ARCHITECTURE FOR ISLAMIC SOCIETIES TODAY

EDITED BY JAMES STEELE

ACADEMY EDITIONS • THE AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE
Since the Aga Khan Award for Architecture was begun in 1977 it has been in the forefront of recognising the full impact of social and environmental upheaval on the built environment in Third World countries.

In this volume the jury's selection for the fourth cycle of the awards is presented. The selected projects, which deal with issues pertinent to both the developing and developed world, demonstrate their timeless relevance.

The visionary philosophy behind the awards has been to seek to encourage architects, builders, clients and users to learn from and add to the Muslim heritage. The idea has not been to compete with the established scholarship of Islamic culture but to reflect on the continuous relevance of the contemporary expressions of 'Islam' as a religion, culture and civilisation. Furthermore the award has sought to identify new methodologies and new conceptions to provide for an enabling culture that would prevent a stagnation of the classical legacy, while recognising the living and inventive tradition in Muslim societies.

All the award-winning projects included are described in detail, examining not only the development and design, construction methods and technology, but also the historical background of the site. Projects range from the restoration of the Great Omari Mosque, Lebanon, to the Grameen Bank Housing Programme, Bangladesh, and from the Gürel Summer Residence, Turkey, to the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris.

This edition also includes essays from Oleg Grabar, Charles Correa, Ronald Lewcock, Suha Ozkan and James Steele.

James Steele has worked as an architect in Philadelphia and has taught architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, King Faisal University in Saudi Arabia, Texas Tech University in Lubbock and the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. His publications include an architectural monograph on Hassan Fathy, Architecture for a Changing World, covering the 1992 fifth Aga Khan Award for Architecture and Hellenistic Architecture, all published by Academy Editions; and The Hassan Fathy Collection published by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.
ARCHITECTURE FOR ISLAMIC SOCIETIES TODAY
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
This volume would not have been possible without the concerted interest, concern and support of His Highness The Aga Khan, who has enabled it to be produced.
The production was directly assisted, at the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, by the staff, as well as the members of the Award Steering Committee, Master Jury and Technical Review panel, especially Darab Diba, whose illustrations are included here. I would also like to extend gratitude to staff of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, for their help.
At Academy Editions, John Soddart and Andrea Bettella have provided invaluable advice and guidance over the duration of the project. Natasha Robertson has shown great resourcefulness in keeping it on track, and Jan Richter deserves special recognition for his contribution to its design.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS
COVER: Reha Güray
PAGE 2: Reha Güray

THE MISSION AND ITS PEOPLE: Barry Jerton
VISITAS: William Porter, Christopher Little, Juba Ozban, Hazel Cook, Alex Bellamy, W Allen
ENSURING A FUTURE FOR THE PAST: Jacques Delors, Reha Güray

COMPLEXITY, CO-EXISTENCE AND PLURALITY: Reha Güray
A SEARCH FOR MEANING: Reha Güray, Anwar Hossein, Pascal Manchand
RESTORATION OF THE GREAT UMAYYAD MOSQUE: courtesy of Saleh Jamei Moshafi
REHABILITATION OF AMIRI JAMI'AT AL-KHUZA'I: Christiane Ligonon, Claire Anne Khall (drawing on p.47)

GRANMA BANK HOUSING PROGRAMME: Anwar Hossein

CITRA NIAGA URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Gerry Otte

GHNIL SUMMER RESIDENCE: Reha Güray
HAYY-ASSAFARAT LANDSCAPING: Reha Güray, courtesy of Hafiz Abdallah, Jassal Abdallah, courtesy of Riyadh Development Authority
AL-KENDI PLAZA: Reha Güray, courtesy of Hafiz Abdallah
SID EL-ALI PRIMARY SCHOOL: Jacques Delors

CORNICE, MOSQUE: Mohammed Bahn, courtesy of Abdul Wahed El-Wahid
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Reha Güray, Pascal Manchand
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING: Reha Güray, Anwar Hossein, Hasan Uddin Khan
INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE: Pascal Manchand courtesy of Architectural Studio

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CAIRO: courtesy of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, Nasser Rabbat

Editorial Office
42 Leinster Gardens London W2 3AN

Editorial Design: Andrea Bettella
Designer: Jan Richter
Editor: Natasha Robertson

COVER: This straightforward interpretation of Najdi architecture replicates the mud brick construction of the past in more durable contemporary materials.

First published in Great Britain in 1994 by

ACADEMY EDITIONS
An imprint of the Academy Group Ltd

ACADEMY GROUP LTD
42 Leinster Gardens London W2 3AN

ERNST & SOHN
Heinrichsplatz 170, 10990 Berlin 31
Members of the VCH Publishing Group

ISBN 1 85490 207 5

Copyright © 1994 The Aga Khan Award for Architecture and Academy Group Ltd
All rights reserved

Printed and bound in Singapore
CONTENTS

The Mission and its People 6
Oleg Grabar

Vistas 12
Charles Correa

Ensuring a Future for the Past 18
Ronald Leacock

Complexity, Coexistence and Plurality 22
Subha Ozkan

A Search for Meaning 28
James Steele

Report of the 1989 Master Jury 34

Project Descriptions
Selma al-Relo

Restoration of the Great Omari Mosque 38
Rehabilitation of Asilah 46
Grameen Bank Housing Programme 60
Citra Niaga Urban Development 72
Gürel Summer Residence 80
Hayy Assafarat Landscaping 86
Al-Kindi Plaza 94
Sidi el-Aloui Primary School 104
Corniche Mosque 110
Ministry of Foreign Affairs 116
National Assembly Building 126
Institut du Monde Arabe 138

The Significance of Cairo 148
James Steele

Contributors to the 1989 Awards 152