



Middle East Studies Center-Lecture Series, 2009-2010

Nomadic Mosque: Architecture as Identity

Azra Aksamija

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Time: 2:00 PM

Friday, February 12th, 2010

GC 243 (Graham Center)

Modesto A. Maidique Campus



Azra Aksamija is a Bosnian-born Austrian artist, architect, and architectural historian. She studied architecture at the Technical University Graz (Dipl.Ing.), Princeton University (M.Arch), and is currently affiliated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Architecture (History Theory and Criticism Section/Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture). Her broader artistic and academic practice explores representation of Islamic identities in the West, spatial manifestation of identity politics, Orientalism, and cultural mediation through architecture. Azra's dissertation entitled "Our Mosques Are Us: Rewriting National History of Bosnia-Herzegovina through Religious Architecture" explores the construction of Bosnian Muslims' identities through history of mosques, with a focus on the post-socialist period.

Besides her academic research, Azra has been working as a conceptual artist and a curator. Her interdisciplinary projects have been published and exhibited in various international venues such as the Generali Foundation Vienna (2002), Biennial de Valencia (2003), Gallery for Contemporary Art Leipzig (2003), Liverpool Biennial (2004), Witte de With Rotterdam (2005), Sculpture Center New York City (2006), Secession Vienna (2007), Manifesta 7 (2008), and most recently at the Stroom Den Haag (2009).