

THE AGA KHAN MUSEUM AND ISMAILI CENTRE TORONTO

Spirit, Art and Nature

The Aga Khan Museum and Ismaili Centre Toronto are situated within a 6.8-hectare (16.8 acre) landscaped park, a new space for the public that showcases the work of three renowned architects. Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki designed the Aga Khan Museum, while Indian architect Charles Correa designed the Ismaili Centre. The park, which features a formal garden, was designed by architect Vladimir Djurovic of Lebanon. The prominent Canadian firm Moriyama & Teshima are the architects for the entire project and responsible for integrating all aspects of its development.

This project, an initiative of His Highness the Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam of the Ismaili Muslims and founder and Chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network, seeks to foster knowledge and understanding both within Muslim societies and between these societies and other cultures. As His Highness remarked in 2010 at the foundation ceremony for these institutions: “Together, these three projects will symbolise the harmonious integration of the spiritual, the artistic and the natural worlds – in keeping with the holistic ideal which is an intimate part of Islamic tradition. At the same time they will also express a profound commitment to inter-cultural engagement, and international cooperation.”

The Aga Khan Museum, dedicated to presenting an overview of the artistic, intellectual and scientific contributions that Islamic civilizations have made to world heritage, will house a permanent collection of over 1,000 objects including rare

masterpieces that demonstrate a broad range of artistic styles and materials. These portraits, textiles, miniatures, manuscripts, ceramics, medical texts, books, tiles and musical instruments represent more than ten centuries of human history and a geographic area stretching from the Iberian coast to China.

The Ismaili Centre Toronto joins a network of Centres located in Vancouver, London, Lisbon, Dubai and Dushanbe. The Ismaili Centre Toronto continues a tradition of hosting programmes that stimulate the intellect, encourage dialogue, and celebrate cultural diversity. The Centres are symbolic markers of the permanent presence and core values of Ismaili communities around the world. Incorporating spaces for social and cultural gatherings, intellectual engagement and reflection, as well as spiritual contemplation, they are bridges of friendship and mutual understanding.

Together, the buildings and park reflect the Aga Khan’s longstanding relationship with Canada and his appreciation for the country’s commitment to pluralism and cultural diversity.

Further information on the Aga Khan Museum:
www.agakhanmuseum.org

Further information on the Ismaili Centre Toronto:
<http://www.theismaili.org/ismailicentres/toronto>



