



**DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHITECTURE**

COURSE 4.620

**HERITAGE AS A
BATTLEGROUND**

Time: Mondays 11-2
Room 5-216

Instructor: Mohammad al-Asad
(al-asad@csbe.org)

TA: Lauren Kroiz

Units: 3-0-6 H

This seminar will look at how Heritage has been constructed in the debates of the architectural cultures in the modern and contemporary Islamic world. Why and how has heritage come to name a cluster of issues and values that galvanizes such strong positions and is invoked in such decisive actions, including the reshaping of cities, the dislocation of populations, and large investments of capital. What is the object of heritage? How does heritage relate to the historical imagination, the visible past, the construction of identity, and modernization? How does heritage intervene in such practices as museum building, archaeology, and preservation? What is its relationship to colonial regimes, nation states, and the global tourism industry? When is it “authentic” and when is it contested? What is its relationship to memory and spectacularization? When and how are aspects of “heritage” erased? The course will combine theoretical readings on the construction and exhibition of heritage with the critical examination of specific case studies of projects, sites and ideas.

REQUIRED FOR SMARCHS STUDENTS AFFILIATED WITH THE AGA KHAN PROGRAM