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The Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture at the University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture seeks to advance knowledge of the Middle Eastern built environment and culture for its intellectual and academic values. The Center supports scholarship that is of historical and contemporary importance by acting as a coordinating body for participating universities and institutions whose research focus relates to this geographic area and beyond. The Center also welcomes interdisciplinary perspectives in the study of architecture and culture of the region.



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 landscape architecture. 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 common traits. The Middle East is the nucleus of one of these regions, as it also encompasses parts of North Africa and central Asia.

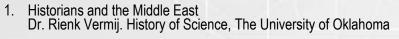
The architecture and culture of the Middle East have developed distinct traits that set them apart from other regions. For building in the Middle East, it is important to take into account not only the natural, technical and economic possibilities of the region, but also the expectations and desires 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 are placing 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.

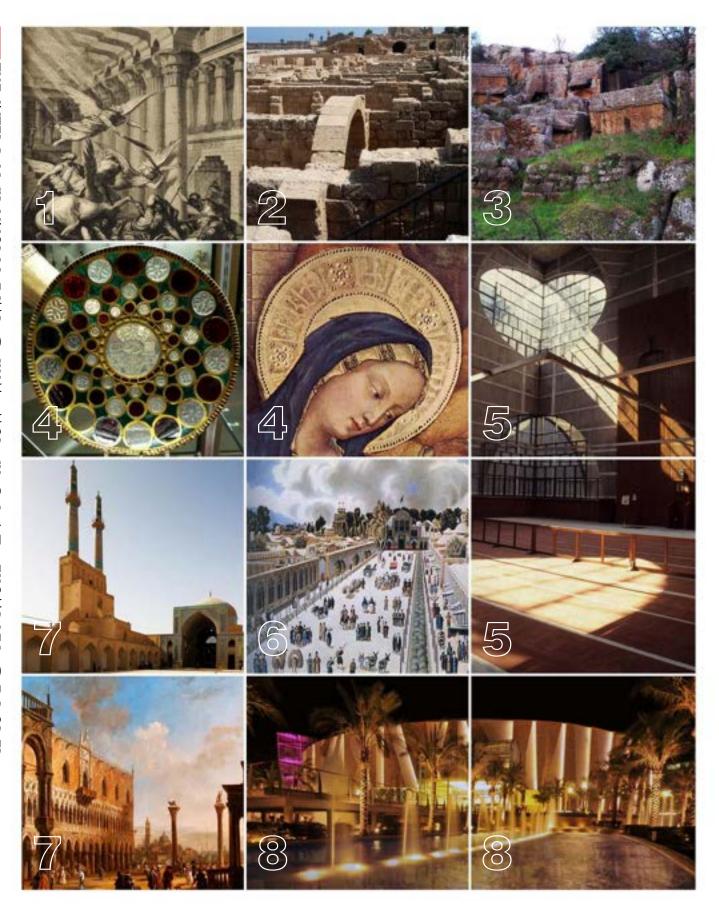
Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi, Director, Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture

For its inauguration, the Center celebrated its official existence through organizing and presenting its first interdisciplinary symposium with a theme that related to Middle Eastern architecture and the history of its built environment and technology. The Center's first symposium was offered during March 7-8, 2013, at the University of Oklahoma, hosted by the College of Architecture.





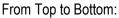
- 2. Caesarea Maritima: Characteristics of an early Middle-Eastern City in Judaea Dr. Farland Stanley. Department of Classics and Letters, The University of Oklahoma
- Lycian and Etruscan Rock Cut Tombs
 Dr. Rozmeri Basic. School of Art and Art History, The University of Oklahoma
- 4. Imported Embellishment: European adoption/adaptation of Middle Eastern Design Elements Theodore Drab. Oklahoma State University
- Denotation and Aesthetics in Islamic Art and Architecture Mohammed Bilbeisi. School of Architecture, Oklahoma State University
- The Rebuilding of Tehran in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century Dr. Afshin Marashi. Department of International and Area Studies, The University of Oklahoma
- Cultural Exchange: Searching for a New Identity in Traditional Middle Eastern Architecture
 Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi. College of Architecture, The University of Oklahoma
- 8. Today's Souk: Modern Retail Design in the Middle East Jeffrey Gunning. Vice President, RTKL, Architecture & Planning



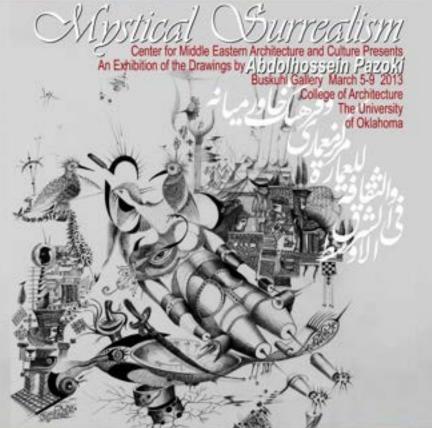








- Reception, celebrating the CMEAC symposium and the exhibition of the work of Abdolhossein Pazoki.
- Opening Remarks by Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi, Director of CMEAC.
- Opening Remarks by Dr. Suzette Grillot, Dean of College of International Area Studies
- Abdoulhossein Pazoki is teaching drawing techniques in his workshop at the College of Architecture.

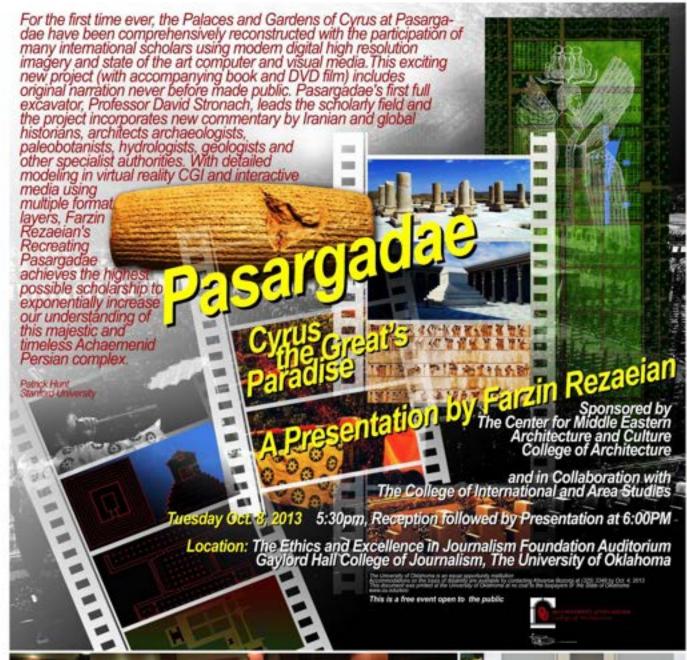






Gisue Hariri is the founder and creative principal of Hariri & Hariri, a New York-based multi-disciplinary design firm established in 1986 by Iranian-born and Cornell-educated sisters Gisue Hariri and Mojgan Hariri.

By screening movies and documentaries, CMEAC aims to examine the urban morphology and culture of architecture throughout the history of the Middle East. With a theme of "Cinema and Architecture in the Middle Eastern City," our film screenings explore the relationships between the tectonics of building and site, the making of space, and perceptual and cinematic phenomena.





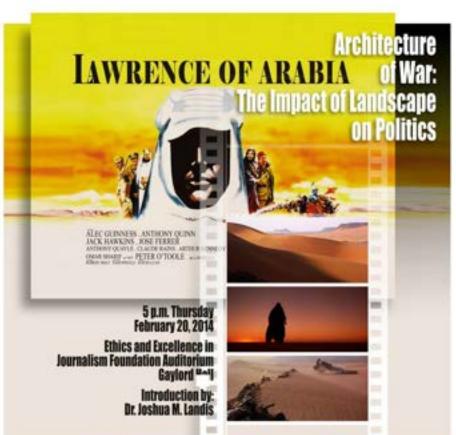


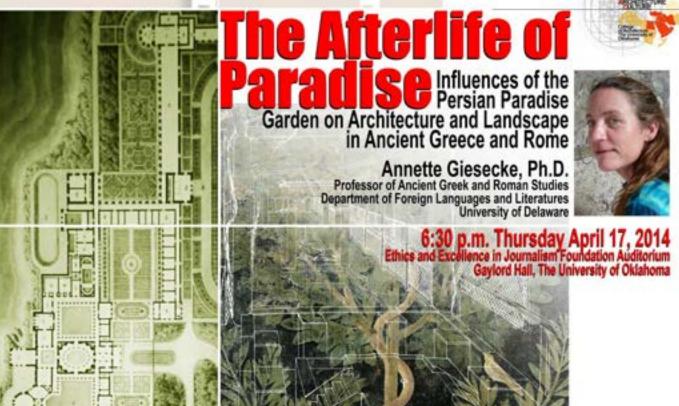








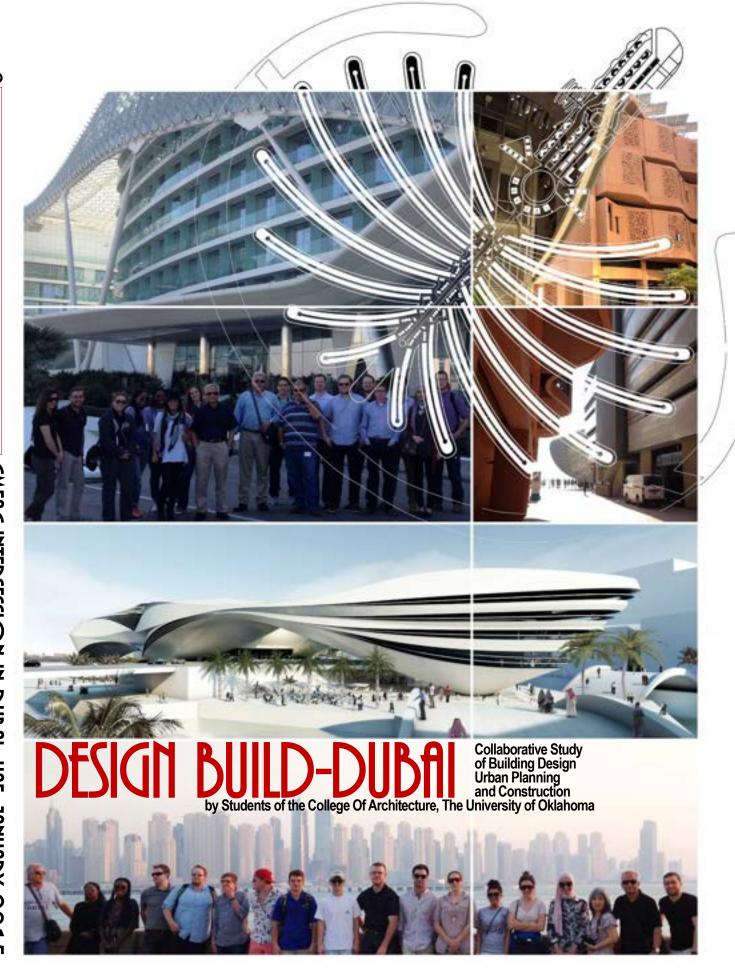










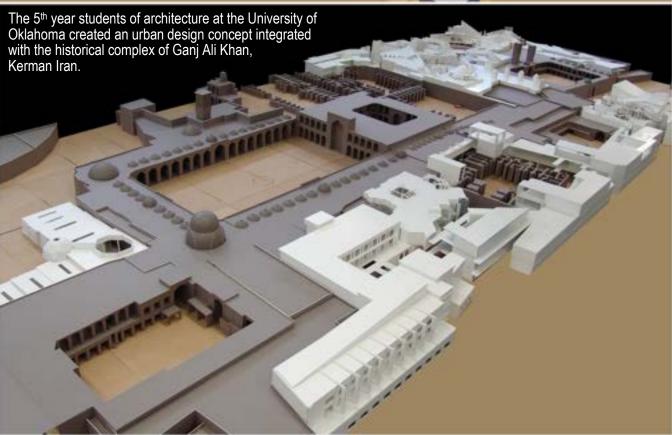




The Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture at the University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture is proposing a new course on Iranian Architecture. The goal of the course is to guide students into an understanding of the important contributions that Persian has made to the art of building and landscape architecture. The rich legacy and tradition of Iranian architecture has accrued over at least the last thousand years and this course provides a comprehensive history of ancient Iranian architecture and urbanism, from the first societies to the present. Included in this course will be a consideration of the universal sense and unity of the diverse components of Persian architecture and their impact on the perennial dictates of man and nature.

In this course students will analyze buildings and the built environment as the products of culture and in relation to the special problems of architectural design and the history of architecture. The course will have an urbanist perspective that stresses the cultural and political context from which building arises. The intent of the course is to help students develop critical tools for the analysis and appreciation of architecture and its role in the intellectual environment in which we conduct our lives. Therefore, instruction in the course will include strong emphasis on the components of reading, critical thinking, and practice in oral and written communication.





Having roots as a settlement in the Elamite period (2700–1600 BCE), Isfahan developed during the unique historical period of the Seljuk era (11th century), and was transformed in the 16th century by Shah Abbas into a cultural capital that ushered in a renaissance of the arts, architecture and landscape architecture. With the passage of time, the city declined, only to rise anew in the modern era, transformed but bearing the imprint of its original genius and splendor. Thus, in essence, the city and its evolution offers an important historical precedent in planning and urban beautification, exemplifying inspirational and innovative ideas that have made important contributions toward thinking about architecture and urban design in the 21st century.

Among other topics, symposium presenters addressed the following: civic culture and ritual as a determining factor in architecture and landscape design; interpretations of public and private space in the context of Persian culture; pre-Islamic origins and later adaptation of the paradise garden; and cinematic or photographic representations of Persian vernacular architecture.

Leila Araghian, Architect and Design Manager Diba Tensile Architecture, Tehran, Iran

Nader Ardalan, Architect and President Ardalan Associates, LLC, Naples, FI Harvard Senior Research Associate Emeritus

> Dr. Peter Barker, Professor Department of the History of Science The University of Oklahoma

Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi, Professor and Director Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture The University of Oklahoma

Dr. Mohammad Gharipour, Associate Professor School of Architecture and Planning Morgan State University

> Dr. Marco Brambilla, Architect Forum Architectural Planning, California

Mehran Gharleghi, Educator Architectural Association London Designer, Studio Integration, London

Dr. Annette Giesecke, Professor and Chair Languages, Literatures and Cultures University of Delaware

Dr. Renata Holod, Professor and Curator Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology University of Pennsylvania

Morna Livingston, Associate Professor College of Architecture Philadelphia University

Tahmineh Milani, Architect and Movie Director Tehran, Iran

> Dr. Nerina Rustomii, Associate Professor Director of Graduate Studies St. John's University

Dr. James Wescoat, Agha Khan Professor Department of Architecture Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016 BUSKUHL SMARCH 29-30 2016 BUSKUHL SALLERY MARCH 29-30 2016 BUSKUHL SALLERY

Presented by
The Center
for Middle Eastern
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College of Architecture
The University
of Oklahoma

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Top from left to right (during Isfahan Symposium)

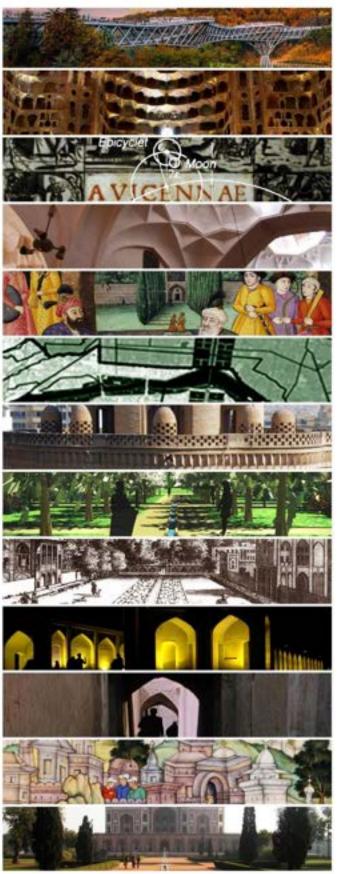
- Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi, CMEAC Director Hans Butzer, Dean, College of Architecture, The University of Oklahoma David Boren, President of the University of Oklahoma
- Mohammad Farzaneh, symposium sponsor
- Jalal Farzaneh, symposium sponsor Dr. Suzette Grillot, Dean, College of Area and International Studies

Middle From left to right

- Audience attending the symposium
- President David Boren addressing the symposium

Bottom

Unveiling of the Omar Khayam Statue at the campus of The University of Oklahoma



Tabiat (Nature) Pedestrian Bridge, Tehran, Iran Leila Araghian

Safavid Isfahan as Perennial Urban Metaphor Nader Ardalan

Western Debts to Eastern Sciences Dr. Peter Barker

Desert Utopia:

Viewing the Hidden Unity of Iranian Architecture Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi

Gardens of Isfahan and Renaissance Italy: Safavid Urban Landscape in its Global Context Dr. Mohammad Gharipour

New Djulfa and Isfahan in the 17th Century: Development and Relevance of a Unique Ethnic Enclave within the Larger Area of Isfahan. Dr. Marco Brambilla

Analysis of Architecture and Infrastructure of Isfahan from Evolutionary Perspective.
Mehran Gharleghi

Imprint of Paradise:

Cyrus, Pasargadae, and the Chahar Bagh of Isfahan Dr. Annette Giesecke

Panel Discussion Moderated and introduced by Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi and Dr. Annette Giesecke

Blue-Gold: Water, Pavilions and Garden Imagery in Isfahan Morna Livingston

Cinematic Representation of Architecture Tahmineh Milani

The Sense of the Garden Dr. Nerina Rustomji

Islamic Urban Waterworks in Comparative Perspective: Isfahan, Istanbul, and Delhi Dr. James Wescoat

Desert Utopia: The Hidden Unity of Iranian Architecture

INSTITUTION

Center for Middle Eastern Architecture and Culture College of Architecture, The University of Oklahoma

PROJECT DIRECTOR Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi

Desert Utopia focuses on a unique culture that, over centuries, developed distinctive architectural forms of great beauty and utility that were able to confront the harsh challenges of the desert environment of Iran.

Desert Utopia will show how architecture contributed to the long-term survival of people living in one of the world's most punitive climates. Relevant to modern environmental concerns, this film will illustrate the architectural forms of a culture of desert-living people in Iran who were among the earliest groups to create a sustainable living condition. But the film will also consider and illustrate the unique aesthetic aspects that arose from the diverse influences on this architecture's development. Thus, while the film will investigate the physical features of this distinctive architecture, it will also explore the relationship of the human spirit to desert architecture.

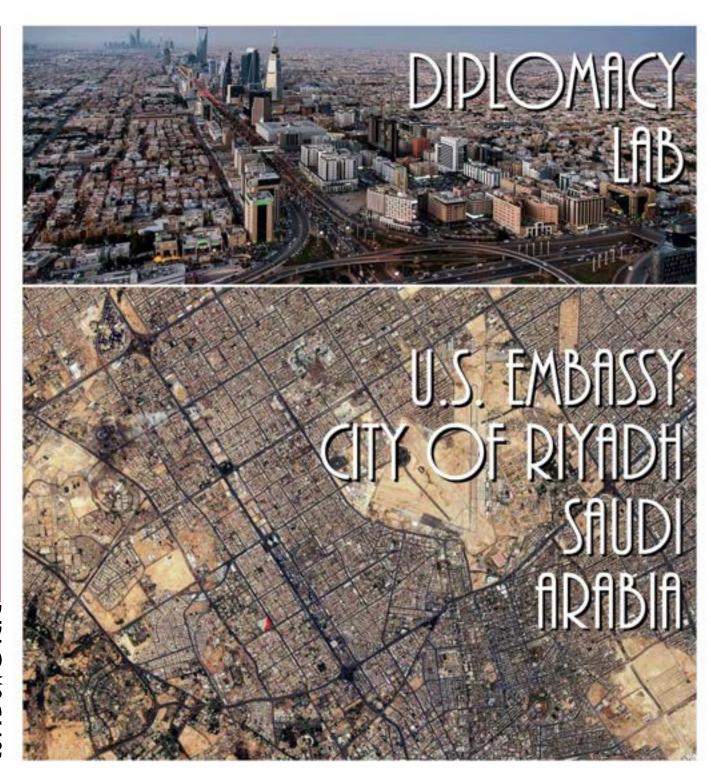
The intent of this film is to explore Iranian traditional architecture visually and intellectually in a manner that illustrates how its interior and exterior aspects are rooted in the dualities of its forms and functions. Exploring this specific vernacular architecture in Iran will both inform our understanding of sustainability and contribute to our knowledge about local and global issues in architecture and urban living, which in turn are pertinent to human sustainability, multi-culturalism, geo-political forces, and architectural meaning. Given the mounting evidence for and public awareness of climatic change, this film comes at a fortuitous moment.





In a "Diplomacy Lab" partnership with the U.S. Department of State, fifth year architecture students at The University of Oklahoma are researching and providing designs for the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. They are designing a multi-building complex to be situated on a large site that will include a Consulate Office building, a Consul General's Residence, a Marine Security Guard Residence, support buildings, and facilities for the Consulate community. The new complex will provide Consulate employees with a safe, secure, sustainable, and modern workplace.

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> The University of Oklahoma College of Architecture Dr. Khosrow Bozorgi, Professor

DEPARTMENT
OF STATE PLANNING AND REAL STATE





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