The Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture at the OU College of Architecture presents an all-encompassing study of building in the Middle East. “Building,” taken in a broad sense, comprises all means by which humans give shape to their environment, including architecture, town planning and landscaping. In building their environment, humans must consider natural conditions such as climate and landscape, as well as the social and cultural traditions of their society. Depending on these contingencies, certain large regions in the world can be discerned where architecture is characterized by certain common traits. The Middle East is the nucleus of one of these regions, as it also encompasses parts of north Africa and central Asia.

The architecture and culture of the Middle East have developed distinct traits that set them apart from other regions. For building in the Middle East, it is important to take into account not only the natural, technical and economic possibilities of the region, but also the expectations and desires of the inhabitants based on their local traditions. Demands posed by developing relations with the world outside the Middle East also must be considered. Especially in a time of incisive social and technological changes, it is important that architects, scholars and artists maintain the region’s cultural heritage in order to preserve and shape a sense of identity. The Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture at OU studies the architectural traditions of the region and the way these traditions, in the course of history, have been formed by social and cultural factors over the course of centuries; contemplates the consequences of modern dynamics that presently are putting new demands on architectural developments in the region; and makes plans-based upon these insights for future activities in Middle Eastern countries.

The center accomplishes these objectives through teaching, research, the organization of conferences, workshops and seminars, as well as other cultural activities that highlight relevant developments in the Middle East.

The Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture acknowledges and celebrates both the similarities and diversities of the region and aims towards bridging differences through a convergent, academic stance concerning architecture and its constituent cultural and technological makeup, ultimately providing an opportunity for dialogue supporting the greater good of all involved.

Contact:
Khosrow Bozorgi, Ph.D.
Professor of Architecture and Urban Design
Director, Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture
College of Architecture, The University of Oklahoma
830 Van Vleet Oval Gould Hall, Room 180
Norman, OK 73019, USA
Phone: (405) 325-3348
Fax: (405) 325-7558
E-mail: kbozorgi@ou.edu

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI9mG33avB4

This publication, printed by University Printing Services, is issued by The University of Oklahoma at no cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma.
This course explores the universal sense of the transcendent unity of the diverse Middle Eastern architecture. In this region, architectural tradition has accrued over the past “1000” years a rich legacy of eternally valid responses to the perennial dictates of man and nature. These environmentally adaptive and culturally relevant principles and forms are treasuries of correct, wholesome and balanced building design. The principles of Middle Eastern architecture is based upon human scale and the body’s golden mean proportions, while eliciting in the viewer a profound sense of archetypal meanings of spiritual transcendence, sustainability and cosmic unity.

Interdisciplinary Symposium
Mystical Surrealism Exhibition
Pasargadae Lecture/Presentation
Kingdom of Heaven Film Screening
Lawrence of Arabia Film Screening
Afterlife of Paradise Public Lecture

Teaching History and Theory of Architecture

This is an experimental research project investigating the awareness of the importance of the traditional wind-catcher and how this will help open possibilities for improving the performance of the traditional wind-catcher and widening the applicability to a modern time interpretation such traditional technology.

Research on Sustainability

Collaborative Study of building design, urban planning and construction by students of College of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma

January 2015

This film represents a critical overview of themes that characterize the Iranian architecture.

The Afterlife of Paradise
Influences of Persian Paradise Garden on Architecture and Landscape in Ancient Greece and Rome

Kerman Studio. OU College of Architecture

Urban Design Studio

Kerman Studio.

CMEAC Symposium 2016

Examples of Public Events and Academic Activities by CMEAC

Kerman Studio. OU College of Architecture

Cultural Exchange in Studying of Earth Construction

Taos Pueblo, New Mexico, USA

Abianeh, Iran

Collaborative Research

OU Students present research on the desert architecture of Iran