

THE AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

A K P I A

A VITAL DISCIPLINE, A GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Based at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, **The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA)** is dedicated to the study of Islamic art and architecture, urbanism, landscape design, and conservation – and the application of that knowledge to contemporary design projects. The goals of the program are to improve the teaching of Islamic art and architecture; to promote excellence in advanced research; to enhance the understanding of Islamic architecture, urbanism, and visual culture in light of contemporary theoretical, historical, critical, and developmental issues; and to promote knowledge of the Islamic cultural heritage. Established in 1979, AKPIA is supported by an endowment from His Highness the Aga Khan.



*"I have selected two of America's most distinguished architectural schools – Harvard and MIT – and established a program for Islamic architecture. This program will not only utilize their immense intellectual resources for the benefit of scholars seeking to understand Islamic architecture, but also circulate this expertise among students, teachers, and universities in Muslim and Western countries."*

*His Highness the Aga Khan, 21 April 1980*

# A K P I A

## ADVANCING THE STUDY OF ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE

The following pages highlight the history and accomplishments of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA) and its participants in several areas:

Leadership and History (pages 2 and 3)

Distinguished Faculty (pages 4 through 7)

AKPIA Alumni (pages 8 and 9)

Research and Resources (pages 10 and 11)

Embracing the Future (page 12)

His Highness the Aga Khan with AKPIA faculty. From left to right: Professors Sarkis, Roxburgh, Watenpaugh, Rabbat, and Necipoglu.



Stari-Most, Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Fine Arts Library, Harvard



## Leadership and History

During the late 1970s, a series of discussions took place between His Highness the Aga Khan and faculty members at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. These talks explored the feasibility of creating a permanent program, based at these two institutions, to support the study of Islamic architecture, urbanism, and visual culture. These deliberations culminated in discussions between the Aga Khan and the presidents of the two sponsoring institutions that eventually led to the establishment of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture in 1979.

*“As a student of history, you learn about the cultural processes of history. I was looking at the physical environment in the developing world, and I had to ask myself what we were doing correctly, or incorrectly. My sense was that while there was a fairly good understanding of programmatic requirements, the contextualization of those programmatic requirements in our part of the world just didn't exist.*

*Conceptualizing the program began in the mid-seventies. Those involved in the process came at it with a sense of humility in the face of issues that were sensed, but that had never been intellectualized or rationalized. We started with an enormous process of inquiry. The industrialized world was dominating the processes of change in the Third World, and, that domination resulted in an educational process, in the Islamic world, which were First World driven. Therefore, we had to accept that an educational role was necessary. The question was how to design an educational resource that would have the maximum possible impact and, at the same time, have a legitimacy which would make it acceptable to much of the Islamic world. That became the basis for the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.*

*His Highness the Aga Khan, 31 August 2001*

*His Highness the Aga Khan, Architectural Record, August 2001*

From left to right: Peter Rowe, Dean, Graduate School of Design, Harvard, William Mitchell, Dean, School of Architecture and Planning, MIT, and His Highness the Aga Khan



painting to come

## A Positive Force

In the ensuing years, AKPIA's faculty, students, and alumni have played a significant role in advancing the analysis, understanding and practice of Islamic art and architecture. Among the program's achievements:

- The program is led by a distinguished core of five faculty members specializing in Islamic art and architecture, and enhanced by affiliated and visiting professors in allied fields.
- The combined research and publications of AKPIA faculty, fellows, and students have contributed to learning, and the repository of knowledge, relating to Islamic art and architecture, enabling and enriching critical debate.
- AKPIA alumni have assumed influential roles around the world as academics, curators, government officials, and practicing architects.
- Through the sponsoring of research, seminars, workshops, and conferences, AKPIA has enabled a wide community of experts to interact with and communicate ideas to students.
- AKPIA library collections at Harvard and MIT are among the world's most extensive; they comprise texts and images related to Islamic architecture and art history. These resources are available to scholars, practitioners and students around the world, through offline and online publications, and libraries.
- AKPIA represents one of the most visible, pervasive, and enduring collaborations between Harvard and MIT.

AKPIA, at Harvard and MIT, encourages a rich and collaborative exchange involving both schools. Through cross-registration, AKPIA students enrolled in one institution may take advantage of courses at the other. This cooperative arrangement, in which five professors teach in three departments within two prestigious educational institutions, both distinguishes the program and enhances the overall experience for students.

At Harvard University's Department of History of Art and Architecture, doctoral candidates can pursue concentrations in Islamic art, architecture, urban studies, and architectural and urban history. The department offers programs in the main aspects of the history of Western art, in Islamic and Oriental art, African art and in architectural history. A double major is offered with Islamic art as the major or minor field. Additionally, candidates enrolled in the Department of History of Art and Architecture can cross register at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies for a joint Ph.D. Programs of instruction prepare students for teaching the history and theory of art at college level, for museum work, and for independent research and writing. Recent course titles include:

*The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent • Architecture and Dynastic Legitimacy • Art in the Wake of the Mongol Conquests • Critical Issues in Islamic Art and Architecture • Islamic Pilgrimage • Monuments of Medieval Islamic Architecture • Visual Encounters between East and West*

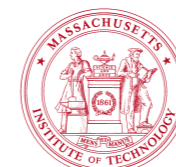
The Harvard Design School (also known as the Graduate School of Design or GSD) offers masters degree programs in the departments of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning and design. The Aga Khan Professorship of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies provides leadership and greater focus to the GSD's emerging intellectual and design interests in both historic and contemporary aspects of open-space and built environments in Islamic societies. Recent course titles include:

*Design Research Methods • Developing Worlds: Urban Planning in the Middle East and Latin America After WWII • Green Modern: A History of Environmental Consciousness*

AKPIA at MIT offers interested students a concentration in Islamic architecture and urbanism as part of the two-year Master of Science in Architectural Studies (SMArchS) degree. This program prepares students for careers in research, design, and teaching. Topics covered in this curriculum include the interaction between architecture, history, and culture; the structure, form and morphology of cities; historiography of Islamic architecture and urbanism; the critique of contemporary design in Islamic countries; and the development of theoretical and critical strategies for architectural and urban historic preservation. In addition, the program sponsors a lecture series, travel grants, and a postdoctoral fellowship program.

The program also funds Ph.D. candidates enrolled in History, Theory and Criticism (HTC) with a concentration on Islamic architecture and urbanism. The HTC mission is to encourage advanced historical research and to promote critical and theoretical reflection within the disciplines of architectural and art history. The concentration on Islamic architecture and urbanism is an integral part of the HTC section. Usually, one student with an interest in the Islamic world is admitted yearly and is funded through the Aga Khan Program endowment. Recent course titles include:

*Architecture of Cairo • Cultural Signification in Architecture • Gender, Space, Architecture • Islamic Architecture and the Environment • Orientalism and Representation • Theories and Histories of Architectural Preservation*



# :: Faculty Profiles

AKPIA faculty is composed of internationally respected professors. Through their teaching, research and publications, they are making significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge about Islamic art and architecture.

*"I believe that the Islamic tradition is analogous to the American notion of the "melting pot," in which a pluralistic blending of cultures, traditions, and aesthetics has resulted in a rich mosaic."*

*"The most profound achievement of AKPIA, in my opinion, is to argue for a critical reappraisal of the dominant paradigm of architectural history, which legitimizes a self-conscious and evolving Western architectural tradition while casting the architecture of other cultures in changeless 'types.'"*

## Gülru Necipoğlu

Gülru Necipoğlu joined AKPIA as one of the program's first graduate students in 1979, receiving a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1986. She joined the Harvard faculty in 1987 and was named Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art at Harvard in 1993. Her publications include *Architectural Culture in the Age of Sinan: Memory, Identity and Decorum* (Reaktion Books, 2004), *The Topkapi Scroll: Geometry and Ornament in Islamic Architecture* (Getty Center, 1995). Winner of the Albert Hourani Book Award and the Spiro Kostoff Book Award for Architecture and Urbanism, and *Architecture, Ceremony and Power: The Topkapi Palace in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries* (MIT Press, 1991). Professor Necipoğlu serves on the board of the Palladio Institute in Vicenza and is involved in a UNESCO-sponsored project to rebuild the Ottoman bridge in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina. She is the editor of *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Culture of the Islamic World* and its Supplements.

"AKPIA represents a mutually enriching collaboration between two of the world's great universities. Harvard offers an interdisciplinary approach, enabling students to explore Islamic architectural history within the larger context of art history. Taken as a whole, the program has helped elevate the study of Islamic art and architecture from a relatively marginal position in Western academia, and exposes both students and the global architectural community to the many facets and dimensions of this burgeoning field.

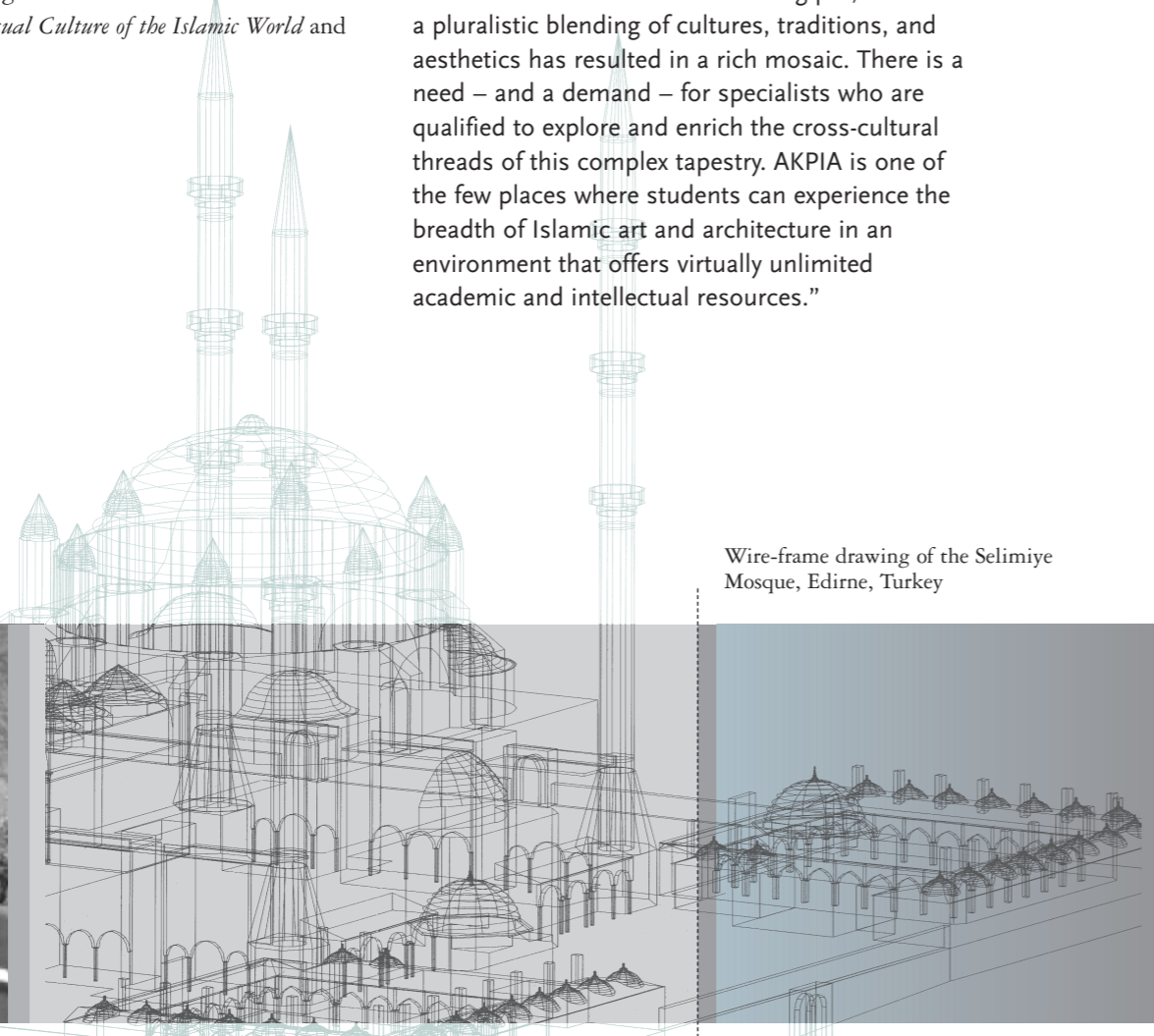
I believe that the Islamic tradition is analogous to the American notion of the "melting pot," in which a pluralistic blending of cultures, traditions, and aesthetics has resulted in a rich mosaic. There is a need – and a demand – for specialists who are qualified to explore and enrich the cross-cultural threads of this complex tapestry. AKPIA is one of the few places where students can experience the breadth of Islamic art and architecture in an environment that offers virtually unlimited academic and intellectual resources."

## Nasser Rabbat

Nasser Rabbat is the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture at MIT, where he has been teaching since graduating with a Ph.D. from MIT in 1991. His books include: *The Citadel of Cairo: A New Interpretation of Royal Mamluk Architecture* (E. J. Brill, 1995), *Thaqafat al Bina' wa Bina' al-Thaqafa (The Culture of Building and Building Culture)* (Riad Alrayyes Publisher, 2002), *L'art Islamique à la recherche d'une méthode historique* (forthcoming, Institut du Monde Arabe, 2004), and *Historicizing the City: The Significance of Magrizi's Khatat* (forthcoming, 2004). Professor Rabbat serves on the boards of various organizations concerned with Islamic cultures, lectures extensively in the US and abroad, contributes to a variety of newspapers and magazines, and maintains several websites focused on Islamic architecture.

"AKPIA offers both a solid academic setting for the study of architecture and culture in the Islamic world, and a unique opportunity to foster collaborations with the makers and interpreters of architecture in that world. The program focuses on three critical issues at the core of architectural education in an effort to respond to the cultural and pedagogical needs of a diverse Islamic world. First is the question of the universality of architectural education in an age of rapid change, both in the conception and transfer of knowledge and in the definition of academic fields. Second is the nature of architecture in view of the proliferation of new theoretical models and technological devices that are reconfiguring both the discipline and the practice of architecture. Third is the agency of culture in shaping forms and meanings, especially in the Islamic and developing worlds, where architecture can still play a powerful social and environmental role.

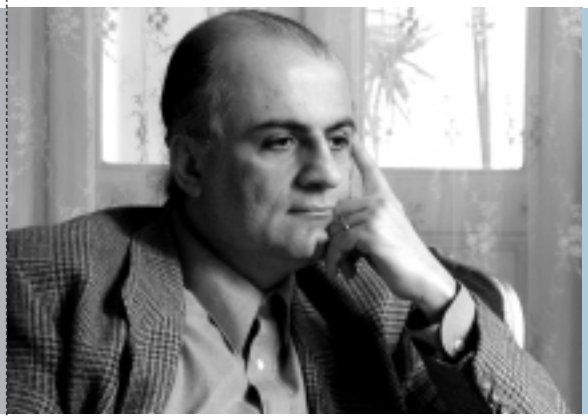
But the most profound achievement of AKPIA in, my opinion, is to argue for a critical reappraisal of the dominant paradigm of architectural history, which legitimizes a self-conscious and evolving Western architectural tradition while casting the architecture of other cultures in changeless 'types.' Challenging this binary structure, which is rooted in the legacy of Orientalism, is the true intellectual task to which AKPIA at MIT has committed itself."



Wire-frame drawing of the Selimiye Mosque, Edirne, Turkey



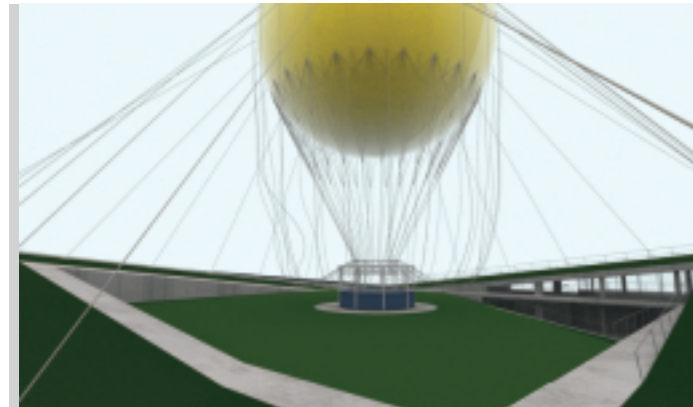
Panoramic view of Cairo, Egypt



## A. Hashim Sarkis

Hashim Sarkis is the first Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies at the GSD, and serves as the director of the Master and Doctor of Design Studies programs. Professor Sarkis is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Circa 1958: Lebanon in the Pictures and Plans of Constantinou Doxiadis* (Dar Annahar, 2003). He received Bachelor degrees in architecture and fine arts from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), and Masters and Ph.D. degrees in architecture from the GSD, Harvard University. Professor Sarkis has taught at MIT, RISD, Yale, and the American University of Beirut, and is a practicing architect in Lebanon and the United States.

Park, Beirut, Lebanon, designed by Hashim Sarkis



*“Thanks to the resources of the AKPIA program, we can study current conditions in the context of traditional and modern design approaches, and compare them with similar instances in other areas of the world, particularly in Latin America and Southeast Asia.”*

“My primary focus at the GSD is to examine the impact of development on the shaping of regional territories in the Muslim world, and to generate the means by which the design of the landscape can be improved. Since the end of the Second World War, development – whether guided by the capitalist world (as in North Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia) or the planning models of the Soviet bloc (as in Eastern Europe and the Turkic states) – has deeply affected the economic, political, and physical environments of Muslim societies. As a result, regional agricultural production and population distribution have become skewed, reflecting a collective aspiration that favors the nation against the region, industry against agriculture, and the city against the country.

Through research, we aim to understand the impact of such policies on the landscape of regional territories, focusing on the emerging phenomena that characterize these territories, as well as on issues related to public space, environmental concerns, and land use. Thanks to the resources of the AKPIA program, we can study current conditions in the context of traditional and modern design approaches, and compare them with similar instances in other areas of the world, particularly in Latin America and Southeast Asia. Moving from research to practical application, the program operates on three fronts: academic, professional, and public outreach.”



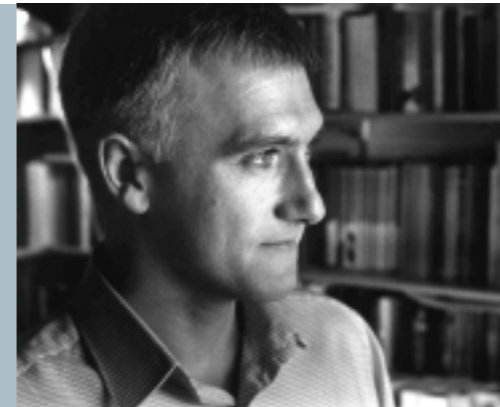
## David Roxburgh

An associate faculty member of the Aga Khan Program, David Roxburgh is a full professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard. His publications include *The Persian Album, 1400-1600: From Dispersal to Collection* (Yale University Press, 2004) and *Prefacing the Image: The Writing of Art History in Sixteenth-Century Iran* (Brill, 2001). He completed a Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 1996, and has received numerous fellowships and conducted extensive research in North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. His research focuses on the visual arts, principally the arts of the book, painting, and calligraphy.

“Islamic art and architecture are hugely significant fields that have reached a critical turning point. In the past, much of the academic work related to these areas was conducted from an “Orientalist” perspective. Thanks to AKPIA and other programs, this focus is shifting toward a more informed approach to the complexities of Islamic societies, and the links that exist between architectural spaces and human experience. Basing the program at Harvard and MIT provides students with access to exceptional, world-class academic resources – from immense libraries to lecture series, fellowships, and conferences. The success of AKPIA graduates in obtaining prestigious positions at academic and cultural institutions offers compelling evidence of the program’s importance and long-term viability.”



Samanid Plate, 10th century, The Norma Jean Calderwood Collection of Islamic Art, Sackler Museum, Harvard



Aerial view over the Citadel of Aleppo, Syria, ph: Michel Ecochard, 1930, The Aga Khan Trust for Culture

## Heghnar Watenpaugh

Heghnar Watenpaugh is an assistant professor of the history of architecture and the Aga Khan Career Development Professor at MIT. She received a Ph.D. in art history from University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to joining AKPIA, she served as an assistant professor of art history at Rice University. Her research addresses issues of urban and architectural history in early modern and modern Islamic societies. She teaches courses on theories of preservation as well as architecture and gender; she is currently completing a book entitled *The Image of an Ottoman City: Imperial Architecture and Urban Practice in Aleppo in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*.

“Growing up in Beirut, I lived in an environment where the architecture had been both profoundly enriched and deeply traumatized by the forces of modernity, colonialism, and nationalism. One of the courses I teach at MIT, “Heritage as a Battleground,” focuses on how those forces affect the study and preservation of architectural forms, particularly within the Islamic world. More than any other program, AKPIA gives students and faculty members a forum where vital issues facing architectural culture are vigorously debated, making it a most exciting, creative, and intellectual environment.”



# :: Research and Resources

AKPIA students benefit not only from their participation in the basic components of the program, but also from numerous opportunities offered at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

• **Special library collections**

The Aga Khan Documentation Center at the Harvard Fine Arts Library and the AKPIA Collections at MIT's Rotch Library comprise a unique resource: thousands of books, more than 200,000 images, and other materials that provide literary and visual information on a vast range of historically important Islamic art, architecture, and ethnography. In addition, a wide range of specialized periodicals and monographs, museum and exhibition catalogues, documents of preservation and planning authorities, and of archaeological excavations strengthen the collections. Supported by program funds, these collections complement the library holdings maintained by the two sponsoring institutions. Both historical and contemporary, they provide unparalleled aids to study and research.

• **Opportunities for interdisciplinary study**

AKPIA students are given a remarkable opportunity to explore and make use of these centers of learning through course enrollments in many different departments, interaction with individuals in affiliated schools and centers, contact with leading academic thinkers, and involvement in a diverse and dynamic intellectual community.

• **ArchNet**

Created through a partnership between MIT, Harvard, and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, ArchNet (<http://archnet.org>) is a comprehensive online architectural library combining visual and textual sources. ArchNet brings together a growing global community of scholars, students, and professionals concerned with architecture, planning, and landscape design. Members gain access to comprehensive architectural resources, new perspectives on the built environment, and insights into Islamic design and culture.

• **Publications**

AKPIA publishes scholarly works on the history of Islamic art and architecture. The program sponsors publication of the respected scholarly journal, *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Culture of the Islamic World*, a yearly volume of articles on art and architectural history edited by Professor Gülru Necipoğlu. Editions of *Muqarnas* are complemented by *Supplements to Muqarnas: Studies and Sources on Islamic Art and Architecture*, which focus on textual primary sources for visual culture. In addition, AKPIA publishes books, conference proceedings, and "work in progress" monographs.

• **Lecture series**

Each year, the three AKPIA units sponsor lecture series that provide participants with exposure to the latest research from leading experts in the field. Recent topics include: "When Literature and Architecture Meet: Intersection of Poems and Monuments in Sixteenth-Century Istanbul", "Kerman, the "Miniature" Isfahan: A Study in Urban History", "My Sultan, My Self: The Tale of Saladin and Torello in Renaissance Domestic Painting", "MTV, The Middle East and Mainstream Media", "Tell Tale - The Alphabet: Outcome of Millenia of Mayhem", and "Consuming Heritage or the End of Tradition".

• **Conferences and seminars**

AKPIA funds bring leading scholars from around the world to Cambridge for conferences and seminars that disseminate new ideas and promote critical debate. Past forums include "Surveying Surveys of Islamic Art and Architecture" (May 2002, Harvard), "Dubai Conglomerated" (April 2003, Harvard), and "Exploring the Frontiers of Islamic Art and Architecture" (May 2001, MIT).

• **Harvard University Art Museums**

The Harvard University Art Museums are renowned for the quality of their extensive collections, including European and North American painting, prints, and photography (Fogg Museum); ancient, Asian, Islamic, and Indian arts (Sackler Museum); and German Expressionist painting (Busch-Reisinger Museum).

• **The Boston-Cambridge area**

In addition to Harvard and MIT, the Boston area boasts more than 75 institutions of higher learning, including the Museum of Fine Arts, which features a rich collection of Islamic art. Boston and Cambridge also offer extensive cultural and recreational resources, as well as a rich tradition of academic excellence and intellectual freedom.



## Travel and Fieldwork

The Aga Khan Program has a long tradition of emphasizing travel as an important part of education. AKPIA emphasizes the value of the first-hand experience of architecture as living culture. AKPIA provides grants each year on a competitive basis for summer research, including language study and travel related to exploration of thesis topics. Current examples of field-based research projects sponsored through the program include:

- Aleppo and Damascus – The Construction of Ottoman Aleppo
- Athens and Atlanta – Assessment of the Impact of Summer Olympics on the Host City
- Cairo, Istanbul, London, and Paris – Wonder and Its Images in Late Medieval Islamic Culture
- Iran – Survey of Pre-Mongol Islamic Architecture
- Istanbul, Damascus, and Samarkand – Urban Water Systems and Medieval Islamic Urban Planning
- St. Petersburg, London, Istanbul, Paris – Shah Isma'il in Myth and Memory
- Miami, Florida – The Architecture of Opa-locka and its Arabian Nights Festival

Agra Fort, India, ph: Sam Bourne, AKP Documentation Center, Fine Arts Library, Harvard



Carved jali, Ahmedabad, India, ph: Sam Bourne, AKP Documentation Center, Fine Arts Library, Harvard



Shir-Dor Madrasa, Samarkand, Uzbekistan, ph: Petrovsky, AKP Documentation Center, Fine Arts Library, Harvard



Since completing their studies at AKPIA, the following alumni have distinguished themselves through their work, research, and leadership. In their own words, they describe the impact of the AKPIA program on their careers.



Patio of the Lions,  
Alhambra, Granada,  
Spain, AKP  
Documentation Center,  
Fine Arts Library, Harvard

## Hana Alamuddin

**Hana Alamuddin** is the principal of Al-Mimariya, an architectural and design firm in Beirut. She received an SMArchS in architectural studies from MIT in 1987. An active conservationist, she has served on the Beirut Ministry of Culture's Technical Committee for the Preservation of the Architectural Heritage of Beirut. She has received numerous scholarships and grants, including a travel grant to study the Mamluk city of Tripoli, Lebanon.

"I went to AKPIA hoping to find answers to questions related to cultural identity, contextualism, and other issues. Instead of finding answers, we were given more difficult questions to consider. This helped me realize the complexity of the social dynamics around architecture, and the extent of my responsibility as a builder. Being at MIT also exposed me to issues taking place in other parts of the world – from South America to Europe – and helped me understand how all of us are affected by the forces of politics, economics, and globalization. This helped build my confidence: people at MIT are told, "You're here because you can change the world – now go out and make a difference.

I have taken this sensibility with me in my work as a practicing architect and preservationist in Beirut – a place where civil war has rendered much of the public realm virtually absent. There are a number of AKPIA graduates here who are both my colleagues and my support group. All of us were fortunate enough to study in a place where people were seriously concerned about the built environment, and exceptionally open to other peoples and cultures. AKPIA helped teach me that among those of us who respect the built environment, there are no real enemies: we're all in the same boat."

## Mohammad al-Asad

**Mohammad al-Asad** is an architect and architectural historian, and the founding director of the Center for the Study of the Built Environment in Amman, Jordan. He studied architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received a Ph.D. in architectural history from Harvard University in 1990. He has held postdoctoral research positions at Harvard University and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, and has taught at institutions around the world. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Society for Fine Arts.

"I enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Harvard in order to obtain the opportunity to carry out an in-depth exploration of my cultural heritage. I ended up doing much more than that. I learned about the universality of human experience, and about the interconnectedness of various fields of knowledge. I also came to understand the integral relationship that connects the ever-continuing processes of seeking knowledge, research, writing, and teaching. Perhaps more importantly, I learned to always look beyond the immediate boundaries that initially seem to restrict our aspirations and opportunities.

The experiences I gained as a student at AKPIA have continued to be of great significance to me, initially as a researcher and educator, and later, as a founding director of an interdisciplinary center involved in studying the built environment. The professional relationships I established at Harvard and MIT are very valuable ones, and a number of them continue to this day, providing me with the ability to interact and exchange ideas with a highly competent group of scholars."

## Elizabeth Dean Hermann

**Elizabeth Dean Hermann** is Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Architectural History and former Head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design. She received a Ph.D. in landscape and architectural history from Harvard University in 1996 for her dissertation, "Urban Formation and Landscape: Symbol and Agent of Social, Political, and Environmental Change in Fourteenth-Century Nasrid Granada". She has received numerous grants and awards, including the Rome Prize from the American Academy, and has published extensively.

"AKPIA has played an important role in my professional development since the late 1980s, when I became involved with several design projects for the Muslim world. Confronted at that time with a professional environment that still viewed the non-Western world as an exotic free-for-all from which design styles could be indiscriminately appropriated, reinterpreted, mixed and applied, I sought a more informed view of Islamic societies and their rich cultural legacies. At this time, I was invited to join AKPIA as an Affiliate. Later, in my doctoral studies, I worked closely with Gülru Necipoğlu and other Aga Khan faculty. Throughout, the program served as an anchor, a resource base, and a family of individuals sharing common interests and concerns.

AKPIA continues to play an important role in my life and in the lives of my students, many of whom are from the Muslim world. AKPIA and its affiliated programs, such as the Harvard Design School and MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning, bring together a wealth of individuals and research in many different capacities. These endeavors are impacting life within Islamic societies, as well as the study of those societies and their relationship to the rest of the world."

## Glenn Lowry

In 1995, **Glenn D. Lowry** became the sixth director of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. He leads a staff of 600 and directs an active program of exhibitions, acquisitions, and publications. Mr. Lowry's major initiatives include guiding the building of MoMA's new museum, and directing the \$800 million capital campaign that will fund the building project and enlarge the museum's endowment. He received a Ph.D. in fine arts from Harvard University in 1982. He lectures and writes extensively in support of contemporary art and artists, and on the role of museums in society.

"As a graduate student at Harvard, I was among the first group of students to participate in AKPIA. I was motivated by a fascination with Islamic art and a desire to study with Oleg Grabar, the first Aga Khan Professor at Harvard. Interest in Islamic art within American institutions was in its nascent stages during that time. In the context of my studies, I published several articles in *Muqarnas* that helped put the spotlight on both Islamic architecture and the program. It was a very heady time, when there was an open dialogue about the nature of Islamic architecture – without the current political freight – as well as the potential for relationships with scholars in fields ranging from philosophy and law to science and history.

AKPIA played an integral role in my formation as a scholar, and helped keep my mind open to the fact that all art-making is international. In my current position, I remain focused on how artists from the Islamic world have continuously grappled with the idea of modernity. AKPIA has helped fill an important gap in the training of scholars – especially American scholars – while reflecting the Aga Khan's commitment to promoting academic excellence of the highest possible caliber."



## International Perspectives

Each year, AKPIA welcomes postdoctoral scholars from overseas who come to MIT and Harvard in support of their historical research in art, architectural history, and archaeology. Visiting professors deliver guest lectures in conjunction with their research and publish the results in *Muqarnas*. The international perspectives of these scholars play a critical role in enriching the discourse at AKPIA. Past fellows and their project titles include:

- Samer Akkach, University of Adelaide, *Journeys & Geo-Poetic Desires: A Critical Reading of Architecture and Landscape in al-Nablusi's Travel Memoirs*
- Marianne Barrucand, University of Paris, Sorbonne, *Forms and Functions of Ornament in Fatimid Architecture*
- Sibel Bozdoğan, University of California, Berkeley, *Reframing the Ottoman Legacy: Nationalism, Modernism and Architectural Historiography in Republican Turkey*
- Maurice Munir Cerasi, University of Genoa, *Language, Culture, and Typological Concepts in the Genesis of Housing Types in the Ottoman Regions*
- Ebba Koch, Institute of Art History, University of Vienna, *Gardens and Palaces of Shah Jahan*
- Julie Scott Meisami, University of Oxford, *Relationships Between Medieval Islamic Literature and the Visual Arts*
- Kimiyo Yamashita, Kokoshikan University, *Mosques During the Dynasties of Artuk, Seljuk, Beylik and Early Ottoman Period*

## :: Embracing the Future

While the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture has accomplished a great deal in the effort to advance the study and practice of Islamic art and architecture in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries, its work has only begun. It is the aim of the program that the pluralistic traditions of the Islamic world – and their implications for modern built environments – will continue to play an increasingly important role in academia and in architectural practice throughout the world.

AKPIA continues to be an important locus of both theory and practice and a leading academic influence in the discipline. For those with an interest in pursuing studies of Islamic art and architecture at the graduate level, AKPIA offers a broad array of intellectual resources within a dynamic and diverse learning community.

## For more information

To learn more about AKPIA, please contact us or visit our websites.

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology Information

**Admissions** – Candidates who would like to apply to AKPIA for either a SMArchS degree or a Ph.D. degree in the History, Theory, and Criticism section must submit applications to the Department of Architecture. Most students entering the SMArchS program hold a professional degree in architecture. However, students from other backgrounds can apply. Admission to either program is by competition among candidates for a limited number of places available. The SMArchS degree takes two years to complete. The stipulated minimum residency requirement for the Ph.D. degree is two years, however, candidates should expect that five years constitutes an efficient completion of the degree requirement.

**Financial assistance** – Financial support for graduate students is available through AKPIA-supported scholarships and hourly and salaried Research Assistant positions within the department and through ArchNet. Financial support for Ph.D. candidates consists of fellowship packages. The packages combine part-time positions as teaching assistants or research assistants with direct scholarship aid for tuition. The amount of the package will vary from year to year. Such packages cover the first three of residence in addition to a last year support package.

### General program information

**Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT**  
MIT Room 10-390  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.253.1400 | Fax: 617.258.8172  
Email: akpiaarch@mit.edu  
Web: <http://web.mit.edu/akpia/www/AKPsite/index.html>

### School of Architecture and Planning Admissions and Financial Aid

**MIT Department of Architecture**  
MIT Room 7-337  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.253.7386 | Fax: 617.253.8993  
Web: <http://architecture.mit.edu>

### Harvard Information

*Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of History of Art and Architecture*  
**Admissions** – Candidates who would like to apply to AKPIA in the Department of History of Art and Architecture must submit applications to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University. The doctoral program in History of Art and Architecture usually requires six to seven years to complete and is divided into four stages: course work, qualifying paper, General Examination, and dissertation. Ordinarily three years are spent in academic residence in Cambridge prior to beginning work on the dissertation. Dissertation research usually involves travel in America and abroad.

**Financial assistance** – Scholarship support is available to graduate students pursuing concentrations in the study of Islamic art, architecture, urban studies, and architectural and urban history. Once formally admitted to Harvard University's Department of History of Art and Architecture Ph.D. program, students are eligible for AKPIA financial assistance. There is no application process. However, graduate student candidates should clearly specify their research concentration on their applications.

### General program information

**Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Sackler Museum**  
485 Broadway, Room 412, Cambridge, MA 02138  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.495.2355 | Fax: 617.496.8389  
Email: [agakhan@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:agakhan@fas.harvard.edu)  
Web: [www.fas.harvard.edu/~agakhan](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~agakhan)

### Muqarnas: An Annual on Islamic Art and Architecture

Julia Bailey, Managing Editor  
Sackler Museum  
485 Broadway, Room 412, Cambridge, MA 02138  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.495.3774 | Fax: 617.496.8389  
Email: [jbailey@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jbailey@fas.harvard.edu)

### Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Admissions Office  
Byerly Hall,  
8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3802  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.495.5315 | Fax: 617.496.8389  
Email: [admiss@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:admiss@fas.harvard.edu)  
Web: [www.gsas.harvard.edu/admissions/index.html](http://www.gsas.harvard.edu/admissions/index.html)

### Harvard Design School

**Admissions** – The Harvard Design School offers masters degree programs in the departments of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning and design, which enable students to focus their studies in one discipline while gaining a broader perspective from related fields. The school also provides opportunities for advanced study and research in these fields and in such areas as real estate, digital media, and housing. Individuals are admitted to the Harvard Design School as students in a particular degree program or as special students who pursue independent study rather than an academic degree.

**Financial assistance** – Sources of financial assistance at the Harvard Design School can vary according to each student's situation. The School does not offer financial assistance to international students. Grants and Federal Loans are only offered to individuals who are United States citizens or permanent residents. Applying for Financial Aid has no bearing on an application for admission. Please refer to: [www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions/financial\\_aid/types.html](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions/financial_aid/types.html) for more information.

### General program information

**Hashim Sarkis**  
**Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies**  
Harvard Design School  
48 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.496.0330  
Email: [hsarkis@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:hsarkis@gsd.harvard.edu)  
Web: [www.gsd.harvard.edu/index.html](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/index.html)

### Harvard Design School

Admissions Office  
48 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.495.5453 | Fax: 617.495.8949  
Web: [www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions)

### Library Resources

**Omar Khalidi**  
Librarian for Aga Khan Program  
Rotch Architecture Library  
MIT Room 7-238  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.258.5597 | Fax: 617.253.9331  
Email: [okhalidi@mit.edu](mailto:okhalidi@mit.edu)  
Web: <http://bloom.mit.edu/agakhan/info/index.html>

### Johanna Woll

Islamic Architecture Image Specialist  
Rotch Visual Collections  
MIT Room 7-304  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.253.6209  
Email: [jwoll@mit.edu](mailto:jwoll@mit.edu)  
Web: <http://bloom.mit.edu/agakhan/info/index.html>

### András Riedlmayer

Bibliographer for Islamic Art and Architecture  
Fine Arts Library, Harvard University  
32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3802  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.495.3372 | Fax: 617.496.4889  
Email: [riedlmay@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:riedlmay@fas.harvard.edu)  
Web: [http://hcl.harvard.edu/finearts/aga\\_khan.html](http://hcl.harvard.edu/finearts/aga_khan.html)

### Jeffrey Spurr

Cataloger for Islamic Art  
Fine Arts Library, Harvard University  
32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3802  
United States of America  
Tel: 617.495.3372 | Fax: 617.496.4889  
Email: [spurr@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:spurr@fas.harvard.edu)  
Web: [http://hcl.harvard.edu/finearts/aga\\_khan.html](http://hcl.harvard.edu/finearts/aga_khan.html)

### Former AKPIA Faculty

**Barbro Ek**  
Director, Aga Khan Program, MIT, 1988-1994

**Oleg Grabar**  
Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture, Harvard, 1980-1990

**Ron Lewcock**  
Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture, MIT, 1985-91

**Attilio Petruccioli**  
Aga Khan Professor, MIT, 1994-99

**William Porter**  
Director, Aga Khan Program, MIT, 1979-1985

**Mararet Sevckenko**  
Editor of publications, Aga Khan Program, Harvard, 1979-2002

**Yasser Tabbaa**  
Aga Khan Career Development Professor, MIT, 1983-87





## International Perspectives

Each year, AKPIA welcomes postdoctoral scholars from overseas who come to MIT and Harvard in support of their historical research in art, architectural history, and archaeology. Visiting professors deliver guest lectures in conjunction with their research and publish the results in *Muqarnas*. The international perspectives of these scholars play a critical role in enriching the discourse at AKPIA. Past fellows and their project titles include:

- Samer Akkach, University of Adelaide, *Journeys & Geo-Poetic Desires: A Critical Reading of Architecture and Landscape in al-Nablusi's Travel Memoirs*
- Marianne Barrucand, University of Paris, Sorbonne, *Forms and Functions of Ornament in Fatimid Architecture*
- Sibel Bozdoğan, University of California, Berkeley, *Reframing the Ottoman Legacy: Nationalism, Modernism and Architectural Historiography in Republican Turkey*
- Maurice Munir Cerasi, University of Genoa, *Language, Culture, and Typological Concepts in the Genesis of Housing Types in the Ottoman Regions*
- Ebba Koch, Institute of Art History, University of Vienna, *Gardens and Palaces of Shah Jahan*
- Julie Scott Meisami, University of Oxford, *Relationships Between Medieval Islamic Literature and the Visual Arts*
- Kimiyo Yamashita, Kokoshikan University, *Mosques During the Dynasties of Artuk, Seljuk, Beylik and Early Ottoman Period*

## :: Embracing the Future

While the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture has accomplished a great deal in the effort to advance the study and practice of Islamic art and architecture in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries, its work has only begun. It is the aim of the program that the pluralistic traditions of the Islamic world – and their implications for modern built environments – will continue to play an increasingly important role in academia and in architectural practice throughout the world.

AKPIA continues to be an important locus of both theory and practice and a leading academic influence in the discipline. For those with an interest in pursuing studies of Islamic art and architecture at the graduate level, AKPIA offers a broad array of intellectual resources within a dynamic and diverse learning community.



*"We are trustees of God's creation, and we should seek to leave the world a better place than it was when we came into it. Creating that 'better place' in physical terms means trying to bring values into environments, buildings, and contexts that make the quality of life better for future generations than it is today."*

*His Highness the Aga Khan, Architectural Record, August 2001*

