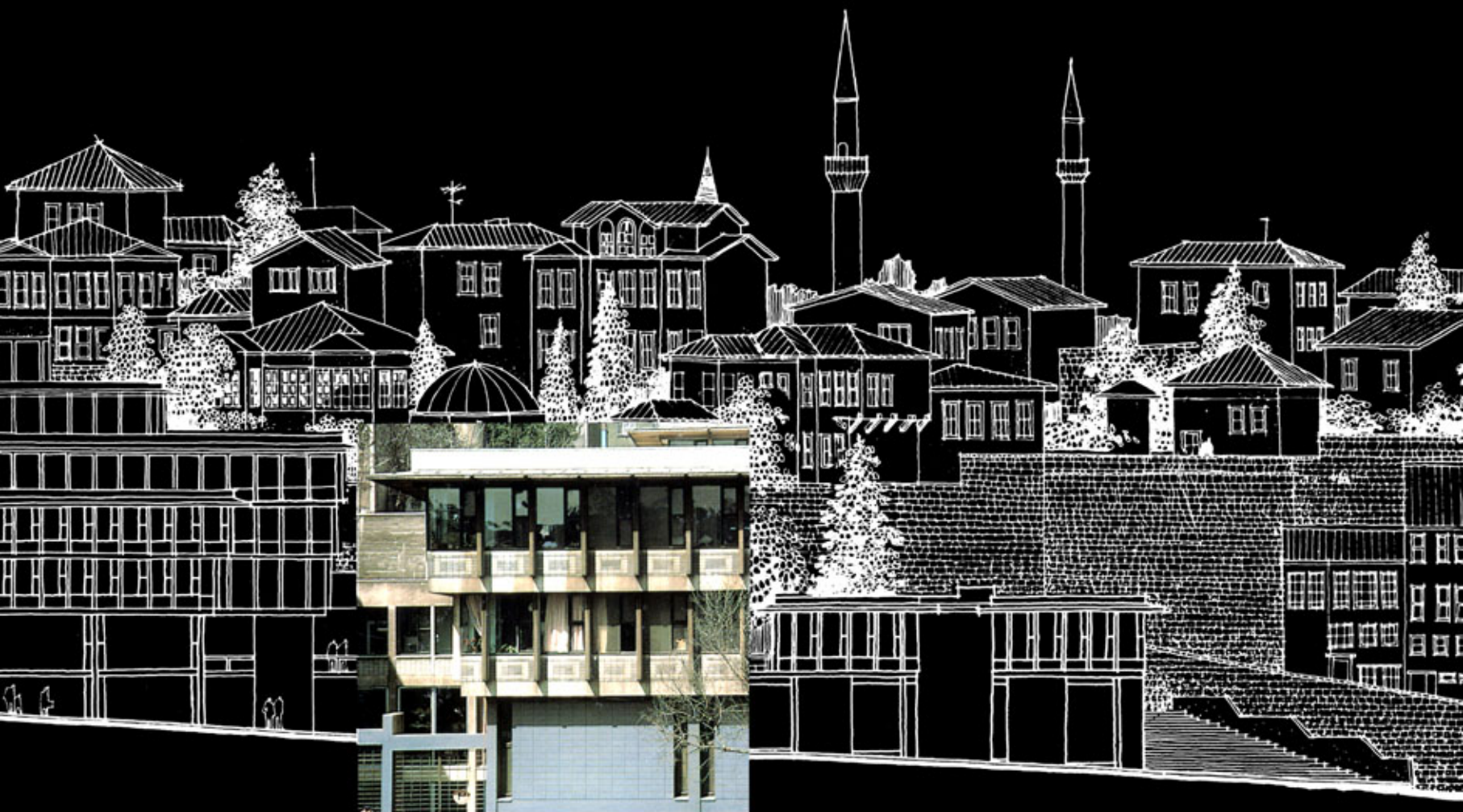


SPACE FOR FREEDOM

THE SEARCH FOR
ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE
IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES



ISMAIL SERAGELDIN

THE AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE

BUTTERWORTH ARCHITECTURE

SPACE FOR FREEDOM THE SEARCH FOR ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES

BY ISMAIL SERAGELDIN

This book chronicles the first decade and the achievements of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA), with special reference to the activities of the third cycle (1984–1986), and presents the winning projects of the 1986 Award.

The title *Space for Freedom* was chosen to underline the commitment of the Award, in all its activities, to create an intellectual space where imagination can soar and the pursuit of relevance and architectural excellence can proceed in myriad ways, transcending a single architectural style or school of thought.

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture was initiated in 1977 with the aim of recognising and rewarding outstanding architectural projects and exceptional individuals.

The awards have become the most visible feature of the AKAA, but behind this great endeavour is a dedicated “search”. In numerous seminars, “think tanks” and papers, all faithfully recorded in its publications, a *Space for Freedom* has been created.

Within this *Space for Freedom*, scholars, intellectuals, practicing architects and critics have committed themselves to a far-ranging quest for insight into the future built environment of Muslims.

It has been said that the role of architects in societies in rapid transition — as most Muslim societies are — is pivotal, both in defining society’s sense of its own reality as well as its perceptions of what constitutes its authentic cultural expression. The AKAA has helped architects better address these responsibilities. But the Award has had repercussions far beyond its original intention of guiding the discourse on architecture in the Muslim world. The issues of identity, regionalism and conservation of the built heritage which the AKAA has brought into focus are issues of concern to practising architects everywhere and to all those involved with development throughout the third world.

Space for Freedom is the third in a series of books under the general title “Building in the Islamic World Today”.

Cover: *The Social Security Complex, Istanbul, Turkey.*
Photograph by Reha Günay.

ISMAIL SERAGELDIN, the author/editor of the book, is an architect and planner. He is Director of the Occidental and Central Africa Department of the World Bank. As a member of the 1986 Aga Khan Award for Architecture Steering Committee and chairman of the 1983 Master Jury, he is well placed to relate the story of the AKAA’s endeavours in terms that underscore its significance not just for architects in the Muslim world, but to all those concerned with the thoughtful practice of architecture wherever they may be.

THE AGA KHAN AWARD
FOR ARCHITECTURE
32 Chemin des-Crêts-de-Pregny
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Switzerland

SPACE FOR FREEDOM
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“From the travails and labours of thousands, humble masons or expensive experts, there have emerged those works made by us and for us which we can present as a being, all together, as an aggregate, as a group, the statement of our hopes and of our expectations as much as of our achievements. This is indeed the way in which Pakistan’s beloved poet, Muhammad Iqbal, put it in two quotations that say what the Awards can mean.

Speaking of Islam in his vision for tomorrow, he wrote that it was

*A world eternal, with renewing flames and renewing leaves,
fruit and principles.*

With an immovable inside and an outside of

Changing, continuous revolutions.

And then, in another poem he said:

The journey of love is a very long journey.

But sometimes with a sign you can cross that vast desert.

Search and search again without losing hope.

You may find sometime a treasure on your way.

On behalf of the Master Jury and of the Award Committee, it is to this search for our new environment that I wish to invite the immense community of Muslim, and the whole world as well.”

– His Highness the Aga Khan

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FOR ARCHITECTURE



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This book represents the activities of The Aga Khan Award for Architecture during its third cycle, from 1984 to 1986, which culminated in the recognition of a number of contemporary building projects as well as the lifetime works of a single individual.

Many people deserve credit for bringing this book to fruition. First and foremost is His Highness The Aga Khan, whose vision, leadership, and generosity have made the Award the distinguished organisation it is today. My colleagues on the 1986 Steering Committee initiated and fostered the dialogue which characterised the rich intellectual search during this cycle: Oleg Grabar, Charles Correa, William Porter, Mohammed Arkoun, and Hasan-Uddin Khan. I have learnt from each of them. The title, *Space for Freedom*, is derived from an expression coined by Mohammed Arkoun, who made valuable comments on the early draft of this volume. Hasan-Uddin Khan also reviewed the manuscript in its completed form, and made useful suggestions on its presentation and layout. The Award's Secretary General, Saïd Zulficar, and Deputy Secretary

General, Suha Özkan, greatly contributed to the deliberations of the Steering Committee and forged much of the character of the current cycle. They were supported by an efficient and devoted staff, led by Jack Kennedy, Executive Officer, and Farrokh Derakhshani, Co-ordinator of Award Procedures who admirably guided the architectural department of the Award and whose assistance in the preparation of this volume merits acknowledgement and gratitude.

The Master Jury responsible for the designation of the 1986 Award recipients which are featured in Part II of this volume comprised: Soedjatmoko, Mahdi Elmandjra, Abdel Wahed El-Wakil, Hans Hollein, Zahir Ud-Deen Khwaja, Ronald Lewcock, Fumihiko Maki, Mehmet Doruk Pamir, and Robert Venturi.

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The actual production of this book benefited from the input of many additional individuals, and I would like to specifically recognise the contributions of six persons in Washington: Tania Kamal Eldin, who provided editorial support, Adoración Morao, whose tireless efforts and organisational skills made it possible to produce the manuscript on schedule, and Song-Li Tifone, who was always there to provide additional support when needed. Samir El-Sadek, Rawia Fadel and Nevine Madkour all read the manuscript and provided precious comments.

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Much of whatever credit this book possesses belongs to my friends and colleagues; any shortcomings are entirely my own.

Ismail Serageldin



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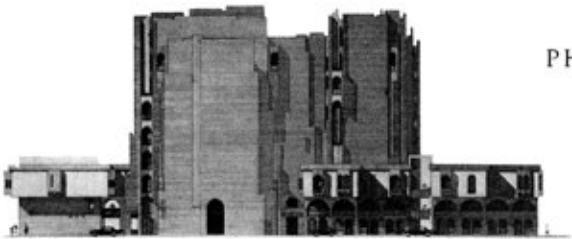
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