Archnet, developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) and the Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT (AKDC@MIT), is a unique, open-access, educational and scholarly resource focused on architecture, urbanism, environmental and landscape design, visual culture, conservation issues and related topics. With a particular focus on Muslim societies, Archnet contains over 100,000 original and curated images, publications, video, pedagogical tools, architectural drawings, and other files that presents visual and material culture within historic, cultural, and geographic contexts.

Archnet is an authoritative reference tool designed
• to enhance the quality of the built environment,
• to compensate for lack of resources for students and faculty in academic institutions,
• to highlight the unity and diversity within the cultures and traditions of Islam, as well as the interaction of these with the cultures and traditions of other societies.

This guide is produced by AKDC@MIT as a visual reference to assist Archnet users with navigating the site and locating resources in our collection. Your feedback is welcome.
THE HOMEPAGE

2017 IN REVIEW
THANK YOU!
This Archnet update focuses on content published in 2017. Click around and explore!
1) Top Menu from left to right:
   • ARCHNET icon returns you to the home page.
   • Search raises the search bar and opens parameters
   • Timeline chronological presentation of some frequently studied periods in Islamic architecture
   • Collections organizes larger collections thematically
   • Resources organizes collections alphabetically
   • Pedagogy includes resources for teaching and studying the art and architecture of Muslim societies
   • Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme organizes resources thematically, presented
   • Aga Khan Award for Architecture presents highlights from the awards

2) Center tiles present highlight material from or information about Archnet:
   Images and text may be clickable. Directional arrows move the tiles across the page

3) Search Bar from left to right:
   • Search box. Clicking or typing here raises the search bar
   • Up and down arrows lower the search bar and window containing search results

   Bottom bar from Left to right:
   • Help (?) opens the Archnet help page
   • "About Archnet," "Terms of use," and "How to contribute" linke to information about Archnet
   • Social media to follow Archnet news and information
   • Archive is a page with the discussion forum from the old Archnet
   • Contact (@) Email us
The search bar is raised by clicking on the word "search" in the top menu, or by putting the cursor in the search box.
Anywhere Search

Type words in the anywhere search box in order to find them in a record, but remember two important points:

1) This search is not field specific. For example, an anywhere search on “Cairo” will find not only find sites located in and media or publications about the city, but also cites located in other places that mention the word Cairo in the description, perhaps by way of comparison. It will also find all publications that include ”Cairo” in the citation, regardless of the subject.
Anywhere Search (continued)

2) Anywhere search will only find words and phrases that are exactly the same as those typed in this box. Use the Enter/Return key to separate search terms, indicated by orange blocks. Words or phrases of each term must exist in their entirety, and in the same order to be discovered. Different word order, missing words, or different articles and prepositions, can all cause this search to fail entirely, or to produce inaccurate results. Dividing long phrases into separate terms can prevent this problem.

Successful searches

Failed searches

The anywhere search is not precise. Nonetheless, it is useful for quick general searches. It may also be combined with filters or rules in order to refine results.
Filters

Geo Filter
Limits your search to countries or regions. Also controls grouping by location (see p. ). Click on the map to open.

To select regions, pan and zoom as needed, then click to place a flag. (right)

Select countries as indicated above, or type a country name in the search box, then click enter/return. A flag will automatically be placed. (left)

• Delete countries or regions by clicking the x next to the names in the list below the map, or by clicking on the map to remove the flag.
• The cancel button clears all selections and closes the map.
• The save button retains the selections and zoom level.
Filters (continued)

**Time Period**
Slide the bars at each side to limit searches by century.

**Collections**
Confine searches to one or more collections by selecting check boxes.

**Type**
Search for specific types of records by selecting the check boxes.
**Filters (continued)**

**Buttons**
- The filters window can be closed and opened using the arrow keys
- Filters can be cleared using the clear filters button.
- Click – to hide a filter type; + to reopen

**Group**
Select a button to determine how results are grouped. If no button is selected, Type is the default value.
**Filters (continued)**

**Grouping results by continent/region/country**

When grouping results by location, the geographical divisions are controlled by the level of the zoom on the Geo Filter map, regardless of whether or not regions are selected. The default zoom is regional. Zoom out to group by continent; zoom in to group by country.

---

**Default level***

(sub-continental regions)

---

**Country level***

* Zoom level. Nothing selected.
Rules allow you to search for terms in the specific fields you choose.

To create a rule:
- Choose a parameter
- Select includes/excludes/is empty
- Type your term or select from the list
- Use + to add additional rules
- Choose between AND/OR logic

+/- Adds and removes rules.
AND/OR designates the logic to be applied.
Clear all removes all rules and anywhere search terms.
Close hides the box without making changes.

Group search can be used to create complex searches combining AND/OR logic (see p. 32).
Available Parameters

**Title**-Searches the name or title of the record, including all alternates and variants. For sites this is the name of the structure, for associated names it is the name of the person or institution, for publications it is the title of the publication or section thereof, for videos it is the title of the video, and for images it is the caption.

**Associated name**-Searches for records associated with a specific person, group, institution, or city. Associated names records include architects, patrons, clients, authors, editors, photographers, designers, filmmakers, and subjects.

**Building Type**-Indicates the general purpose of a structure, such as religious, educational, recreation and sport, commercial, etc.

**Building Usage**-Indicates a more specific function or purpose of a structure than Building type. Usages corresponding to the types above include mosques and temples, madrasas and universities, stadiums and amusement parks, banks and markets.

**Style/Period**- Used to find records associated with a particular historic era or aesthetic. Examples include Fatimid, Marinid, French colonial, Ottoman, etc.

**City**-Used to find records associated with a particular city.

**Language**-Indicates the language of a publication or video. Archnet currently has publications or video in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Nepali, Spanish, Tamazight, Urdu, and more.

**Keyword**-Keywords include features of structures such as cusped arches, geometric motifs, or courtyards; subjects such as adaptive reuse, sustainable design, or architectural education; perspectives such as aerial view, streetscapes, exterior views, or detail views; and subjects depicted in images such as facades, cenotaphs, and altars.

**Material**-Indicates the material or technique used to create an object. Examples include stone, brass, stucco, diazotype, mosaic, paper, ink, etc.

**Date published**-Indicates the date a record first appeared on Archnet. Designate a start and end date, or just a start date to see what is new since your last visit.
It’s the combination of tools that make Archnet search so powerful. Say I am interested in towers of Iran, and I want to find out if any new sites or images have been added since I last searched in the summer. The date published search shows me that more than 2,500 records have been published since September 1,2017. Far too many to scroll through.

Selecting the sites and images removes about 100 names and collections that appeared at the top of my search results, but I still have 2,400 records in my results.

Using Iran in the geo filter gets me down to 160 records, and using tower in the anywhere search cuts that to 50 newly published sites and images of towers in Iran.
The thumbnail bar can be used to store results between different searches. Drag thumbnails or click the + sign to add items to the bar.
Grid view-This button displays results in rows of thumbnails. Roll over thumbnails to see basic information, as seen in the screenshot on p. 15.

List view-This button displays the results in a list with additional details. Thumbnails are displayed, but can be turned off for slower connections.
Map view-Displays sites on a functional Google Map

Select sites for the map by placing them in the thumbnail bar or by selecting the checkbox on the thumbnail in the search results.

Click on pushpins to open a preview of the site.

Colored buttons with numbers indicate multiple sites within close proximity to each other. Click on the button or use the zoom buttons to see the sites.
RESULTS (Continued)

**Slideshow**-Displays all results in an embedded slideshow.

- You can switch between slideshow and map view from using the buttons on the lower right.
- You can also sort the slides by location, type and date.
Print - Opens a new window or tab with a printable view of the record.
A linear history of the history of Islamic architecture. Click EXPLORE to open.

Click on a period to open.
A linear history of the history of Islamic architecture. Click EXPLORE to open.

Click on a period to open.
Each period has an introductory text and some widely studied examples of the architecture. Use directional arrows to scroll across time.

Clicking on a site will open the record.

Clicking on the period in the top menu will open a list of concurrent periods.

Open and close the period list with this icon.
This page organizes collections thematically, with a box for featured collections on the left. Position the cursor inside a box to see a list of collections. Scroll using the directional arrows.
This page contains and alphabetically organized list of collections. Position the mouse over a collection name to see a preview image.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aga Khan Award for Architecture</td>
<td>Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2016 Shortlisted Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme</td>
<td>Aga Khan Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture</td>
<td>AKAA: Building in the Islamic World Today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alam al-Bina</td>
<td>Ali Tayar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ali Tayar: Systems &amp; Case-Offs</strong></td>
<td>Architectural Transformations in the Islamic World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture in Muslim Communities</td>
<td>Arnaldo Vescovo: Red Monastery Church Restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ars Orientalis</td>
<td>Baroness Utens de Schooten: Iran, Iraq &amp; Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byron’s Iran and Afghanistan</td>
<td>Camera Studies in Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline and John Williams</td>
<td>City Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructing the Study of Islamic Art</td>
<td>Dictionary of Islamic Architecture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Click the icons to see associated images, publications, or video, or to toggle between the description and data.

Use these buttons to generate a printable record or to see the location mapped.
A SITE RECORD

Data Tab

All orange hyperlinks will take you to related information.
Displays the name of the collection, site, or authority from which you came to the record.

Print creates a printable view of the record, Map takes you to a Google map showing the location of the image.
Print & Map function as they do on the other types of records discussed above. Play opens the video in your browser as shown below. Download If a downloadable copy is available, the process will start when you click here.

NOTE: Video files can be quite large.
Print opens a printable version of the record. Download starts a download of the full publication or file.

Large files are often available to download in sections. Scroll to “Document Comprises” in the information to the right. Available sections will be listed there.
Group is a powerful new search that can be used to combine AND/OR logic in a single search.

A study of Archnet searches reveals that virtually all searches can most effectively and efficiently be conducted without recourse to the grouped search.

Switch to group search using by clicking the ”Group search” icon.

**NOTE:** Switching to the group search interface will erase all rules and the anywhere search box.
Setting up a group search can be tricky.

Before conduction your search, think through which rules need to be connected by AND, and which need to be connected by OR.

Also think through how the groups and rules will relate to one another.
GROUP SEARCH (Continued)

Create group creates a set of rules.

+ Adds a single rule.

– Removes a single rule or group of rules, depending on the position.

Groups of rules can be nested within other groups, and may contain only one rule.

Rules and boxes are connected to the applicable conjunction (AND/OR) by lines.

Clear all removes all groups, rules, and terms in the search bar; it also returns you to the basic search interface.

Close hides the search box without making changes.
GROUP SEARCH (Continued)

One the search is initially set up or after changes are made, launch the search using the search icon.

Clear all removes all groups, rules, and terms in the anywhere search bar. It also returns you to the basic search interface.

Close hides the search box without making changes. Most useful after conducting a search, reopen the search to check it, and want to close it again without making changes.
Constructing a grouped search: example 1

I need to find examples of Ottoman bridges and khans.

Thinking it though, I need to find things that are one Style/Period (Ottoman) AND two usages (bridges OR khans).

I need to combines AND/OR, so I select “Group search.”

Click + and add the rule Style/period includes Ottoman
Create a group and select AND
Add the rules:
• Building usage includes bridge OR
• Building usage includes khan
Constructing a grouped search: example 2
I want to find Marinid madrasas in Fes, Morocco, and Safavid madrasas in Isfahan. This is more complicated. I have one rule that applies to two sets of results. I need to click Group search to create the groups I need.

Then, Click + to create the rule that applies to both groups: Building usage includes madrasa.

Use the Create group button above the new rule

My inner most groups are:
• Style/Period includes Marinid sites AND City includes Fes
OR
• Style/Period includes Safavid AND City includes Isfahan

You may need to delete automatically created rules to add groups.
Constructing a grouped search: example 2

I want to find Marinid madrasas in Fes, Morocco, as well as Safavid madrasas in Isfahan. This type of search is more complicated. I have one rule that applies to two other sets of rules.

Open Group search using the button.

Then, Click + to create the rule that applies to both groups: Building usage includes madrasa.

Click Create group above the rule to create a new group

AND should already be orange indicating it is selected.

An empty rule will have been created above the first group. Delete it using the minus sign -
Example 2 (continued)

Use the Create group icon INSIDE this box to create a new group.

Use the same Create group icon to create the second group.

Select OR
Example 2 (continued)

In the first group:
• Style/Period includes Marinid AND
• City includes Fes

In the second:
• Style/Period includes Safavid AND
• City includes Isfahan
Example 2 (continued)

There are other ways to build this search, and you may have some false starts in creating such complicated searches.

Verify the logic before launching the search. Are your rules properly nested to that AND/OR apply to the appropriate terms?

Once verified, launch the search using one of the search icons.