit on the architecture of Dhaka for the Dhaka City Museum.

**Yasser Nabil** received his BS degree from Cairo University. Yasser intends to investigate the Arab world's search for an identity, with special reference to the new building types that have recently been transported to his country.

**Anoma Pieris** has been at MIT the past two years working towards a MArch degree, and this fall began work on a SMArchS. She plans to develop a framework for the principles of design useful in modern Asian architecture. Anoma has designed four houses in her native country of Sri Lanka, and enjoys writing children's stories.

**Panayiota Pyla**, a native of Cyprus, received her BArch degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy,

New York, where she received the AIA school medal and thesis prize. In her studies, Panayiota is addressing the effects of contemporary architecture on non-Western cultures.

**Manish Srivastava** received his BArch from the Government College of Architecture, Tagore Marg, Lucknow, India. While at MIT, Manish is researching the development of new design vocabularies of form and space within the broader context of Islamic architecture.

### PhD Program

**Maha Yahya**, from Lebanon, has a MA in housing studies from the Architectural Association of London and a BFA in Environmental Design from Parsons School of Design in New York City. As an MIT History, Theory, and Criticism program student, Maha will be examining the interrelationship between politics and urban planning. ♦

## Student News

**Vivek Agrawal** (DIS, MIT) was a summer intern at the Tokyo architecture and urban design firm Nihon Sekkei Inc. where he worked on two projects: a marina development on the Pacific coast and a small housing development in a small town north of Tokyo. Vivek was selected for this internship by the Nambu Foundation Internship Program.

**Howyda Al-Harithy** (FAS, Harvard) has completed her dissertation and received her PhD this November. Howyda has presented several papers this summer and fall including "Islamic Architecture" at the

Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield, Massachusetts; "The Complex of al-Nasir Hasan: Reading Between the Lines" at the MESA annual meeting in Portland, Oregon; "The Urban Character of Mamluk Cairo" for the American Research Center in Egypt in New York City; and "The Patronage of al-Nasir Muhammad Ibn Qalawun" for the AKP Friends of Islamic Art lecture series.

**Wael Al-Masri** (DIS, MIT) traveled to Sefrou, Morocco, this summer to do research and to update DIS documentation on the old and new cities of Fez. Wael is presenting Images of Fez, an exhibition of his photographs in the AKP MIT central office exhibition window through January 1993.

**Akhtar Badshah** (DIS, MIT) has completed his dissertation on urban housing and planning and will receive his PhD degree in February 1993. In October, he traveled to Bangkok as a consultant to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), which is preparing for a ministerial conference in 1993. In preparation for this conference, he is preparing the final two chapters of the "State of Urbanization in Asia and Pacific Area." Akhtar also taught a level-two design studio at Roger Williams College in Rhode

Island and presented a show of original paintings, Expressions, at the Wiesner Student Art Gallery at MIT's Stratton Student Center.

**Julia Bailey** (FAS, Harvard) traveled to Tehran to present a paper at the International Conference of Persian Carpets in June and then joined an Iranian government sponsored two-week tour to Isfahan, Shiraz, Kerman, and Yazd for the conference participants. In November, she reported to the Chicago Rug Society about the meeting and tour. At the 1992 MESA annual meeting, she presented "Religious Imagery in a Dispersed Safavid Falnama," as part of a panel on religious imagery in miniature paintings. This fall, she also taught a course, "The World of Oriental Rugs," with AKP affiliate Walter Denny at the George Walter Vincent Smith Museum in Springfield, Massachusetts.

**May Farhat** (FAS, Harvard) married Tedros Kiro, a professor of political theory and philosophy at Boston University, in Cambridge this past July.

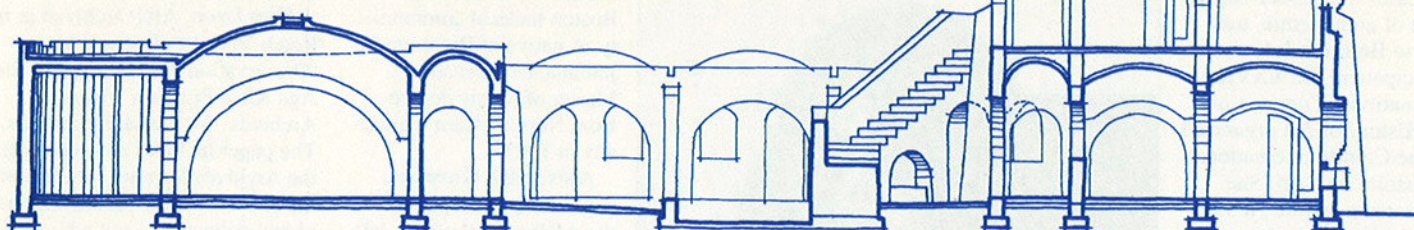
**Shirine Hamadeh** (HTC, MIT) presented a paper, "Creating the Traditional City," at the University of California in Berkeley conference "First World-Third World" in 1989 that has just been published in the book, Forms of Dominance: On the Architecture and Urbanism of the Colonial Enterprise, edited by N. Alsayyad and published by Avebury in England.

**Yasser Nabil** (DIS, MIT) and his wife, May, have a son named Ziyad, who was born in November.

**Maha Yahya** (HTC, MIT) presented a paper at a symposium jointly organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia division of the United Nations and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning of the Republic of Yemen in San'a in October on low-cost housing in the Arab region. Maha's paper, "Territoriality and Management in Squatter Settlement," used Beirut as a case study. ♦



# Aga Khan Speaks of Challenges to Muslim Built Environment



*Panafrican Institute for Development, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso*

Addressing an audience of international guests and government and civic officials in Samarkand's historic Registan Square on September 19, 1992, the Aga Khan, founder of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, spoke of the challenges facing Muslim societies in dealing with issues of the built environment. The Aga Khan was presenting the awards for the fifth cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture—the first ceremony ever to take place in Central Asia. Nine projects from Africa, the Middle East and Asia won the 1992 Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

"Muslim societies" said the Aga Khan, "are having to confront complex patterns and pressures of changes. The nine projects we will be seeing tonight and countless others known to the Award, demonstrate that these pressures can be a source of creativity and opportunity." The Aga Khan said that the task of the Award was "to build a space for reflection and debate on the meaning of architecture for these patterns of change within the unchanging humanistic dimensions of Islam."

Speaking of the fifth three-year cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, he said that one of its most important lessons was that the technical issues of the built environment cannot be considered in isolation from the cultural and spiritual values of Muslim societies, in all their diversity. "These values," said the Aga Khan, "have to be related to the fresh challenges posed by modernity."

The Aga Khan arrived in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on September 17, and was welcomed by the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov, with whom he flew to Samarkand. Speaking in Samarkand that same evening, President Karimov paid tribute to the achievement of the Award in enhancing awareness of the cultural importance of buildings and spaces

in both historic and contemporary Muslim societies.

Referring to all nine winners, the Master Jury stated that it "believed that these economically sustainable, humanistic solutions are relevant for the developed countries as well as the developing world." The Jury singled out five achievements in enhancing urban environments in different parts of the Muslim world, honoring projects in Kairouan, Tunisia (the Kairouan Conservation Programme); Istanbul, Turkey (Palace Parks Programme); Cairo, Egypt (Cultural Park for Children); Amman, Jordan (East Wahdat Upgrading Programme); and Yogyakarta, Indonesia (Kampung Kali Cho-de). These projects ranged from the conservation and re-use of a historic *medina* to the upgrading of informal settlements. The Master Jury cited the remaining four projects for their success in generating new architectural languages: the Stone Building System used for school construction in Dar'a Province, Syria; the Demir Holiday Village in Bodrum, Turkey; the Panafrican Institute for Development in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India in Ahmedabad.

Thanking President Karimov, the government of Uzbekistan and the officials of Samarkand, the Uzbek Union of Architects and the people of Samarkand for making the 1992 award ceremony possible, the Aga Khan referred to Samarkand as an especially appropriate venue for the conclusion of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture's three-year cycle. "Two generations of inspired building by Timur and his grandson, Ulugh Beg, have shown us how determined patronage and the skills of different schools and practices can be brought together to create great architecture," he said.

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture was established in 1977 to recognize outstanding architec-

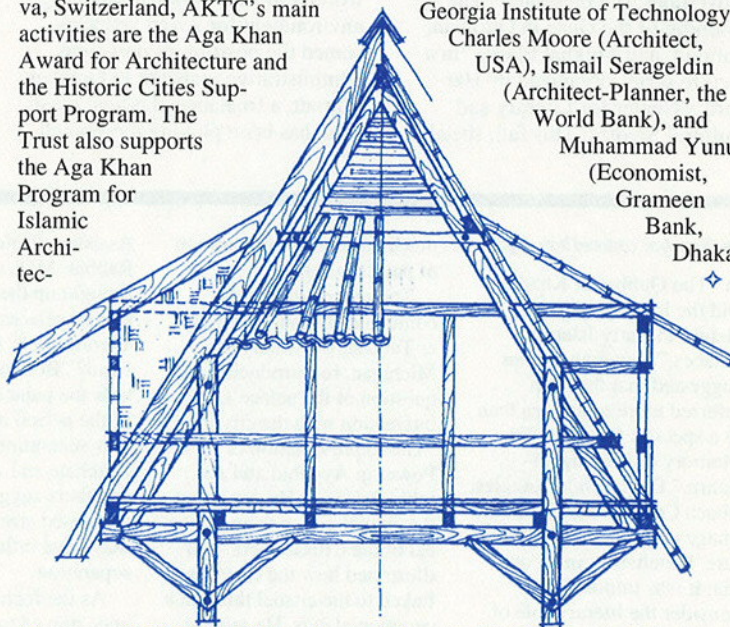
tural achievements in all the different cultures and communities of the Muslim world. It seeks to identify examples of excellence in all areas of building and design—including social housing, community development, restoration, re-use and area conservation, as well as landscaping and concern for the environment. Through its efforts, the Award hopes to encourage design concepts that successfully address the needs and hopes of Muslim communities today. Recent seminars held under the Award's auspices have included "Expressions of Islam in Buildings" (Jakarta and Yogyakarta, 1990) and "Regionalism in Architecture" (Singapore, 1985). Previous award ceremonies were held at Lahore (1980), Istanbul (1983), Marrakesh (1986), and Cairo (1989).

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture is part of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC). Founded to coordinate the cultural activities of the Aga Khan network, AKTC's focus is the built environment in societies in which Muslims have a significant presence. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, AKTC's main activities are the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the Historic Cities Support Program. The Trust also supports the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture.

ture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in the United States.

The independent Master Jury chose the winners of the 1992 Aga Khan Award for Architecture from 259 nominees. The jury members were Balkrishna Doshi (Architect, India), Frank Gehry (Architect, USA), Renata Holod (Professor of Art History, University of Pennsylvania), Fumihiko Maki (Architect, Japan), Adhi Moersid (Architect, Saudi Arabia), Dogan Tekeli (Architect, Turkey), Said Zulficar (UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris).

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture is governed by a steering committee, appointed for each cycle. Chaired by the Aga Khan, the steering committee for the fifth cycle included Selma al-Radi (Archaeologist, Baghdad and New York), Mohammed Arkoun (Professor of Islamic Thought, Sorbonne), John de Monchaux (Professor of Architecture and Planning, MIT), Arif Hasan (Architect, Karachi), Ronald Lewcock (Professor of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology), Charles Moore (Architect, USA), Ismail Serageldin (Architect-Planner, the World Bank), and Muhammad Yunus (Economist, Grameen Bank, Dhaka).



*Kampung Kali Cho-de, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Bamboo is used for joists and plaited bamboo mats for flooring.*



## Faculty & Staff News

**Sibel Bozdogan**, assistant professor in the MIT department of architecture, traveled to Berlin in July to participate in the XXVIIth International Congress of the History of Art organized by the Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art. She presented a lecture entitled "Modernity in the Margins: Architecture and Ideology in Early Republican Turkey."

In September, **Masood Khan**, visiting associate professor at MIT, delivered a paper at Carlton University in Ottawa on "Culture and Cross-culture: Observations on Design Education," at the International Symposium on Architecture and Culture.

In June, **Gülru Necipoğlu**, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities at Harvard, attended a symposium at the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, on "L'environnement du château de la ville: dépendances, jardin, paysage" at the Université de Tours where she gave a lecture on "Palais et jardins dans le monde Islamique." Although unable to attend the MESA annual meeting in October, her paper, "The Parthenon, Hagia Sophia, and Other Byzantine Churches Converted into Ottoman Mosques," was read by AKP alumnus Scott Redford so it could be part of the discussion on architectural conversion and the transformation of resident populations. In November, she presented "The Framing of the Gaze in Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Places" in a lecture series organized by Harvard's Center for Literary and Cultural Studies. This fall, she also



Assistant Professor Sibel Bozdogan

attended the board of directors meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians in Philadelphia.

While attending the MESA annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, **András Riedlmayer**, Aga Khan Program bibliographer, was elected to a three-year term as the Secretary Treasurer of the Middle East Librarians Association. Meanwhile, **Barbro Ek**, AKP director, was elected to the board of directors of the American Institute of Maghribi Studies (AIMS). She has recently joined the Sabre Foundation's advisory council for Central Asia.

**Jill Bogosian**, a staff member of the AKP central office since 1986, left the program for a position at Harvard's Office for Information Technology. **Bob Marlatt** who worked in a corporate accounting environment for seven years, assumed the position of part-time administrative assistant in October. Marlatt, a freelance classical musician, has been playing the French

horn since the age of nine and is very active in the Boston musical community. A native of Richmond, Indiana, he received a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University in 1983.

**Alexandra Kuropas**, senior office assistant in the AKP central office, left the program in May to move to Chicago and has been replaced by **Deb Kreuze**. Kreuze, originally from Minneapolis, received a degree in music from MIT in 1991. A singer, her main musical interest is in the repertoire of the 20th century avant-garde. She is currently singing with the Tangle-

wood Festival Chorus and the John Oliver Chorale.

**Kim Lyon**, AKP archivist at the Rotch Visual Collection, wrote "Preservation Management in the Aga Khan Program Visual Archives" for the MIT Libraries. The paper includes a description of the Archives from its conception, the procedures for processing individual collections, and why each procedure was chosen. She also compiled a short but current "Annotated Bibliography on the Preservation of Photographic Slides" and a "User's Guide to the Images System" that includes exercises to help familiarize the user with the AKP videodisc system. On a more personal note, Kim was married to Dennis Hallinan on December 19 in Peninsula, Ohio. ♦

*News from the Parallel Centers Continued from page 3*

advanced architectural design in the Islamic context, and architectural and urban conservation. The plan includes required courses in the social sciences and humanities for each specialization to give a firm historical and social base to the design. The program passed the department council, was approved by the university authorities over the summer, and implementation began this fall.

### Other Parallel Center News

On behalf of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's interest in better understanding the current state of architectural education, Kausar Bashir Ahmad, dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning and coordinator of the Aga Khan Program at Dawood College of Engineering and Technology (DCET), compiled and analyzed a survey of architectural education in the Muslim world in which over one hundred departments participated. Summary and analysis of each country and region was based on responses from each of these schools, highlighting important similarities and differences between regions and revealing the strengths and weaknesses in each area's architectural education. Professor Elmar Dittman, Dr. Kamel Mahadin, and other faculty from the parallel center at the University of Jordan were responsible for the Arab regions and visited schools from Algeria to the Persian Gulf. ♦

*The Divine Axis: continued from page 1*

In "The Qubbat of Khadra' and the Iconography of Height in Early Islamic Palaces," Jonathan Bloom suggested that the term referred more to an idea than to a specific form. In "The Memory of Madinat al-Zahra," D. Fairchild Ruggles, Ithaca College, addressed the image of the palace in literature. Panelists pointed out that it was important to consider the literary role of Madinat al-Zahra as part of a

much larger Islamic tradition of palace eulogy.

The second day of the conference began with Yasser Tabbaa, University of Michigan, re-introducing the question of the palace's interaction with the city in "The Representation of Power in Ayyubid and Artukid Palaces." He discussed the citadel-city, a form typical of the Crusader era, and illustrated how the city was linked to the citadel through a ceremonial axis. He reiterated the role of the palace as observation tower. AKP

Assistant Professor Nasser Rabbat, MIT, once again, brought up the ritual destruction of palaces in "Mamluk Throne Halls: Qubba or Iwan?" Both papers showed how the palace architecture of the period reflected the new separation between caliphate and sultanate. Panel members suggested that the decreased size of the palaces may have influenced this separation.

As the focus of the conference moved to the later Islamic period, participants addressed new patterns of

legitimacy. Particularly interesting was the use of Persian language and epic poetry by Turkic rulers of nomadic ancestry. Sheila Blair discussed the validating role of Persian inscriptions on Ilkhanid palaces in "Ilkhanid Palaces." References and comparisons to the Persian epics and histories allowed alien rulers to fit themselves into the context of traditional rulership.

The palace form underwent great changes at the hands of nomadic princes, whose traditions of rulership

and ceremonial differed from their settled predecessors. Bernard O'Kane, Center for Arabic Studies at the American University in Cairo, illustrated the new tent-palace model of the Timurids in "From Tents to Pavilions: Geochronology and Persian Palace Design." Groups of pavilions and tents were set in orchards, diminishing the importance of the citadels. The wives of the shah were given their own tents and gardens, reflecting the more visible role of women in nomadic society.



# Alumni/ae News

'92 **Nuha Khoury** (PhD, Fine Arts, Harvard) has moved to California where she is teaching Islamic art and architecture in the Department of Art History at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**Saif-ul-Haq** (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) has returned to his former position as lecturer in the department of architecture at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Dhaka.

**Tao Li** (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) and **Imran Ahmed** (SMArchS, HTC, MIT) were both honored with the most outstanding student and best-thesis awards in the Master of Science in Architecture Studies degree program in 1992. Imran has moved to New York City where he is working for the architectural firm of Perkins & Will. Tao is working in Houston, Texas.

**Murat Germen** (MArch, DIS, MIT) received honors for attaining the highest grade-point average in the Master of Architecture degree program in 1992, and **Radziah Mohamad** (SMArch, DIS, MIT) received honors for the second highest. Both received awards from the American Institute of Architects for scholastic achievement, character, and professional promise. Murat is now working in Arizona with architects Jody Gibbs and Bob Vint. He has submitted both his thesis, "The Arsenal of Venice: A Study on the Degree of Context-Conscious Architecture," and an article on current professional approaches in US architecture for publication in the December issue of *Tasarim*, a Turkish architectural magazine.

'91 **Iftexhar Ahmed** (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) has returned to Bangladesh where he

is lecturing in the architecture department at Dhaka University and teaching in a literacy program for street children. He has designed and is now building a home combining local building techniques, materials, and styles with contemporary needs in the rural town, Gopalganj, from which his father's family hails. Ahmed's article, "Cross-cultural Perspectives on the Preservation of Earthen Architecture," was recently published in the US/ICOMOS Newsletter.

'90 **Mohammad Al-Asad** attended the XXVIIth International Congress of the History of Art in Berlin in July organized by the Comité International d'His-

toire de l'Art. He presented a paper on "The Re-invention of Tradition: Turn of the Century Architecture in Cairo" as part of a panel entitled "Modernity, Marginality and Tradition in Islamic Architecture."

**Samia Rab** (SMArchS, MIT) is enrolled in a PhD program at Georgia Tech with Prof. Lewcock as her adviser. She spent June through December in Rome participating in the ICCROM conservation course studying techniques, methods and theories of urban conservation. Samia presented "Ethnicity and Habitat" at the Third International

Conference of the International Association for the Study of

Traditional Environments (IASTE) organized

by the Ecole d'Architecture in Paris on October 8-11, 1992.

'89 **Khadija Jamal's** (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) year-old consulting office in Karachi is involved with the design of private homes and bank interiors. She is also consulting for the Swiss Development Cooperative on shelter for low-income communities in the Sind and the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, and continues her involvement with the Aga Khan Housing Board. In September, Khadija presented a paper, "State and NGO Intervention in Housing in Pakistan," at the European Network of Housing Research seminar in Istanbul.

'88 **Maria Luisa Fernández** (PhD, Fine Arts, Harvard) is still teaching at Universidad Simón Bolívar in Venezuela where she is offering a new course, "Mudejar Architecture in the New World." In September, Maria Luisa gave a lecture at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México entitled "Private Spaces in Mexico: Baroque and Mudejar Gardens."

**Abdul-Halim Jabr** (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) joined the Beirut office of Dar al-Handasah in July, 1991, where he has been working on a project to update the Beirut International Airport Terminal. He is also co-teaching a third year architectural design studio with Jamal Abed (SMArchS, DIS, MIT) on a part-time basis at the American University of Beirut.

'81 **Sheila Canby** (PhD, FAS, Harvard) is the assistant keeper of Islamic art and antiquities at the Department of Oriental Antiquities in the British Museum. ♦

## DIS Reunion

There is talk of organizing an AKP DIS alumni reunion in 1994,

and we want your reactions, comments,

and suggestions as soon as possible. First,

we need to know if there is enough interest from all AKP DIS alumni to make it a successful event.

Then, we need your help in deciding on where and when it should be held. Finally, we need volunteers

to help organize the event. If the reunion were to be held in Cambridge, the AKP central office would be prepared to assist with arrangements. However, it

is difficult and costly for alumni to return to Cam-

bridge, so it has been suggested that the event take place somewhere more centrally located such as

Istanbul. In this case, the AKP would work close-

ly with a volunteer coordinator. Please write

to Barbro Ek with your thoughts and sug-

gestions within the next couple of

months, so that planning

may begin.

Gülru Necipoğlu closed the symposium with a comparison of the palace traditions in "The Privilege of the Gaze: Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Palaces Compared." She focused on the palace's role as observatory and focus of the ceremonial of rulership. She traced the dispari-

ties between the different traditions to the contrasting backgrounds of the three empires. Since the different themes and forms that tied all the presented papers together were prominent features of palace architecture of the later empires, Necipoğlu's topic was a fitting end to the conference.

Although the unity of traditions among different dynasties and religions justified the chronological and geographical scope of

the symposium, it made a strong case against the continued use of the term "Islamic" to describe what is really the product of a much wider cultural base. The lively discussion among the panelists who specialize in different periods also stressed the importance of keeping this larger context in mind. ♦

The afternoon session addressed palace complexes that are still relatively intact and can therefore be more formally and exactly analyzed. In "Safavid Palaces," Wolfram Kleiss, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, showed slides of many lesser known provincial palaces of Safavid Persia, including his own plans, elevations and reconstructions. The lack of tilework and inscriptions was particularly noteworthy. Catherine Asher, University of Minnesota, introduced some of the more obscure

Indian palaces of the Mughal period in "Sub-Imperial Palaces in India: Issues of Power and Authority." She demonstrated that provincial amirs and princes constructed their mansions after imperial models, even imitating forms as ideologically charged as the *gharoka* window (in which the ruler showed himself to his subjects). She also emphasized the importance of the Hindu element in shaping Mughal palace iconography.



## Recent AKP Publications

### **Muqarnas 9: An Annual on Islamic Art and Architecture** edited by Oleg Grabar

Articles on topics ranging from Egyptian funerary architecture to Islamic art in the 20th century. Contributors include Christopher Taylor, Nuha Khoury, Doris Behrens-Abouseif, Mohammad Al-Asad, Marilyn Jenkins, Robert Mason, Ronald Farquhar, Patrick Smith, A. Ghouchani, C. Adle, Summer Kenesson, Massumeh Farhad, Barbara Finster, Robert Hillenbrand, Subhash Parihar, and Wijdan Ali.

1992

27.5 x 22.5 cm, clothbound, 240 pages.

61 figures, 177 photos

ISBN 90 04 09625 6

NLG 79 (US\$ 45.25)

Order from E.J. Brill, Postbus 9000  
2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands

### **Timurid Art and Culture: Iran and Central Asia in the Fifteenth Century (Studies in Islamic Art and Architecture 6)**

edited by Lisa Golombek and Maria Subtelny

The nineteen papers were delivered at a symposium held in Toronto at the 1989 annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association on the art (painting, decorative arts, literature) and culture of the Timurid empire in the last decades of the fourteenth century and the whole of the fifteenth century, in an area of western Asia extending roughly from the Euphrates to the Hindu Kush and the Altai.

1992

27.5 x 22.5 cm, clothbound, 208 pages, 128 ills.

ISBN 90 04 09531 4

NLG 120 (US\$ 68.75)

Order from E.J. Brill, Postbus 9000  
2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands

## Other Publications

### **The Legacy of Muslim Spain** edited by Salma Khadra Jayyusi

This volume comprehensively deals with the brilliant and prosperous civilization of medieval Muslim Spain, whose influence was so important to later developments in Europe. It includes 47 essays by scholars of history, music, art and architecture, economic history, philosophy, religious studies, Islamic civilization, and science, technology and agriculture.

1992. Clothbound, 1100 pages, 16 pl., 17 ills. ISBN 90 04 09599 3. NLG 450 (US\$ 257.25)

Order from E.J. Brill, Postbus 9000, 2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands.



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