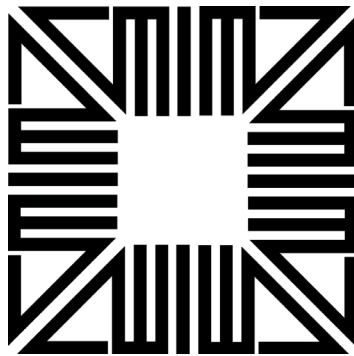


Aga Khan Award for Architecture

THE TENTH AWARD CYCLE

2005 - 2007



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*The Award Logo:
“Allah” rendered in square Kufic script
forms the basis of the logo, designed by Karl Schlamming*

INTRODUCTION

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture was established in 1977 by His Highness the Aga Khan, the forty-ninth hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, to enhance the understanding and appreciation of Islamic culture as expressed through architecture. Its method is to seek out and recognize examples of architectural excellence, encompassing concerns as varied as contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, restoration, reuse, and area conservation, as well as landscaping and environmental issues. Through its efforts, the Award seeks to identify and encourage building concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of societies in which Muslims have a significant presence.

The selection process emphasizes architecture that not only provides for people's physical, social and economic needs, but that also stimulates and responds to their cultural and spiritual expectations. Particular attention is given to building schemes that use local resources and appropriate technology in an innovative way, and to projects likely to inspire similar efforts elsewhere.

The Award is organized on the basis of a three-year cycle and is governed by a Steering Committee chaired by the Aga Khan. A new committee is constituted each cycle to establish the current eligibility criteria for the projects, to provide thematic direction in response to the priorities and issues that have emerged during the recent past, and to develop plans for the cyclical and long-term future of the Award. The Steering Committee is responsible for the selection of the Master Jury appointed for each Award cycle, and for the programmes of such activities as seminars and field visits, the Award Presentation Ceremony Events, publications and exhibitions.

Prizes totalling up to US\$ 500,000 - constituting the largest architectural award in the world - are presented every three years to projects selected by an independent Master Jury. The Award has completed nine cycles of activity since 1977, and documentation has been compiled on over 7,500 building projects located throughout the world. To date, the Master Juries have selected ninety-two projects to receive Awards. The Tenth Award Cycle covers the period from 2005 to 2007.

The Aga Khan Development Network

Founded and guided by His Highness the Aga Khan, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) brings together a number of development agencies, institutions, and programmes that work primarily in the poorest parts of Asia and Africa. AKDN is an endeavour of the Ismaili Imamate to realise the social conscience of Islam through institutional action. AKDN agencies conduct their programmes without regard to faith, origin or gender.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture coordinates the Imamate's cultural activities. Its programmes include the Award for Architecture, the Historic Cities Programme, and the Education and Culture Programme (comprising five major units: the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; www.ArchNet.org; the Aga Khan Music Initiative in Central Asia; the Aga Khan Humanities Project; and the Museum Projects).

AKDN agencies operate in social and economic development as well as in the field of culture. The Aga Khan Foundation, the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance, Aga Khan Health Services, Aga Khan Education Services, and the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services operate in social development.

The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development seeks to strengthen the role of the private sector in developing countries by supporting private sector initiatives in the development process. The Fund and the Foundation also encourage government policies that foster what the Aga Khan first called an “enabling environment” of favourable legislative and fiscal structures.

Two universities are also part of the Network. The Aga Khan University (AKU) is a major centre for education, training and research. Chartered as Pakistan’s first private international university in 1983, AKU has made significant contributions on a range of development challenges. It has teaching sites in Afghanistan, Kenya, Pakistan, Syria, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom. The University of Central Asia (UCA), chartered in 2000, is located on three campuses under construction: in Khorog, Tajikistan; Tekeli, Kazakhstan; and Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic. UCA’s mission is to foster economic and social development in the mountain regions of Central Asia. It will offer a Master of Arts degree in mountain development; a Bachelor of Arts programme based on the liberal arts and sciences; and non-degree continuing education courses, which have been in operation since 2002.

While each agency pursues its own mandate, all of them work together within the overarching framework of the Aga Khan Development Network so that their different endeavours can interact and reinforce one another. Their common goal is to help the poor achieve a level of self-reliance whereby they are able to plan their own lives and help those even more needy than themselves.

Full information on the Aga Khan Development Network, Trust for Culture, and Award for Architecture is available on the website - www.akdn.org.

2007 AWARD STEERING COMMITTEE

His Highness the Aga Khan
Chairman

Omar Akbar
Executive Director, Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, Dessau

Jacques Herzog
Partner, Herzog & de Meuron Architects, Basel

Glenn Lowry
Director, The Museum of Modern Art, New York City

Mohsen Mostafavi
Dean, College of Architecture, Art and Planning, Cornell University, Ithaca

Farshid Moussavi
Partner, Foreign Office Architects, London

Hani Rashid
Partner, Asymptote Architecture, New York City

Modjtaba Sadria
Professor, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations-AKU, London

Billie Tsien
Partner, Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, New York City

Farrokh Derakhshani
Director

AWARD PROCEDURES

Submission of Projects

Procedures for the identification of projects for consideration in the Award have been revised to permit all individuals everywhere to submit recommendations. The location and nature of eligible projects have also been broadened.

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture seeks out the broadest possible range of architectural interventions: contemporary design projects and those demonstrating the use of appropriate technologies are considered, as are restoration and social efforts. There are no fixed criteria as to the size, type, nature, location or cost of projects to be considered for the Award, but eligible projects must be designed for or used by Muslim communities, in part or in whole, wherever they are located.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria for the Tenth Award Cycle focus on projects completed during the twelve-year period from 1994 to 2005. Accordingly, eligible projects must have been completed and in use for at least one full year between the period 1 January 1994 and 31 December 2005. Large and/or long-term projects that are not yet fully completed - such as master plans, urban design, area conservation, and community upgrading projects, among others - are also eligible so long as a tangible portion has been completed and demonstrates the potential success of the long-term project.

The Award embraces all types of building projects that affect today's environments, ranging from modest small-scale interventions to major complexes and urban or regional design. Recommendations may include initiatives for housing, for community and neighbourhood projects, and for those that focus on urban areas and issues. Projects may also address infrastructure, transportation, industry, offices and commercial facilities, and educational and health facilities, to name but a few. The Award hopes especially to encourage and learn more about the works of younger architects and emerging talents. Architects and other project personnel may submit their own projects for consideration in the Award.

The Award's objective is to encourage architecture that reflects the pluralism that has always characterised Muslim communities. Eligible projects encompass recent architectural efforts in all Muslim countries as well as those in areas where Muslims do not comprise a majority, including Europe, North America, Australia and Oceania, and elsewhere. To be eligible for the Award, all projects should demonstrate service to Muslims, although eligible projects do not have to serve exclusively Muslim communities.

To ensure the continuing impartiality of the Award procedures, no projects may be considered that are commissioned by His Highness the Aga Khan, the Aga Khan Development Network, or affiliated institutions and/or agencies, or those that are undertaken by current members of the Award Steering Committee, Master Jury, or Award staff, or by the Boards or staff of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Development Network.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Identification and Nomination of Projects

The Award encourages and accepts recommendations for projects to be considered from all possible sources. All interested persons can submit projects for the Award by completing a simple form that is available from the Award Office (akaa@akdn.org) or on the Aga Khan Development Network website - www.akdn.org/architecture. All projects must meet the eligibility criteria established for the current Award cycle. As noted above, architects and others associated with projects are welcome to recommend their own works.

A parallel programme called "Nomination" is conducted by the Award Office and draws on the suggestions provided by a network of dedicated contacts that includes architects, professionals, scholars and others who are familiar with current architectural developments in Muslim societies.

Documentation

The architects of projects enrolled through the nomination programme receive an Award documentation package that describes the standardized presentation requirements. In addition to submitting images and architectural drawings, architects are asked to complete a detailed questionnaire pertaining to use, cost, environmental and climatic factors, construction materials, building schedule, structural integrity and ongoing maintenance, and, more importantly, design concepts and each project's significance within its own context.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Master Jury

The review of projects and the selection of Award recipients is the responsibility of an independent Master Jury specially appointed for each Award cycle. Each jury is pluridisciplinary, and brings together specialists in such fields as history, engineering, philosophy, architectural conservation, and contemporary arts, as well as practising architects, landscape architects and urban planners.

The Master Jury generally holds two meetings, the first in January and the second in June of the final year of each Award cycle, before arriving at its final decisions. At its first meeting, the jury reviews the submissions enrolled through the nomination programme. They examine the documentation on each project and select usually between 25 and 30 projects for on-site review by experts selected by the Award.

On-Site Project Review

The project reviewers are commissioned to examine on site each of the projects shortlisted by the Master Jury, verifying project data and seeking additional information such as user reactions. The reviewers are architectural professionals specializing in various disciplines, including housing, urban planning, landscape design and restoration. They must consider a detailed set of criteria in their written reports, and must also respond to specific concerns and questions prepared by the jury for each project. To ensure maximum objectivity, reviewers report on projects located outside their native countries.

Selection of Award Recipients

At the second week-long meeting of the Master Jury, the project reviewers make personal presentations on the projects they have reviewed. After evaluating the projects in closed sessions, the jury selects the award recipients and determines the apportionment of the US\$ 500,000 prize fund. Since the success of a winning project may be the product of efforts by diverse individuals, groups and organizations, the jury apportions prizes among the contributors - architects, other design and construction professionals, craftsmen, clients and institutions - that it considers most responsible for the success of each project. The decisions of the Master Jury are final.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ceremonies to honour the winning projects and mark the close of each triennial cycle are held in historic settings selected for their importance to Islamic architecture: Shalimar Gardens in Lahore (1980), Topkapi Palace in Istanbul (1983), Badi' Palace in Marrakesh (1986), Saladin's Citadel in Cairo (1989), Registan Square in Samarkand (1992), Karaton Surakarta in Solo (1995), the Alhambra in Granada (1998), the Citadel of Aleppo (2001), and the Gardens of Emperor Humayun's Tomb in Delhi (2004). A seminar to present the awarded projects to a wider public follows each ceremony and provides a forum for the participants to debate issues of contemporary architecture. A major monograph bringing together descriptions of the winning projects, the jury deliberations, and essays by members of the Master Jury and Steering Committee is published on the occasion of the Award Ceremony.

CALENDAR

Identification and Nomination of Projects	April 2005 - 15 October 2006
Submission of Documentation	June 2005 - 15 November 2006
Master Jury Meeting I	January 2007
On-Site Project Review	February - April 2007
Master Jury Meeting II	June 2007
Award Announcement Ceremony	Autumn 2007

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

The Chairman's Award was established to honour accomplishments that fall outside the scope of the Master Jury's mandate, and has in the past been made in recognition of the lifetime achievements of distinguished architects. The Chairman's Award has been presented on three occasions: in 1980, to the Egyptian architect and urban planner Hassan Fathy; in 1986, to Rifat Chadirji, an Iraqi architect and educator; and in 2001, to the Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SEMINARS

To reach out to a wider audience, the Award organizes international and regional seminars during each cycle. International seminars examine the trends and implications of architectural transformations in the Islamic world, while regional seminars explore architecture in Islamic cultures in a specific area. Designed to address developments in the built environments of Muslims, they bring together government officials, architects, academics, planners, social scientists, designers and architectural writers.

Since the Award's inception, twenty-two seminars have been held in various parts of the world, including Paris, Istanbul, Fez, Jakarta, Amman, Beijing, Dakar, Sana'a, Kuala Lumpur, Cairo, Dhaka, Granada, Malta, Zanzibar, Yogyakarta, Almaty, Baku, Beirut, Moscow, Yazd and Tehran, and Kuwait.

ARCHIVES

Conserving the documentation of the building projects that have come under consideration has been one of the goals of the Award, and the materials gathered over each three-year Award cycle form the major part of the library and visual collections of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. The visual collections consist of over 250,000 slides, prints and negatives, as well as the special portfolios of Award projects. The library consists of books, information on architects and firms, reports, special case studies, and ongoing subscriptions to architectural periodicals, along with newsletters, bulletins, journals, chronicles and unpublished reports. The library allows interested individuals access to the collections by appointment, and responds to requests for information from external sources.

PUBLICATIONS

The Award publishes the proceedings of its international and regional seminars as well as cyclical monographs recording the recipients of each Award cycle and the related discussions. Most Award publications are available in English; some are also published in Arabic, Turkish, French, Chinese, and Farsi. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Award Office or website - www.akdn.org/architecture.