

Thursday, April 12

4:30 Welcome and Introductory Remarks by Alina Payne and Gülru Necipoğlu

5:00-7:30 Session I: Contemporaneity of Ornament in Architecture

Discussant: **Erika Naginski**

Introductions: **Morgan Ng**

5:00 **Antoine Picon** (Harvard) – Ornament, Subjectivity, and Politics

5:30 **Spyros Papapetros** (Princeton) – Politics, Parametrics, and Parabolic Forms: From Modern Ornaments to Ancient Projectiles

Discussion

6:20 **Vittoria Di Palma** (Columbia) – A Natural History of Ornament

6:45 **Hashim Sarkis** (Harvard) – Inscription: On the Surface of Exchange Between Writing, Ornament, and Tectonic in Contemporary Architecture

Discussion

Friday, April 13

9:00 Tea/Coffee

9:30-12:00 Session II: Medieval Mediations across the Mediterranean and Beyond

Discussant: **Ioli Kalavrezou**

Introductions: **Eva Helfenstein**

9:30 **Gerhard Wolf** (KHI, Florence) – Vesting Walls, Displaying Structure, Crossing Cultures: Dynamics of Architectonic Ornaments between Byzantium and Central Asia (6th to 10th century)

10:00 **Cynthia Robinson** (Cornell) – Iberia and the Mediterranean: The Predicament of Mudéjar

Discussion

10:50 **Michele Bacci** (Université de Fribourg) – Gothic-Framed Icons: Perceptions and Uses of Italianate Ornaments in the Levant during the Late Middle Ages

11:20 **Marco Nobile** (Università di Palermo) – “This is Babel”: Sicily, the Mediterranean Islands and Southern Italy (1450-1550)

Discussion

12:15-1:30 Lunch Recess

1:30-4:00 Session III: Early Modern Global Affinities

Discussant: **Joseph Koerner**

Introductions: **Ünver Rüstem**

1:30 **Gülru Necipoğlu** (Harvard) – Early Modern Floral: Ottoman Ornament between Naturalism and Mimetic Abstraction

2:00 **Daniela del Pesco** (Università degli Studi dell’Aquila) – Modes and Itineraries of Marble Decoration in Baroque Naples Between 1500 and 1600

Discussion

2:50 **Christopher Heuer** (Princeton) – Ornamental Defacement

3:20 **Chanchal Dadlani** (Wake Forest) – Promiscuous Marble: Mughal Architectural Ornament in the Eighteenth Century

Discussion

Break

4:30-7:00 Session IV: Figural Design between Ornament and Representation

Discussant: **Frank Fehrenbach**

Introductions: **Adam Jasiński**

4:30 **Oya Pancaroğlu** (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul) – Perfect Figure, or the Human Accessory to Universal Design

5:00 **Anne Dunlop** (Tulane) – Ornament and Vice: the Coccarelli Fragments

Discussion

5:50 **Thomas B.F. Cummins** (Harvard) – The Gilded Body and Brilliant Wall

6:20 **David Pullins** (Harvard) – Figures Designed for Circulation

Discussion

Saturday, April 14

9:00 Tea/Coffee

9:30-12:00 Session V: Circulation and Translations of Portable Ornament

Discussant: **Irene Winter**

Introductions: **Elizabeth Kassler-Taub**

9:30 **Avinoam Shalem** (LMU, Munich) – The Poetics of Portability

10:00 **Alina Payne** (Harvard) – Wrapped in Fabric: Florentine Facades, Mediterranean Textiles and A-Tectonic Ornament in the Renaissance

Discussion

10:50 **Anna Contadini** (SOAS, London) – Creative Adaptation: Ornament between Renaissance Italy and the Islamic Middle East

11:20 **Jennifer L. Roberts** (Harvard) – The Currency of Ornament

Discussion

12:15-1:30 Lunch Recess

1:30-4:00 Session VI: Ornamental Design between Theory and Praxis

Discussant: **Joseph Connors**

Introductions: **Zeynep Oğuz**

1:30 **Jonathan Hay** (NYU) – The Passage of the Other

2:00 **Finbarr Barry Flood** (NYU) – The Flaw in the Carpet: Disjunctive Continuities and Riegl’s Arabesque

Discussion

2:50 **Marzia Faietti** (Uffizi, Florence) – Variety and Metamorphosis: Form and Meaning in the Ornament of Amico Aspertini

3:20 **David J. Roxburgh** (Harvard) – ‘Give us light in our eyes’: Architectural Epigraphy and the Illuminated Building in Timurid Iran and Central Asia, 1370-1430

Discussion

Break

4:30-7:00 Session VII: Internationalism of Ornament and Modernist Abstraction

Discussant: **Ewa Lajer-Burcharth**

Introductions: **Katie Pfohl**

4:30 **Rémi Labrusse** (Université de Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense) – Grammars of Ornament: Between Dematerialization and Embodiment

5:00 **Suzanne Blier** (Harvard) – Ornament and Performativity: African Modernist Architecture and Internationalism

Discussion

5:50 **Dario Gamboni** (Université de Genève) – Natural Ornament, Abstraction and Genemorphism in Early Modernist Art and Architecture

6:20 **Robin Schuldenfrei** (Humboldt University, Berlin) – Sober Ornament: Materiality and Luxury in German Modern Architecture and Design

Discussion

7:00-8:00 Closing Reception

Ornament as Portable Culture: *Between Globalism and Localism*



Conference Program

Interest in ornament has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years—among artists, architects, theorists, critics and historians, among literary figures and musicians. This interest is not entirely new, as at various times in history ornament has attracted intense attention. Indeed, the story of ornament has followed what amounts to a sine curve of highs and lows, never interrupted or broken, even if ornament was demonized in the 20th century as a questionable link to a past deemed irrelevant to the present. The two and a half day conference will consider recent trends in relation to historical precedents, characterized by differing balances between “global” and “local” elements. The aim is not to present a comprehensive survey of ornament in world cultures, but rather thematic sessions on the place of ornament in diverse periods and geographies in multiple media, focusing on historiographic problems addressed through specific case studies.

This conference is made possible by generous support from *the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Max-Planck Society*, in collaboration with the *Department of History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University Office of the Provost, and the Lauro De Bosis Committee.*

Conference Website:

<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k83922&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup136410>



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April 12-14, 2012

Conference organized by
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