Legacies for the Future

Contemporary Architecture in Islamic Societies

Edited by Cynthia C. Davidson
Edited by Cynthia C. Davidson

In the rapidly changing tastes and styles of Western culture, the most highly acclaimed designs in contemporary architecture are often unconnected to the social and cultural contexts from which they spring. In contrast, in Islamic societies around the world, architecture often plays a far more responsible role, responding to the immediate needs of local and personal exigencies. As a result, some of the most Humanist contemporary architecture is overlooked by the fashions of today’s international design periodicals.

To bring to global attention the work of architects and designers building in the Muslim world, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture was established in 1977. With an international jury made up of Western and non-Western experts and architects, the Award has helped foster a greater understanding of architecture in developing countries. Previous winners of the Award include a number of internationally acclaimed architects, such as Balkrishna Doshi, Ken Yeang, Jean Nouvel, Louis Kahn, Henning Larsen and Hassan Fathy.

The seven projects chosen from hundreds by the jury are among the most fascinating and thoughtful work produced anywhere in the world. From the sensitive rehabilitation of Hebron’s politically charged old town to a humanizing hospital for lepers, each project is profiled in depth with lucid texts, extensive drawings and specially commissioned photographs. Critical essays consider the challenges and potential rewards confronting architects and planners working in exceptional contexts.

With 253 illustrations, 103 in colour.

Cynthia C. Davidson is the editor of ANY (Architecture New York) magazine and director of the international, millennial architecture research project, Anyone Corporation.

The members of the Master Jury for the seventh cycle of the Award are Professor Mohammed Arkoun, historian of Islamic thought, Paris; Zaha Hadid, architect, London; Arif Hasan, architect and planner, Karachi; Dr Saleh Al-Hathloul, architect and planner, Riyadh; Aata Isozaki, architect, Tokyo; Professor Fredric Jameson, cultural theorist, Duke University, U.S.A.; Romi Khosla, architect and economist, New Delhi; Yuswadi Saliya, architect and architectural historian, Jakarta; Dogan Tekeli, architect, Istanbul.

Other titles of interest

The Mosque and the Modern World
Architects, Patrons and Designs since the 1950s
Renata Holod and Hasan-Uddin Khan
With 446 illustrations, 156 in colour

An Architecture for People
The Complete Works of Hassan Fathy
James Steele
With 213 illustrations, 100 in colour

The Complete Architecture of Balkrishna Doshi
Rethinking Modernism for the Developing World
James Steele
With 235 illustrations, 120 in colour

Zaha Hadid
The Complete Buildings and Projects
With an essay by Aaron Betsky
With 428 illustrations, 328 in colour

If you would like to receive details of our new and forthcoming titles, please send your name and address to

THAMES AND HUDSON
30 Bloomsbury Street
London WC1B 3QF

Printed in Italy
Acknowledgments

The process that made this book possible began more than twenty years ago when His Highness The Aga Khan announced the creation of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. His vision was to focus on projects for Islamic societies around the world. It was an extraordinary and unprecedented gesture that has raised the level of discussion about architecture around the globe. This book marks the seventh time that the Award has been given, and an international network of individuals has contributed to it, from the members of the Steering Committee and the Master Jury to the team of Technical Reviewers. The hands-on work was accomplished by dedicated members of the staffs of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, who laboured under extremely tight time constraints. At the Trust, Helen Goodman and William O’Reilly; at the Award, Jack Kennedy, Farrokh Derakhshani, Shiraz Allibhai, Marco Christov, Françoise Rybin and Christine Garnier. I am grateful, too, to Suha Özkan, secretary general of the Award, for the trust he placed in me to edit this book, and for the opportunity he has given me to participate in this exciting programme. Finally, I want to thank Thames & Hudson, especially Lucas Dietrich, Catherine Hall and designer Aaron Hayden, whose support led us to this final volume. – CCD
Contents

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture  6

Introduction: *The Pragmatics of Resistance*  Cynthia C. Davidson  7
*The Conscience of Architecture*  Romi Khosla  12
*Continuity in a Changing Tradition*  Saleh Al-Hathloul  18
*Pragmatism and the Built Environment*  Arif Hasan  32

The Recipients of the 1998 Award  36

Rehabilitation of Hebron Old Town  38

Slum Networking of Indore City, Indore, India  54

Lepers Hospital, Chopda Taluka, India  66

Salinger Residence, Selangor, Malaysia  82

Tuwaiq Palace, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  96

Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore, Pakistan  114

Vidhan Bhavan, Bhopal, India  128

Master Jury Discussion  144

*The Aga Khan Award as a Process of Thinking*  Mohammed Arkoun  152

Legacies of the Future  Suha Özkan  158

Project Data and Personnel  168

The 1998 Steering Committee  171

The 1998 Master Jury  172

The 1998 Award Technical Review  174