

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 Özkan 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.



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COVER: This straightforward interpretation of Najdi architecture replicates the mud brick construction of the past in more durable contemporary materials; PAGE 2: Looking upward towards a skylight in Louis Kahn's Assembly Building

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CONTENTS

The Mission and its People	6
Oleg Grabar	
Vistas	12
Charles Correa	
Ensuring a Future for the Past	18
Ronald Lewcock	
Complexity, Coexistence and Plurality	22
Suha Özkan	
A Search for Meaning	28
James Steele	
Report of the 1989 Master Jury	34
Project Descriptions	
Selma al-Radi:	
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