

# THE MOSQUE IN THE WEST

a symposium sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT  
with support from the Dean for Student Life and the MIT Council for the Arts

**Friday, April 21 & Saturday, April 22, 2006 in MIT 56-114**

Mosques are fast finding their way into the contemporary Western architectural mosaic. This Symposium will build on this development to examine several issues. First is the relationship between the perception of Islam and the form, placement, and reception of Mosques in the West today. Second is the effect of new mosque design on the social structure and cultural make-up of Islamic communities in the West. Third is the more general question of how sacred space is produced, represented, and used in the current urban setting with its fast changing and competing signs and agendas.

## PROGRAM

**Friday, April 21**

**2:00 Welcoming Remarks**

Nasser Rabbat, Aga Khan Professor at MIT  
Robert Randolph, Dean for Student Life  
Omar Khalidi, Aga Khan Librarian at MIT

**ISLAM IN THE WEST**

Chair: Nasser Rabbat

**2:30 Muslims and Mosques in America: Visible and Vulnerable**

Diana Eck, Harvard University

**3:00 The American Mosque Post 9/11:  
Between Tradition and Pluralism**

Yvonne Haddad, Georgetown University

**3:30 Mosques In Europe and America:  
From Places of Worship to Congregation**

Jocelyn Cesari, Harvard University

**4:00 Discussion**

**4:15 Break**

**REPRESENTATIONS OF THE MOSQUE**

Chair: Nasser Rabbat

**4:30 Generative Design Principles  
for Contemporary Islamic Practice in the West**

Azra Aksamija, MIT

**Saturday, April 22**

**MOSQUES/ISLAMIC CENTERS AND THE LARGER SOCIETY**

Chair: Gulzar Haider

**10:00 Living as Muslims in a Pluralistic Society**

Aminah B. McCloud, DePaul University

**10:30 Competing for Muslims: New Strategies for Urban Renewal in Detroit**

Sally Howell, University of Michigan

**11:00 Acculturation or Assimilation in American Mosque Attendees**

Ihsan Bagby, University of Kentucky

**11:30 Discussion**

**11:45 Lunch Break**

**CONTEMPORARY MOSQUE DESIGN IN EUROPE**

Chair: Hassan-Uddin Khan

**1:30 Form-as-Identity: Twentieth Century Mosque Architecture  
in Europe and North America**

Nebahat Avcioglu, Columbia University Institute for Scholars in Paris

**2:00 The Narrative of Place**

Rasem Badran, Architect, Jordan

**2:30 Mosque and Meaning in the Netherlands and France**

Marcel Maussen, Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES), The Hague

**3:00 Discussion**

**3:15 Break**

**CONTEMPORARY MOSQUE DESIGN IN NORTH AMERICA**

Chair: Aminah B. McCloud

**3:30 Against the Traditional Grain, Respectfully:  
Search for an Architecture of Relevance for Muslim Communities**

Gulzar Haider, Carleton University

**4:00 Approaches to Mosque Design:  
The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center**

Gregg Cribb, Architect, Boston

**4:30 The Making of a Mosque for the Islamic Center of America  
Dearborn, Michigan**

David Donnellon, Architect, Detroit

**5:00 Closing Remarks**

Omar Khalidi