SPOTLIGHT ON THE AGA KHAN MUSIC PROGRAMME

Baltit Fort, Karimabad, Pakistan
Restored by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme
The second issue of AT HOME comes to you as some countries are beginning to relax some restrictions that were put in place to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We hope you and your families are healthy and safe.

Issue 2 spotlights the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme (AKHCP). AKHCP conducts urban regeneration projects in historic urban centres that spur social, economic, and cultural development to improve lives and provide models of self-sustainability. As AKHCP’s portfolio is so diverse, this issue will focus on projects in Pakistan (Gilgit-Baltistan and Lahore).

For over 100 years, the Aga Khan Development Network has provided a broad range of services in Pakistan. AKTC’s efforts started with the restoration of Baltit Fort (pictured opposite) in 1989 and continues in Gilgit-Baltistan. Since 2007, it has expanded into Lahore.

As you read through the newsletter, clicking on the leads to content.
Following His Highness the Aga Khan's vision and guidance, the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme has evolved over time in its scope, ambitions, and objectives. Working in geographies from Mali to Malaysia and encompassing themes such as Mughal Heritage and Parks and Gardens, AKHCP projects are making a positive impact and improving the quality of life. Cameron Rashti, Director, Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme, introduces the Programme and explains its mandate and mission.

Can culture, integrated with more traditional instruments of development, improve lives in urban, poor and even remote contexts? How can culture provide employment, raise incomes, improve health, enhance urban spaces, and reinforce a respect for diversity? Jurjen van der Tas, Director, Partnerships and Development, describes the experience of the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme in Pakistan.
The notion of culture as an asset rather than a luxury is still a contested issue in many poorer parts of the world. As a result, a significant part of the world’s cultural heritage – much of it in the Muslim world – is at risk, as other needs are considered priorities.

The projects of the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme have demonstrated that they can have a positive impact well beyond conservation, promoting good governance, the growth of civil society, a rise in incomes and economic opportunities, and better stewardship of the environment.

This never before released film, professionally produced by AKTC, is the second of a three-part series focusing on Kabul, Lahore, and Delhi. Featuring interviews, drone photography and archival newsreels, this film shows that while there have been setbacks, there is still hope. And where there is hope, dignity emerges.
Immersed in breath-taking scenery something remarkable is taking place at Shigar and Khaplu, Pakistan. Graced by the beauty of the Karakoram Mountains and steeped in four centuries of folklore and legends, heritage and traditions are being revived and remote communities are showcasing their culture and themselves to the outside world.

YAHAAN BY SHAFQAT AMANAT ALI

Promoting the breath-taking beauty of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan, this song and video features several AKHCP projects. Can you spot them?
In the majestic Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan, poetically called the “Roof of the World,” trance-like rhythms and piercing melodies propel these vivid performances of Badakhshani folk songs, dance music, and mystical religious poetry that can embody the spiritual power known as *baraka*.

Introduced by Professor Ted Levin, ethnomusicologist, Professor of Music at Dartmouth College, and Senior Adviser to the Aga Khan Music Programme since 2003.
Professor Raj Isar discusses the widely used contemporary concept of “cultural identity” that is so central to the work of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. This short talk will explore the reasons why cultural identities mean so much to people and the ways in which they have become fragmented, mixed, and multiple in today’s mobile world.

AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE

Following the same format as last week’s issue, Farrokh Derakhshani, Director, Aga Khan Award for Architecture, introduces three new projects from the Award’s archives highlighting the importance of libraries in societies today. More than just books, libraries offer lectures, presentations, and gathering spaces for communities and for civil society organisations.

Three libraries in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Spain, provide spaces to learn, imagine, and engage.

CULTURE AND IDENTITY
Preview: Issue 3

Issue 3 will shine a spotlight on the Aga Award for Architecture and also feature the Aga Khan Music Programme, the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme, Aga Khan Museum, and a presentation on cultural pluralism.

We hope you enjoyed learning more about the work of AKTC and look forward to seeing you again.
THANK YOU