

Islamic and Renaissance Gardens (Brussels, 31 May–3 Jun 12)

2012 European Architectural History Network (EAHN) Brussels, Belgium, May 31–Jun 3, 2012

Deadline: Sep 30, 2011

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CFP: "Islamic and Renaissance Gardens: A Case for Mutual Influence?"

In the 16th century, political and economic engagements between Renaissance Europe and the Islamic world opened new pathways for cultural exchange. Trade, diplomacy and tourism vastly enhanced Europeans' knowledge of Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal urban design and architectural practice. As travel narratives from the period attest, Europeans reported on the cities, gardens, and buildings with which they came into contact, often characterizing them as sites of social interaction. Some of the accounts even included drawings and sketches of Islamic cities and gardens, which captured the attention of European cultural elites. Intellectual and artistic exchanges facilitated by merchants, tourists, and missionaries also added to the reciprocal flow of architectural ideas and concepts.

During this period, some simultaneous changes occurred in garden design in Europe and Persia. The role of gardens in cities grew in prominence, with a gradual shift in emphasis from gardens for the private sphere to an increasingly public function. As a natural consequence of this shift, gardens began to serve as the core of new urban plans and designs. This phenomenon not only established a new relationship between the garden and city, but also emphasized the garden pavilion or villa as the focal point. Are such concurrent developments in European and Islamic gardens the result of universal political and social changes in both regions or could these garden design traditions mutually have influenced one another? The papers in this panel can study such potential influences by comparing the meanings and forms of gardens in the Islamic world to those in Europe or by exploring historical documents to validate mutual influence in garden design. The papers can also compare and contrast between the function of the palace or pavilions in relation to the garden in Islamic cultures and the villa in relation to the garden in European cultures. The papers can cover gardens from subcontinent India to North Africa.

Please send paper proposals and short CVs by September 30, 2011 to
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scaffey@arch.tamu.edu

Reference:

CFP: Islamic and Renaissance Gardens (Brussels, 31 May-3 Jun 12). In: ArtHist.net, Sep 2, 2011 (accessed
Jun 15, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/1751>>.