Spotlight:
AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE
Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2019
Prize-Giving Ceremony
Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan

Award recipients with their certificates alongside Mawlana Hazar Imam
State Opera House, Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation
The third issue of AT HOME arrives in May in the heart of springtime. About springtime, the Persian poet Hafiz wrote “Spring and all its flowers now joyously break their vow of silence ... You too — weed out those roots of sadness from your heart”.

Issue 3 spotlights the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Now over 40 years old, the Award is one of the most prestigious and coveted architecture prizes in the world. More than just about the building or the architect, the Award seeks to promote global excellence in the field of Muslim architecture and Muslim-inspired solutions for the built world. It also aims to support those who believe in improving environmental, cultural, and social sustainability, and quality of life through architecture.

The Award was conceived by His Highness the Aga Khan and a group of experts as an intellectual search to understand the degradation of the built environment that was happening across the Muslim world. At its core is a message of opportunity, of potential, and of hope.

As you read through the newsletter, clicking on the ● leads to content.
Farrokh Derakhshani, director, Aga Khan Award for Architecture, has been with the institution for 38 years. He has seen the Award grow into what is considered by critics and professional practitioners to be one of the most serious and substantive architectural prizes in the world. Farrokh speaks about how the Award functions and introduces a film on the history of this institution.

Hanif Kara is a practicing structural engineer and Professor in Practice of Architectural Technology at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. He is co-founder of AKT II London, a world-renowned structural and civil engineering company. Hanif has served as an on-site reviewer and as a member of the Award Master Jury and Steering Committee.
The 2019 Master Jury selected six projects to receive the Award. In their deliberations, three dominant themes emerged: living heritage, ecological resiliency and recovery, and thriving and inclusive commons.

The themes are reflected in the vocabulary of the Master Jury’s deliberations, which consistently came back to notions of anchorage, cultural identity, adaptability, low-impact design, environment, collaboration, community purpose, empowerment, leadership, dignity, hybridity, and public good.
Jubilee: Contemporary Expressions of Musical Heritage from the Middle East, West Africa, and Central Asia, honours the Diamond Jubilee His Highness the Aga Khan and his 60-year-long commitment to supporting pluralism, civil society, and the arts.

Introduced by Fairouz Nishanova, director, Aga Khan Music Programme, the film features music, musicians, and musical instruments from Afghanistan, China, Egypt, India, Italy, Mali, Syria, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and the United States.

This edited concert video presents a melding of sonic and visual arts symbolising the deep and abiding interconnectedness of expressive culture, decorative arts, and the built environment in Muslim cultural heritage.
Introduced by Ratish Nanda, AKTC CEO India, the third and final film in the series focuses on Delhi, where the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme first began work in 1997 on the restoration of Humayun’s Tomb Garden as a gift from Mawlana Hazar Imam to celebrate 50 years of India’s independence.

The restoration of Humayun’s Tomb followed. In 2007, the project evolved into a large-scale urban renewal initiative unifying the three zones of Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti, Sunder Nursery and Humayun’s Tomb into an urban conservation area of considerable breadth and cultural significance while improving the quality of life for the resident population.

The project integrates conservation, socioeconomic development and urban and environmental development objectives in consultation with local communities and relevant stakeholders.
CULTURAL PLURALISM

Professor Raj Isar explores how the commitment to pluralism that the world so deeply needs today is embodied in the work of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in particular through the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the Aga Khan Music Programme.

FAREED AYAZ AT THE AGA KHAN MUSEUM

Enjoy a rare opportunity to see this legendary Pakistani ensemble perform Qawwali—a form of devotional Sufi music with origins in ancient Islamic poetry.

Known as “the path of the heart,” Qawwali expresses the fervent devotion of the great Sufi mystics. The music begins by drawing the audience in with a meditative rhythm of chants, melodies, and percussion. Steadily, the rhythm builds, reaching ecstatic peaks that transport both musicians and listeners closer to the divine.

Fareed Ayaz is a master of Qawwali. Weaving together devotional and secular traditions, Ayaz and company have been bringing South Asian music to international audiences for over 30 years.
Preview: Issue 4

Issue 4 will shine a spotlight on Parks and Gardens in the Aga Khan Trust for Culture portfolio and also feature the Aga Khan Music Programme, Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme, and the Aga Khan Museum.

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