
Foreword

This is the second book in the series, *Exploring Architecture in Islamic Cultures*, that I have the privilege to edit on behalf of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

It has, once again, been a labour of love, for these papers transcribed from the tapes of the second regional seminar in Dhaka, Bangladesh carry with them a passion and a commitment which make the editor's task akin to that of an archaeologist slowly uncovering a cultural treasure trove

The enjoyment is in the revelation of intellectual ideas, of practical wisdom and historical perspectives which the wide range of participants brought to the discussion. Whilst the focus is on Islamic countries the ideas on regionalism are applicable in many societies throughout the world which have either a history of colonial intervention or are economically late developers.

One has the feeling that Regionalism is gaining momentum as an alternative to and as a rejection of International Modernism. Suha Özkan writes at greater length on this in his introduction.

One particular phrase in the book, from the background paper by Mulk Raj Anand remains in my memory. He quotes the Chinese philosopher Mencius saying "Those who follow that part of themselves which is great are great men; those who follow that part of themselves which is little are little men".

The issues discussed in this book are great issues, there are as William Curtis noted "major cultural transformations taking place... extremely interesting psychological and sociological phenomenon which deal with the question of human order..."

The seminar confirms that Architecture has a clear cultural purpose.

In editing the papers I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Iftexhar Mazhar Khan who was responsible for collating the proceedings of the seminar on which this book is based. For their patience and understanding may I also record my appreciation of the publishers, specifically Patricia Theseira and Lynda Lim.

Robert Powell
Editor