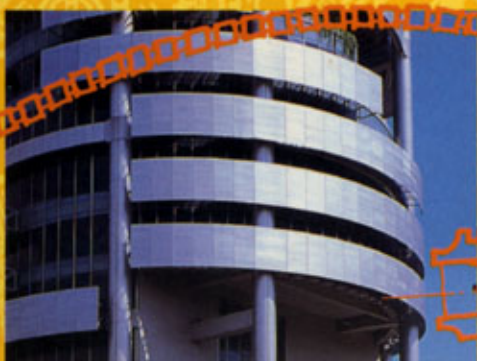


Architecture beyond Architecture

Creativity and Social Transformations in Islamic Cultures
The 1995 Aga Khan Award for Architecture



Edited by Cynthia C Davidson
with Ismaïl Serageldin

 The Aga Khan Award for Architecture

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More than 1,600 projects have been examined and debated since the Aga Khan Award for Architecture was founded in 1977 with the intention of exploring the direction of architectural projects in Muslim societies and encouraging a high standard of design. In this sixth cycle of the Award, twelve projects are premiated. Each is vastly different from the others, and together they illustrate not only the diverse programmes architecture is being asked to address in Third World countries today, but also the degree to which modernisation, or what some may term 'westernisation', is influencing the built environment of rapidly industrialising societies.

Together these projects raise many questions: what is the role of the West in Muslim societies, or, for that matter, in any developing society? What is the role of architecture in Muslim societies? What constitutes a definition of architecture in developing countries? In essays by philosopher Mohammed Arkoun, architect Peter Eisenman, critic Charles Jencks and architect and banker Ismaïl Serageldin – all members of the 1995 Master Jury – as well as in selected transcripts of the Jury deliberations, these questions and more are placed in a critical context that attempts to remove the boundaries between 'Muslim' and 'western', and to open a discussion relevant to architecture everywhere.

Cynthia C Davidson is director of the Anyone project, a cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary series of conferences and books on architecture and its relationships to general culture. She is also the editor of *ANY Magazine*, a critical tabloid on contemporary architecture and architectural ideas. A former Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Studies at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, she has edited numerous architectural books and journals, most recently *Anyplace*, on the place of architecture in contemporary culture.

Ismaïl Serageldin, a vice president of the World Bank, is an Egyptian architect and planner, and holds a PhD from Harvard University. He served on the Aga Khan Award for Architecture Steering Committee from 1984 to 1992, and chaired the Master Jury in 1983 and 1995. His books include the 1989 publication *Space for Freedom*, which examines the 1986 awards.

Also available on The Aga Khan Award for Architecture:
Architecture for a Changing World edited by James Steele
Architecture for Islamic Societies Today edited by James Steele

176 pages, over 290 illustrations, in colour and black & white

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This book presents the twelve projects premiated in the sixth cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. These awards are different from those given in preceding years, thus the book was a challenge from the start. In order to present what constitutes this new thinking about architecture and its content today, it was necessary to rethink the format and content of this book and its many audiences. For helping me meet these challenges, I am indebted to many of the staff at the Aga Khan Award, especially to Farrokh Derakhshani for the knowledge he imparted, to Shiraz Allibhai and Bill O'Reilly for their organisation of images, to Nabil Cherouati for facts and figures, and to Helen Goodman for her nimble and accurate typing. I am also grateful to Selma Al-Radi for writing the project descriptions, which are based on reports made by the technical reviewers; to Ismail Serageldin for his thoughtful and generous advice and assistance; to Jack Kennedy, whose good-natured support helped see this book to completion; and to Suha Özkan for his trust, his quiet dedication, and for the opportunity he gave me to become involved in this book. And though any mention here is too minor, it must be noted that neither this book nor the Award programme would exist if it were not for His Highness The Aga Khan, whose foresight and wisdom concerning the role of architecture in Muslim societies is unprecedented. Not only I, but thousands of others are grateful to His Highness for his support of architecture and his understanding of its power to effect social change. *Cynthia C Davidson*

Cover: Plan of Kaedi Regional Hospital and plan of paving design of Allinace Franco-Sénégalaise; inset photographs: Alliance Franco-Sénégalaise, Kaedi Regional Hospital, Menara Mesiniaga, Re-Forestation of the METU.

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