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

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

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 Heffenstein

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

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)

12:15-1:30 Lunch Recess

1:30-4:00 Session III: Early Modern Global Affinities
Discussant: Joseph Koerner
Introductions: Uwe 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

2:50 Christopher Heuer (Princeton) – Ornamental Defacement

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

4:30-7:00 Session IV: Figural Design between Ornament and Representation
Discussant: Frank Fehrenbach
Introductions: Adam Jasięski

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


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

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 Aniina Shalem (LMU, Munich) – The Poetics of Portability


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


12:15-1:30 Lunch Recess

1:30-4:00 Session VI: Ornamental Design between Theory and Praxis
Discussant: Joseph Connors
Introductions: Zeynep Öğuz

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


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

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

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

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

April 12-14, 2012

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