



ARCHITECTURE, CULTURE, AND SPIRITUALITY FORUM

14

resonance of the past, spirit of the future

İstanbul, Türkiye

June 05 - 09, 2024

Resonance of the Past, Spirit of the Future

The Architecture, Culture & Spirituality Forum (ACSF) is proud to host its 2024 annual symposium in Istanbul, Turkey. With its blend of East and West, the city embodies the very themes we seek to explore: Resonance of the Past, Spirit of the Future: Exploring transcendent unity in

a world of multiplicity. The venue, surrounded by the architectural wonders of Istanbul will serve as a living laboratory where theory and practice converge. Established in 2007, ACSF provides an international forum for scholarship, education, practice & advocacy

regarding the cultural and spiritual significance of the built environment. ACSF believes that the design and experience of the built environment can assist the spiritual development of humanity in service of addressing the world's most pressing issues.

Symposium Themes

Understanding Tradition through Technology

The symposium will explore how architects are employing digital tools to reinterpret historic architecture, learning from the past to envision new futures.

Cultural Confluence and Architectural Expression

Culture is a dynamic force that shapes architecture's identity and creation. The symposium will focus on the convergence of diverse cultures, religions, and ethnicities, like the example of the ones witnessed in our location Istanbul.

Transcendent Unity and the Soul of Architecture

The spiritual dimension has always infused architecture with profound meaning. The symposium will illuminate the spiritual essence in architectural creation, drawing inspiration from different spiritual traditions like Sufism and Orthodox Christianity.

Phenomenological Ruins, Restoration, and Reuse

The symposium will explore this theme, using the nearby Hagia Sophia as a symbol of adaptive reuse in sacred architecture. Emphasizing that reuse is the most sustainable form of architecture, despite adaptation challenges, discussions will cover the history of building transformation and offer models for reimagining sacred spaces for contemporary needs.

About this year's Keynote Speakers

ACSF14 Keynote Speakers



Emre Arolat, design partner of EAA, leads a practice renowned for its diverse portfolio spanning urban master plans, airports, cultural buildings, and more. Teaching globally, including at Yale School of Architecture and The Berlage Institute, Arolat's influence extends to institutions worldwide. Notable projects like the Ipekyol Textile Factory in Edirne have earned international acclaim, including the 2010 Aga Khan Award for Architecture.



Murat Tabanlıoğlu, an accomplished architect and RIBA Chartered Member, co-founded Tabanlıoğlu Architects in 1990. With a portfolio spanning four continents, he's renowned for award winning projects like Loft Gardens and Bodrum International Airport. Notable works include the Atatürk Cultural Center and Tersane İstanbul. He's also curated exhibitions worldwide, including at the Venice Biennale and London Design Festival.



Marina Tabassum, the 2024 ACSF Laureate for Outstanding Achievement, founded Marina Tabassum Architects in 2005, focusing on projects rooted in Bangladeshi context and environment. She's also the Academic Director of the Bengal Institute for Architecture, shaping environmental futures in the region. Her work, like the Bait Ur Rouf Mosque, emphasizes materials, space, and light to serve both as a place of worship and community center.

JUNE 05, WEDNESDAY

Welcome & Registration

16:00 **Welcome & Registration:** Register in the Hotel lobby front

17:00 **Opening Reception**

18:00 **Dinner - Drinks & Finger Food**

20:00 **Keynote Lecture: Emre Arolat, EAA**
At the Conference Center

JUNE 06, THURSDAY

ACSF 14 Presentations

09:00 **Paper Session 01:** Preserving Heritage

- Alison Snyder *Remnants of Lives Lived Within an Ancient City: A Contemporary Call for Reflection*
- Mahsa Khatibi & Michael Crosbie *In the Queen's Footsteps: Evolution & Challenges of Architectural Education in Herat, Afghanistan*
- Caroline Voet *Bridging East & West: The Hagia Sophia shaping Dom Hans van der Laan's Architectonic Space*
- Reza Assasi *Pardis/Paradise: Cosmic Symbolism in Persian Gardens and its Cultural and Spiritual Echoes*
- Roberto Chiotti *Moderated Panel Discussion*

10:30 **Session Break**

11:00 **Paper Session 02:** Resilient Architecture

- Elizabeth Danze *Resilience in Architecture and the Human Psyche*
- Çiçek K. Yildirim *Spiritual & Cultural Sustainability: Preserving Cultural Heritage in Antakya, Turkey, After the Earthquake*
- Minal Sagare *Satras of Majuli Island: Unfolding of Relations between the Bhakti Movement, Architecture, and Ephemeral Landscape of the River Brahmaputra's Floodplains*
- Gretchen Carr *The Spiritual Resonance of Douglas Cardinal: How one American Indigenous Community Created a Symbol of Modern Resilience*
- Hakan Ashaboğlu *Moderated Panel Discussion*

12:30 **Lunch Break**

At the Conference Center

14:00 **Concurrent Workshops**

Moderated by Trent Smith

- Suha Beki *Light, Shadow & Space (Day 01)*
- Jessica Feldheim *Architectural Alchemy*
- Nevine Nasser *Sacred Geometry*

17:30 **Dinner & Drinks**

20:00 **Keynote Lecture:** Murat Tabanlıoğlu, TA_ *At the Conference Center*

JUNE 07, FRIDAY

ACSF 14 Presentations

09:00 **Paper Session 03:** Rituals & Resonance

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| Roberto Chiotti | <i>Understanding Japanese Public Space Through the Experience of Ritual Time</i> |
| Tarek Meah | <i>The Production of Sacred Space at the Shrine of Bayazid Bostami</i> |
| Yoko Kawai | <i>An Anthro-spatial-temporal Journey in Japanese Arts and Architecture: Learning from Michiyuki</i> |
| Jada - Amina Harvey | <i>Sonic Architectures of Chicago House Music: Black Atlantic Memory and Monument in the Urban Landscape</i> |
| Alison Snyder | <i>Moderated Panel Discussion</i> |

10:30 **Session Break**

11:00 **Paper Session 04:** Transcendence & Transformation

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| Prem Chandavarkar | <i>Rethinking Satyagraha: Reviving a Gandhian Ideal as a Foundation for the Practice of Transcendental Design</i> |
| Hyejung Chang | <i>How the Korean Social Emotions, Han & Jeong Transformed Bong-ha Village into a Sacred Place for Democracy</i> |
| Chang He | <i>Transcendental Emptiness in Architectural Rusticity</i> |
| Martin Radermacher | <i>Dignified Spaces: Religious Minorities' Aspirations in Diverse Urban Environments - Lindsay Jones Memorial Research Fund Award 2021</i> |
| Tom Barrie | <i>Moderated Panel Discussion</i> |

13:00 **Lunch Break**

14:30 **Concurrent Workshops**

Moderated by Trent Smith

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| Suha Beki | <i>Light, Shadow & Space (Day 02)</i> |
| Çiçek K. Yildirim | <i>Harmony Unveiled</i> |
| Caroline Voet | <i>Bridging East & West</i> |

18:00 **Boat Cruise & Dinner**

19:30 **Group Dinner**

JUNE 08, SATURDAY

ACSF 14 Presentations

09:00 **Paper Session 05:** Understanding Spiritual & Cultural Narratives through Digital Technology

Julio Bermudez *Semiotic and Phenomenological Study of Sacred Architecture Using Last-Generation Eye-Tracking Instrumentation in Real Conditions vs. AI-based Predictions*

Lanlan Kuang *Sacred Landscapes in China's Multimedia Space: A Hermeneutic Investigation on Architectural Manifestations of Confucianism, Daoism, & Buddhism in Modern Chinese Society*

Vahid Vahdat *Ecological Immanence: A Cartoonish Case Against Architectural Transcendence Panel Discussion*

Nesrine Mansour & James Van Westen *Transcending Temporality: Architectural Reimaginings of The Divine Comedy for Modern Experience*

Michael Crosbie *Moderated Panel Discussion*

10:30 **Session Break**

11:00 **Paper Session 06:** Transcendent Unity

Nevine Nasser *Sacred Geometry: The Spiritual Meaning of Islamic Architectural Technologies*

Hany T. Ibrahim *Crafting Spiritually Transcendent Architecture - An Akbarian Perspective*

Aaron French *Bruno Taut: Architect as Modern Spiritual Builder*

Karim Youssef *A Framework for Sacred Architecture*

Nesrine Mansour *Moderated Panel Discussion*

12:30 **Lunch Break**

14:00 **Paper Session 07:** Spirituality, Atmosphere & Human Experience

Raymond Stevens *Perceiving the Form & Seeing Atmosphere of Architectural Places*

Isabel Potworowski *The Spiritual Dimension of Architectural Atmospheres: The Sogn Benedetg and Bruder Klaus Chapels*

Alan Frost & Madison Psinas *Making | Meaning: Design-Build and the Sacred Ordinary*

Jamie Ohls *Moderated Panel Discussion*

15:30 **ACSF Membership Meeting:** In the Conference Center
Moderated by Tom Barrie & Julio Bermudez

17:30 **Dinner & Drinks**

20:00 **Keynote Lecture:** Marina Tabassum, MTA

JUNE 09, SUNDAY

Sacred Sites & Walking Tours*

08:30 **Walking Tour:** Leaving from Kalyon Hotel

Blue Mosque	<i>Completed 1616 by Architect Mehmet Ağa</i>
Hippodrome	<i>Completed 330 AD by Emperor Septimius Severus</i>
Mosque of Sokullu Mehmet	<i>Completed 1577 by Mimar (Architect) Sinan</i>
Little Hagia Sophia	<i>Completed 536 AD by architects Isidore of Miletus & Anthemius of Tralles</i>
City Walk & Boukoleon Palas	<i>Built 829-842 AD during the rule of Emperor Theophilos</i>

12:00 **Lunch Break** with Tour Group

14:00 **Walking Tour:** Leaving from Lunch Location

Hagia Sophia	<i>Completed 537 AD by Emperor Justinian I</i>
Hürrem Sultan Hammam	<i>Completed 1557 by Mimar (Architect) Sinan</i>
Süleymaniye Mosque	<i>Completed 1557 by Mimar (Architect) Sinan</i>
Rüstem Pasha Mosque	<i>Completed 1563 by Mimar (Architect) Sinan</i>

17:00 **Return to Hotel**

Free Time & Goodbye

***Building entry fees are not included in guided tour cost**

WORKSHOP SYNOPSIS

ACSF 14

SUHA BEKI

Light, Shadow & Space

Light is considered a divine element in sacred architecture because it enhances the spiritual experience. The transition between light and darkness in certain settings can symbolise the spiritual journey from the earthly to the divine.

JESSICA FELDHEIM

Architectural Alchemy

Creating an engaging and interactive experience for attendees by immersing them in the dynamic exploration of spiritual traditions such as Sufism, Orthodox Christianity, and Kabbalah. Harness the power of hands-on guided meditation to foster connection, rejuvenate the mind, and unveil new pathways for creative inspiration while addressing stress.

NEVINE NASSER

Sacred Geometry

Through a practical ruler and compass construction method, participants will learn how to draw the pattern found on the floor of the entrance to the Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Mosque) in Istanbul.

ÇIÇEK KARATAŞ YILDIRIM

Harmony Unveiled

Through interactive sessions and collective engagement, the workshop transcends conventional boundaries, fostering a profound understanding of the intricate relationship between architecture, spirituality, and the animate Earth.

CAROLINE VOET

Bridging East & West

In this workshop, we will sketch together, following practical examples from Van der Laan's architecture. Caroline Voet will take you on a comprehensive design journey, in which she unravels the basics of the Plastic Number and universal concepts as nearness and superposition.

