

## [Announcement - Pioneering Iraqi architect Rifat Chadirji donates archive to AKDC@MIT](#)

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The [Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT](#) is pleased to announce that it is now the home of the [Rifat Chadirji](#) archive. One of the most influential Iraqi architects of the 20th century, Chadirji is also an accomplished photographer, author, teacher, and critic. Chadirji was born in Baghdad in 1926, was educated in the UK, and returned to Iraq upon graduating as an active participant in the modernization of the country, working with notable architects and designers from Europe, the United States, and Iraq, including Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Alvar Aalto, and Mohamed Makiya. Chadirji has dedicated his life to the search for an appropriate contemporary architectural expression synthesizing elements of the rich Islamic cultural heritage with key principles of the international architecture of the 20th century.

In 1986, Chadirji received an [Aga Khan Chairman's Award for Lifetime Achievements](#). In 2015, he was awarded the [Tamayouz Architectural Lifetime Achievement Award](#), an award that celebrates the pioneers of Iraqi architecture and is "presented annually to an individual who has had a significant contribution towards the advancement of architecture in Iraq."

With this gift, the Center becomes the repository for archives of three leading pioneers of modern architecture in Iraq: [Mohamed Makiya](#), [Hisham Munir](#), and, now, [Rifat Chadirji](#). A relatively new initiative, the AKDC was formally re-envisioned and restructured in 2011 and has quickly achieved the status of a world-class research center for the archives of distinguished architects from the Islamic world.