



ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

WITH AN EYE ON PALESTINE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Ibn Haldun University, in collaboration with Ain, is pleased to present the "Ain - Human-Centric Architecture" workshop. This workshop aims to deepen the understanding of Islamic architecture and civilization, highlighting its relevance in contemporary and future contexts. Through this collaboration, we seek to engage in meaningful discussions on the field of architecture.



in collaboration with



Day	Date	Title/Speaker	Content	Lang	Attendance
1	Mon 17 Feb 7pm – 9pm	The Architecture of Ruin - <i>An Architectural Reading of Zionism and Settlement Strategy</i> <i>Speaker</i> <i>Ahmed Abdel Azim</i>	Isn't it poetic- or even absurd - to talk about architecture when a war is going on? The question looks pretty legitimate: who thinks about buildings when children are being killed and atrocities committed? However, what if architecture was the weapon through which land was grabbed and a population was displaced?! Using several case studies, this lecture offers an architectural reading of Zionism by highlighting the role played by architecture and urban planning in conquering the land of Palestine. It attempts to illustrate the ideology behind the naming, planning, and building of settlements. It also unpacks the prevalence of specific architectural styles within the Zionist state.	Arabic	Online
2	Tues 18 Feb 7pm – 9pm	An Urban Interpretation of Israel <i>Speaker</i> <i>Ibrahim Imam</i>	The lecture critically examines the formation of the Israeli state through the lens of architecture and urban policy. It explores the legal and spatial transformations from the late Ottoman era to the modern state, analyzing how urban regulations shaped territorial control and national identity. The discussion interrogates Israel's so-called environmental urban policies and the contrasting architectural symbols of its global image; the White City of Tel Aviv and the settlement movement. Through this architectural perspective, the lecture seeks to unravel the complexities of Israel's political and spatial legacy.	Arabic	Online
3	Wed 19 Feb 7pm – 9pm	Gaza, the Phoenix - Reconstruction <i>Speaker</i> <i>Omar Salim</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis, Disaster Management and War Strategy. • Principles of the Reconstruction Strategy. • Problems and solutions for reconstruction. • Investing in the waste resulting from the war by recycling it and using it in construction processes. • Expanding the use of alternative energy, enhancing renewable energy research, and broadening its applications within reconstruction projects. • Involving the residents in the reconstruction processes, to ensure their needs and desires are met, and to express their culture and previous way of life. 	Arabic	Online
4	Thurs 20 Feb 7pm – 9pm	The Architecture of Al-Aqsa <i>Speaker</i> <i>Ahmed Omar</i>	The lecture provides a brief overview of essential fundamentals related to the urban development of Jerusalem and the dangers of its Judaization—from the Nakba to the Naksa and up to the recent events of Al-Aqsa Flood. We will also explore the architecture of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the topography of the site, its various historical layers, and the most well-known misconceptions surrounding it. Additionally, we will discuss the geography of the Gaza Strip and the occupation's systematic efforts to erase its architectural and urban identity, particularly in relation to the ongoing events in the region.	Arabic	Online + Offline
5	Friday 21 Feb 2.30pm – 5pm	Ain Workshop Human-Centric Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on "Principles and Ideas": Investigating the foundational concepts of Islamic architectural civilization. • "Architectural Heritage" Studies: Field trips to analyze historical architectural sites. • Contemporary "Architectural Reality": Evaluating the current state of architecture in the Arab world. • Exploring "New Architectural Alternatives": Seeking future-oriented architectural solutions. 	Arabic <small>*English translation available</small>	Offline
6	Satur 22 Feb 9am – 5pm	<i>Speakers</i> • <i>Ahmed Omar</i> • <i>Mohammed El-Findy</i>			
7	Sunday 23 Feb 9am – 5pm				

Speakers



Ahmed Omar
Architect | Co-founder Ain - Architecture

Ahmed Omar is a co-founder and lecturer at the 'Ain - Architecture for Humanity' workshop since 2008, focusing on research in Islamic civilization's architecture. He received the Gold Prize in the Hassan Fathy Architecture Award for his *Dour* project. Passionate about Islamic architectural heritage, he has led numerous field tours in Historic Cairo and other significant sites, uncovering the untold stories of these places. He has also conducted lectures and seminars on architectural identity in collaboration with various architectural entities across multiple cities in Egypt. Ahmed has completed several specialized courses, including the Jerusalem Knowledge Course (2024), Introduction to Jerusalem Studies (2021), and Jerusalem Studies Course (2009). A former member of the Youth for Jerusalem Association, he also represented Egypt at the Jerusalem Youth Forum in Kuwait.



Mohamed El-Findy
Architect | Co-founder Ain - Architecture

Mohamed El-Findy is an Egyptian architect who graduated from the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University. With over 14 years of experience at a leading consultancy firm, he has contributed to several major projects across the Middle East. He strongly believes in the importance of intellectual and critical foundations for practicing architects, enabling them to generate innovative ideas, address contemporary challenges with depth, and respond to their communities' needs with responsibility. Since 2008, he has been a co-founder and lecturer at the Ain - Architecture for Humanity workshop, which focuses on exploring the principles and ideas underlying Islamic civilization's architecture. In 2011, he received the Gold Prize in the Hassan Fathy Architecture Award for his *Dour* project.

Speakers



Ebraheem Imam
Architect | Screenwriter | Creative Producer

Ebraheem Imam is an architect, writer, and creative producer with a master's degree from Politecnico di Milano and over a decade of experience in architecture across Egypt, Qatar, and Italy. He writes and produces documentary films for large media networks such as Al Jazeera Media Network. His expertise extends to pop-science and edutainment content, focusing on narratives that bridge architecture, media, and human experience. Currently, he is the creative producer at Lumara OÜ, a company focused on the intersection of design and storytelling.



Omar Salim
BIM Director | Research Assistant

- BIM Manager with more than 19 years of experience.
- Training Manager at Engineers for Sustainable Egypt Initiative
- Former Research Assistant at Qatar University.
- Founder of BIMarabia Magazine and Editor of the Arabic BIM Dictionary.
- Member of the Arab International Authority for the Reconstruction of Palestine
- Member of the Gaza Reconstruction Platform



Ahmed Abdelazim
Architect | Researcher | Lecturer

Ahmed Abdelazim is the Founder of the Center for Architecture and Society. He is an architect with a Ph.D. in Art and Architectural History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, awarded in 2024. He also holds two master's degrees: one in Social Sciences (2018) and another in the History of Architecture and Islamic Art (2014), both from the American University in Cairo. Abdelazim has recently published his first book in Arabic "The Temple of Doom: Zionism, architecture and settlement". The author has numerous published research papers in scientific journals and international conferences, focusing on the built environment in the Arab world and its intersections with social issues and practices.

Sessions Coordinators



Ibrahim Emre Yanik

Ibrahim serves as a Research Assistant in the Alliance of Civilizations Institute at Ibn Haldun University and is concurrently a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at Syracuse University in New York. Ibrahim's research interests are diverse, focusing on migration, border studies, political sociology, and health disparities. He has received the Professor Manfred Stanley Memorial Graduate Scholarship and the Goekjian/Center for European Studies Research Grant for the PhD dissertation he is working on.



Noha Hussein

Noha is an independent researcher with a Ph.D. in Architecture from the School of Architecture, Design, and the Built Environment at Nottingham Trent University, UK. Her research focuses on Mosque Architecture, Muslim communities in the West, Arabic Manuscripts, Calligraphy and Quranic Inscriptions.



Nourelhoda Hussein

Nourelhoda is a Ph.D. student at the School of Architecture, Design, and the Built Environment at Nottingham Trent University, UK. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in Architecture from the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University. Additionally, she earned a Master of Human Sciences in Sociology and Anthropology from the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge at the International Islamic University Malaysia. Her research focuses on postcolonial discourses of mosque architecture and aesthetics.