This symposium focuses on the city of Isfahan as an original model or pattern for urban planning. The City of Isfahan has roots as a settlement in the Elamite period, developed during the unique historical period of the Seljuk era, and was transformed by Shah Abbas into a cultural capital that ushered in a renaissance of the arts, architecture, and landscape architecture. Thus, in essence, the City and its evolution offered an important historical precedent in planning and urban beautification. The symposium will serve as a venue for intellectual contemplation on the philosophical principles that Isfahan, as an archetypal city, has long exemplified, particularly with respect to promoting the inspirational and innovative ideas that have made important contributions toward thinking about architecture and urban design in the 21st century.

In support of the general symposium theme, we envision lecture presentations to be limited to a maximum of forty minutes. Topic ideas may include subthemes such as those listed below.

**ISFAHAN**
- The notion of a paradise garden
- The concept of civic culture and civic ritual in architecture
- A historical approach or modern interpretation of public and private space such as provided by the influence derived from the notion of the paradise garden
- Modern interpretation of the paradise garden in landscape design
- Philosophy of structure and architecture character
- Historical development and adaptation to change
- Symmetry and rhythm in sustainable planning
- Cinematic representation of architecture
- Chahar Bagh: Paradise gardens
- City as Metaphor