

**ARC 416 Special Topics on Islamic Architecture:
The Architecture of the Central District of the Islamic City**

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The central district of any Islamic city represents the location of the best of its architectural features. This course will survey, in detail the important architectural monuments such as mosques, bazzars, khans and madrasahs. There will be emphasis on the form, function and architectural characteristics of those buildings. The structural architectural and urban changes in this part of the city will be discussed.

Objective:

This course is intended to be an upper level course oriented for students who want to be exposed to an in-depth investigation of the architectural form and structure of the heart of the Islamic city.

Text(s):

George Michell (ed.) Architecture of the Islamic World: It's History & Social meaning, Thames & Hudson, London, 1978.

Reference:

L. Carl brown (ed) From Madina to Metropolis, The Darwin Press, Princeton, 1973.

In addition a selected readings from related books and articles will be assigned weekly.

Requirements & Grading Policy:

Midterm Exam 30%

Final Exam 40%

Project or Term paper 20%

Attendance & (Homework assignments) 10%

Project or Term Papers:

Project could be any initiative related to the course contents. A good example of this is a documentation of the historically significant buildings or a district located in nearby traditional cities. In this case, the students are expected to have a general knowledge about the documentation process including pre-site preparation in work and post site-visit stage requirements and tasks.

Term papers could be a research in any subject related to the course contents. A good example of this work is the selection of one of the building types of the Central District of the Islamic City and studying it in details using proper research methodology. The length of the term paper is about ten pages excluding the cover page, the bibliography, and drawings and/or pictures, if any.

Project or term papers should be submitted promptly and any late projects or papers will have negative impact on the grading of the work done.

Course outline:

Week 1	Introduction to the physical structure of the Islamic City
Week 2	Survey of architectural features of the central district
Week 3	Mosques
Week 4	Bazaar
Week 5	Khans
Week 6	Madrasahs
Week 7	Hammams
Week 8	The existing condition of the architecture of the central district
Week 9	Major changes in the architecture of the central district
Week 10	Case study of Cairo
Week 11	Case study of Damascus

- Week 12 Case study of Riyadh & Jeddah
- Week 13 Case studies from other Arab Gulf States
- Week 14 The expected future for the central district
- Week 15 Review & closing remarks

Final presentation & submission of projects and/or term papers.

All presentations will be in class and will have time limit which should be respected.

Final exam will be announced by the Registrar .

Internet related sites:

www.islamicheratege.org

www.agakhan.org

www.islamicarchitecture.org