

Jubilation

Ismailmail

at the opening of
the Ismaili Centre, Toronto

and

the Aga Khan Museum

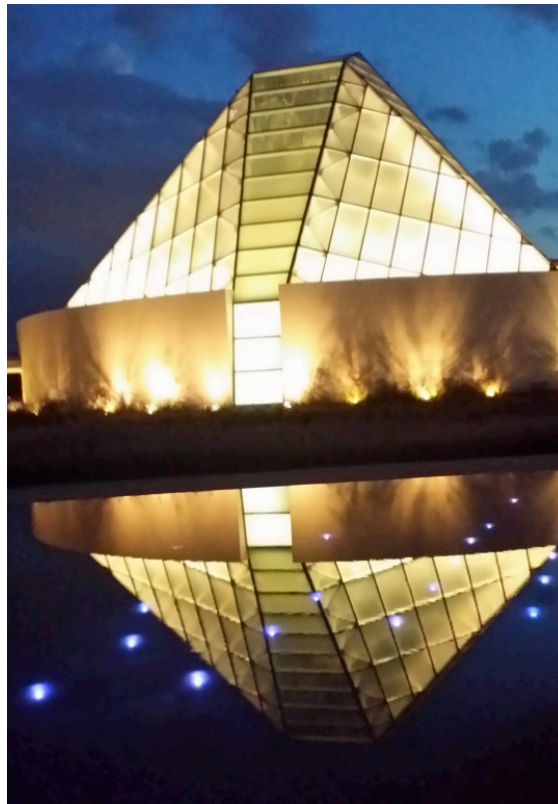
September 10 to 12, 2014



Humbled and Grateful: Ismailmail invited to a momentous occasion

Ismailmail / September 9, 2014

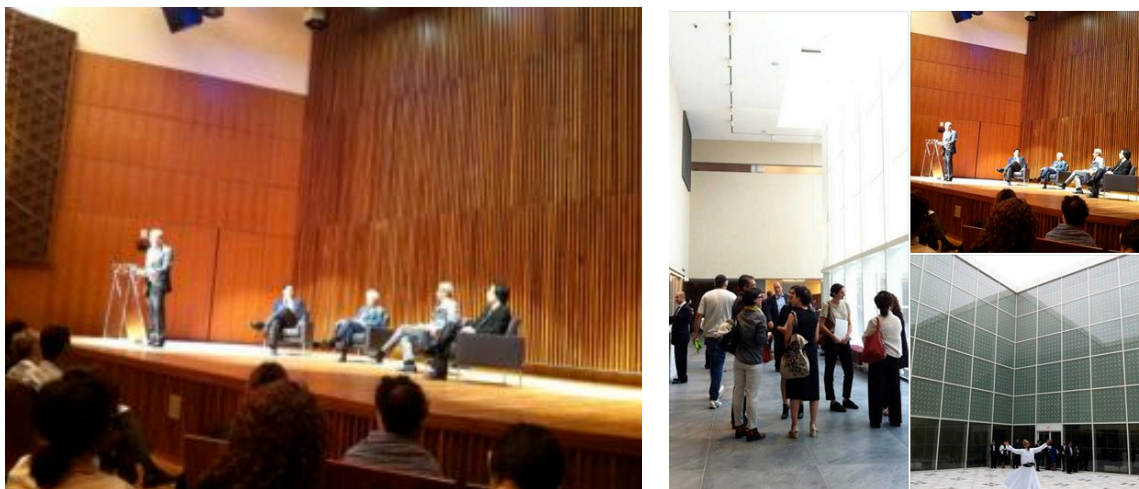
Ismailmail is humbled to have received an official invitation to attend the opening ceremonies of the new Ismaili Centre, Toronto, Aga Khan Museum and their Park. We are grateful for this opportunity to share our experience with you and promise to provide in depth coverage, insightful stories and pictures through a unique lens.



The Ismaili Centre reflected in the one of
the pools embedded with lights
Photo: Alim Maherali

Aga Khan Museum Welcomes Members of the Press

Ismailimail / September 10, 2014



Mawlana Hazar Imam Arrives in Toronto

September 10, 2014



Mawlana Hazar Imam arrives in Toronto ahead of Ismaili Centre and Aga Khan Museum opening

via TheIsmaili.org: Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Canada this afternoon, ahead of the opening of the Aga Khan Museum and the Ismaili Centre, Toronto. He was received on behalf of the Government of Canada by the Honourable Chris Alexander, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Ismaili Council for Canada President Alijah Malik Talib welcomed Hazar Imam on behalf of the Jamat.

The occasion, to be marked by two separate ceremonies, will take place on Friday. Full coverage, including a live webcast of both opening ceremonies will be provided on TheIsmaili.org.

More <http://www.theismaili.org/news-events/mawlana-hazar-imam-arrives-toronto-ahead-and-aga-khan-museum-opening>

Discovering Aga Khan Museum: The Gift Shop

September 10, 2014

Reporting from Toronto, Ismailmail speaks with Shoheb Gwaduri about the products in the gift shop. Ismailmail is also delighted to share a gallery of dozen images.

Shoheb Gwaduri, Aga Khan Museum's Manager of Business Development travelled across the Muslim world to bring unique products for the museum's gift shop that were specifically designed using the museum's collections, its architecture, jali motifs and geometry.



“Seventy percent of the products are proprietary and exclusively designed for the Aga Khan Museum (AKM) and only available here,” remarks Gwaduri. “I worked with designers and we took inspiration from His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan’s art collection to create one of a kind pieces” he said, proudly showing me beautiful earrings and pins from Jordan. Brightly colored arabesque patterns on umbrellas, scarfs and ladies bags grab your attention, as one enters the shop.

Other beautiful and unique products range from jewelry pieces designed and hand crafted in Jordan incorporating semi-precious stones from Palestine. Colorful Iznik ceramics from Turkey and porcelain products from Spain adorn the shelves in the middle of the store. Scarves from Afghanistan and Jaipur



– northern India, populate the walls of the gift shop. Ladies bags from Uzbekistan, pillows from Tajikistan, and more scarves from Kyrgyzstan – all with Central Asian motifs, designed by local crafts people using “generationally passed down” techniques are also featured prominently. There are toys and books for children.

Bamiyan (Afghanistan) bears and donkey hand stitched by women’s collectives fill the top shelf at the back of the shop. Mother of pearl momento boxes, wooden animal toys from Darb al-Ahmar (area adjacent to the Al-Azhar Park in Cairo) fill other shelves. Both the Bamiyan and Cairo products are beneficiaries of AKDN quality of life projects in Afghanistan and Egypt respectively.

There are wooden alphabet blocks in Arabic, Farsi, French and Japanese (Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is next door to AKM). There are shelves full of books on art, calligraphy, architecture and other topics. Beautifully carved bookends from Afghanistan lend support to colorful art books.

For men, there are Italian silk ties with AKM motifs and beautiful cufflinks. Many other products remain to be discovered and Ismailmail encourages everyone to visit the gift store to discover more treasures. An on-line store will be coming soon.



At the Gift Shop



Discovering the Ismaili Centre, Toronto: An Architectural and Engineering Gem

September 11, 2014

Reporting from Toronto, Ismailimail is thrilled to share a gallery of images of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto and briefly talk about its unique features.



The Ismaili Centre, Toronto is a “precision designed building.” It is not only an architectural gem, but an engineering gem considering the technical details that were required to be solved to address fusing the vision of the project, the materials used in its construction, the talent required to build it and the geometry it forms – a myriad of things.

Many things can be discussed about the building, but one that is absolutely striking is its roof. A glowing icon, indeed!

Made entirely of glass and connected with a structural skeleton of steel, the roof has no pillars to support it, except for the peripheral structure of the building. Considering the harsh Canadian winters and the varying climate of the four seasons that the building has to withstand, the importance of the roof to withstand all these pressures while protecting the building and the devotees inside during prayer times becomes even more pronounced. The roof is one giant skylight, white in color and translucent in nature. It is double skinned with pressurized air in between to provide a controlled temperate climate inside the building. The outside “glass skin” consists of 7 planes, while inside the “glass skin” consists of 30-40 different planes. These varying contortions create an interesting effect with light giving the roof distinct colors.

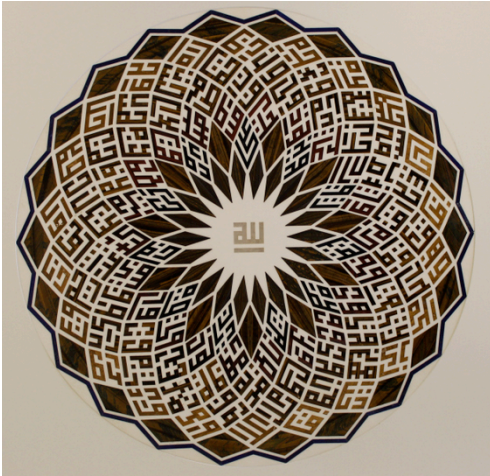


This interplay of nature with that human beings have created makes one wonder about the mysteries of life. We conclude our discussion about this feature and encourage our readers to explore more on their own, discover new meaning and search for personal relevance in its meaning, as the Ismaili Centre inspires that personal commitment to search.

Is it not, then, one of the missions of this space to create an enabling environment for the devotee in their search for spiritual enlightenment?



Artwork in the Ismaili Centre, Toronto



99 names of Allah – artwork by Minaz Nanji using tiger eyes, lapis lazuli and other gemstones



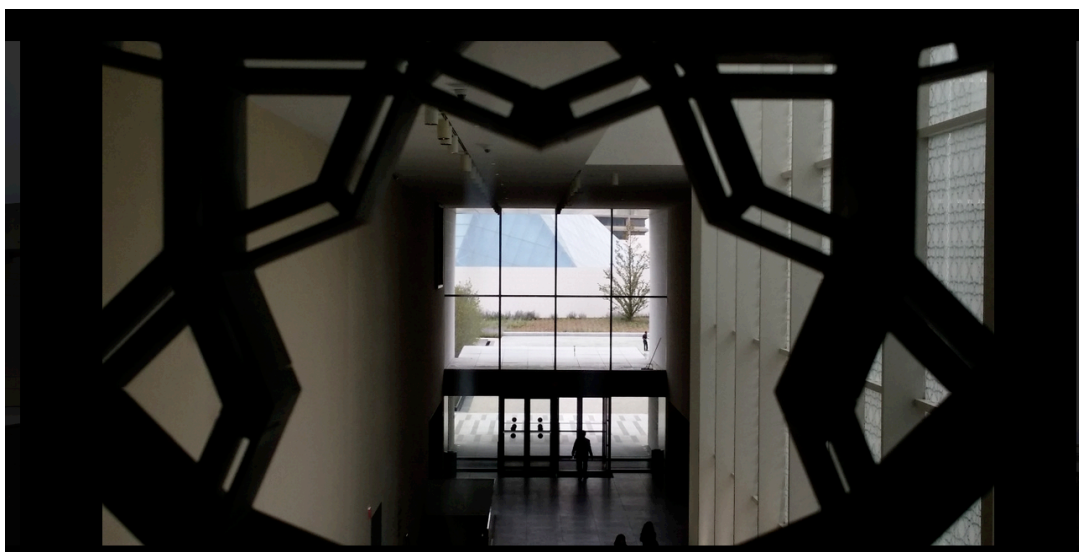
Motif on the floor



Sculptural artwork by Karl Schlamming, a German-born Muslim artist – calligraphic composition represents Allah, Muhammad and Ali. His prior work includes the fountain at the Ismaili Centre, London, UK and additional artwork at Ismaili Centre, Lisbon, Portugal.



Calligraphy designed by Minaz Nanji of Aiglemont, near the entrance to the prayer hall, representing the names of Prophet Muhammad (s.a.s), Hazrat Ali (a.s.), Hazrat Bibi Fatimah (a.s.), Hazrat Hassan (a.s.) and Imam Hussein (a.s.).



Ismaili Centre, through the jali window of the exhibition gallery of the Aga Khan Museum

Schedule of Events: Official Opening Ceremony for the Ismaili Centre, Toronto and the Aga Khan Museum

Today, September 12, 2014, the Ismaili Centre Toronto and Aga Khan Museum will be formally opened in the presence of His Highness the Aga Khan. These projects, 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, are intended to foster knowledge and understanding both within Muslim societies and between these societies and other cultures.

2:25 – 2:30: Arrival of His Highness and the Guest of Honour

2:30 Opening of Ismaili Centre, Toronto commences
National Anthem

2:40: Speech by Guest of Honour

2:50 Speech by His Highness the Aga Khan
Unveiling of Plaque

3:10 Private tour of Ismaili Centre

3:30 Media Photo opportunity on terrace of Ismaili Centre

3:55 Opening ceremony of the Aga Khan Museum commences
Speech by Prince Ayn al-Araaf Aga Khan
Speech by Minister of Heritage
Unveiling of plaque
Tour of Museum

Event highlights (tentative) SOURCE Aga Khan Council For Canada

**Noorani Family at
Ismaili Centre, Toronto and Aga Khan Museum Inauguration:
Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Ayn, Prince Rahim with Princess Salwa, and Prince Hussain**

Reporting from Toronto, Ismailimail shares a few pictures of the Noorani family at the opening of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto and Aga Khan Museum on Friday, September 12, 2014.



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper applauding Mawlana Hazar Imam for his commitment to Canada and Canadian values.

Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Mawlana Hazar Imam acknowledging and thanking Prince Ayn for his contributions.

Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



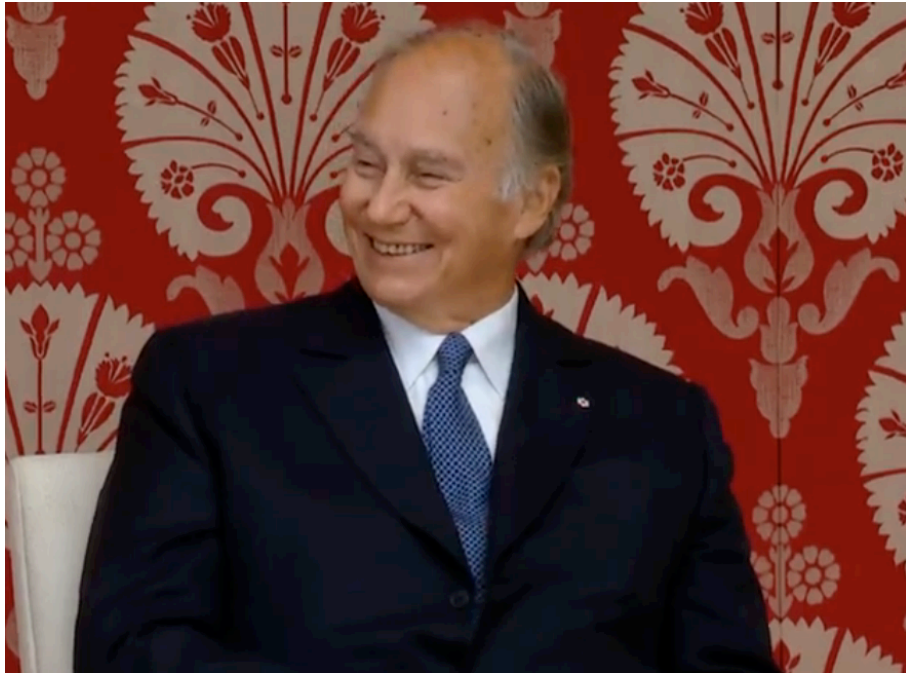
Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, delivers his address
Photo: TheIsmaili.org/Moez Visram

“For generations to come, this site and these buildings, as well as the fabulous collection of art and artefacts contained in the Aga Khan Museum, will be a source of inspiration, spiritual renewal and cultural awareness. They will inspire not only Torontonians, but also all visitors to this place, both Canadian and international ... But for all of this, and many more acts of goodwill, we will always be grateful to our esteemed fellow Canadian, His Highness the Aga Khan.

When a contrary and violent distortion so regularly dominates the news, this is a vision of Islam of which all Canadians can be proud.”

**The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
Opening of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto
September 12, 2014**





“As we inaugurate this building, we also have the opportunity to contemplate what it represents: the inspiring traditions of the past, the stirring challenges of the future, and the continuing search for peace through prayer.”

**Mawlana Hazar Imam
September 12, 2014**



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prime Minister Stephen Harper unveiling the commemorative plaque of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Mawlana Hazar Imam departing after declaring the Ismaili Centre,
Toronto open
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM





Prince Ameen, Prince Rahim with Princess Salwa, and Prince Hussain departing after Ismaili Centre, Toronto was declared open
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Prince Rahim with Princess Salwa, and Prince Hussain departing after the Ismaili Centre, Toronto was declared open
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Prince Ameenah admiring the view of the Aga Khan Museum from the roof-top terrace of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto (crystalline roof-top of the Ismaili Centre in the background)

Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Mawlana Hazar Imam with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the roof-top terrace of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto with the Aga Khan Museum in the background

Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



“What we dedicate today is what we identify as an Ismaili Centre — a building that is focused around our Jamatkhana, but which also includes many secular spaces. These are places where Ismailis and non-Ismailis, Muslims and non-Muslims, will gather for shared activities — seminars and lectures, recitals and receptions, exhibitions and social events. These meeting halls and lounges, work offices and conference rooms will serve the organisational needs of the Ismaili community. But they will also, we trust, be filled with the sounds of enrichment, dialogue and warm human rapport, as Ismailis and non-Ismailis share their lives in a healthy gregarious spirit!”

Mawlana Hazar Imam



Photos: TheIsmaili.org

**Happy Birthday Prince Amyn and Thank You for all your
gifts towards the Aga Khan Museum and the Ismaili
Centre, Toronto!**

September 12, 2014



Reporting from Toronto, Ismailimail shares felicity for this epic day. Today we celebrate many happy occasions – Prince Amyn’s birthday and the inaugurations of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto and the Aga Khan Museum. Prince Amyn, known worldwide for his prowess in the arts and culture, has for many decades worked with his elder brother, His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan on economic, cultural and building initiatives. His gifts of time, knowledge, energy and talent on the Toronto projects for over a decade have

come to full fruition as we celebrate the opening of the Aga Khan Museum and Ismaili Centre, Toronto. To draw special attention of his dedication, we share below the French Minister’s tribute in honoring him for his contributions.

Prince Amyn Aga Khan is Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Aga Khan Museum. He is also the Chairman of the Executive Committee (and Member of the Board) of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, which initiates and supports economic development activities in Africa and Asia. In addition to these, Prince Amyn also holds several other posts (see Constellations reference below).

Highly regarded and well-liked by many, Prince Amyn continues to be an epitome of inspiration in the service of the Imam, the Institutions of the Imamat, worldwide Jamats, greater Muslim Ummah and humanity.

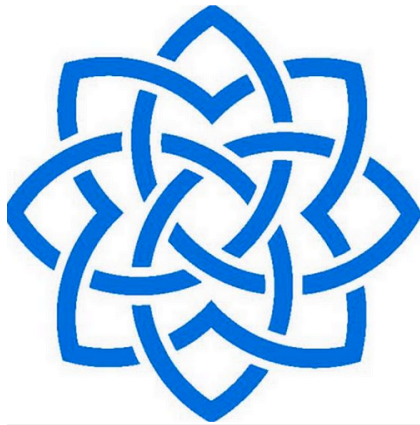
Ismaili Muslims worldwide join Ismailimail in wishing Prince Amyn Mohammed Aga Khan a very happy birthday! We sincerely Thank You from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do for the worldwide jamats and we Salute You!

Opening of the Aga Khan Museum

"I believe strongly that art and culture can have a profound impact in healing misunderstanding and in fostering trust even across great dividesIn its role to reveal and to stimulate dialogue between different cultures, the Aga Khan Museum will continue a long history of cultural sharing between Islam and the West"

**Prince Ayn
September 12, 2014**

The logo of the Aga Khan Museum



The Museum's logo is inspired from the 10th century Iranian bowl that forms part of its collection. The vibrant colors and production technique highlight the artistic sophistication at the time.

The inscription along the edge of the bowl reads: "Generosity is the disposition of the dwellers of Paradise."

Bowl

Iran, 900s

<https://www.facebook.com/agakhanmuseumtoronto>



Prince Amyn making jokes at the inaugural address of the Aga Khan Museum
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Brotherly affection: Prince Amyn hugs Mawlana Hazar Imam after his address
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Canadian Minister of Heritage and Official Languages, Shelly Grover, wishes Prince Ayn "Happy Birthday"
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



A proud moment for all as the Aga Khan Museum is declared open
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Hon. Shelly Glover, MP Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages addressing the guests at the opening of the Aga Khan Museum

“In its educational focus, the Museum will reach out to and speak to Muslims and non-Muslims alike about the peace, creativity, beauty and pluralism of Muslim history, and in these tumultuous times, these values are needed more than ever.”

**Hon. Shelly Glover, MP Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages
September 12, 2014**



Mawlana Hazar Imam with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper after unveiling the commemorative plaque of the Aga Khan Museum
Photo: © Ismailimail/AM



Mawlana Hazar Imam with the Director of the Aga Khan Museum, Henry Kim; Prime Minister Stephen Harper; General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Luis Monreal; and Prince Ameen
Photo: TheIsmaili.org

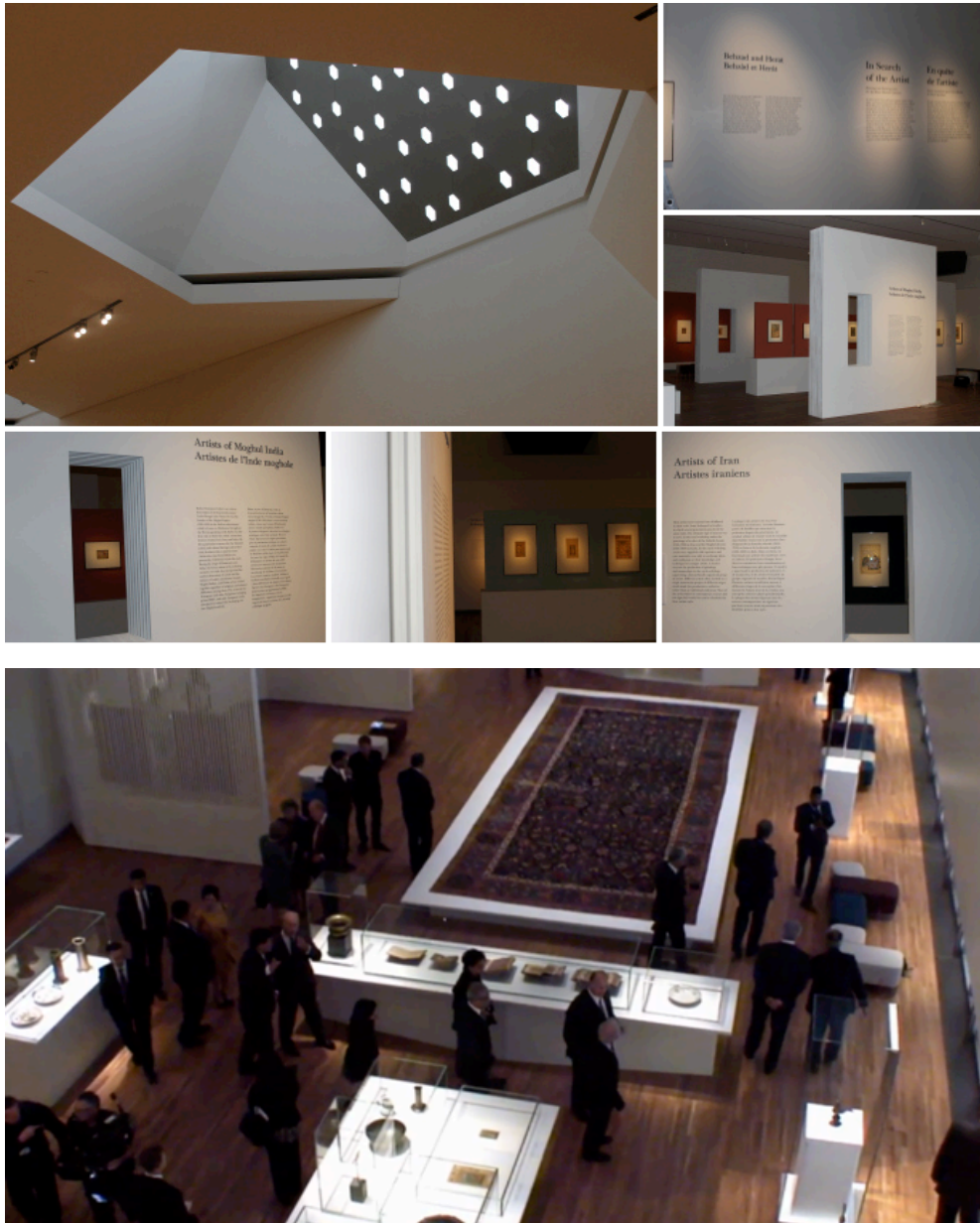
“For this Museum will be one of the very few institutions in the Western world, and indeed the only one in the Western hemisphere, that will be entirely devoted to the acquisition, preservation, study and display of the arts of Muslim civilisations. The great majority of the best known Western institutions have collections of Islamic art that are a smaller part of their larger international collections.”

**Prince Ameen
Opening of the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto
September 12, 2014**

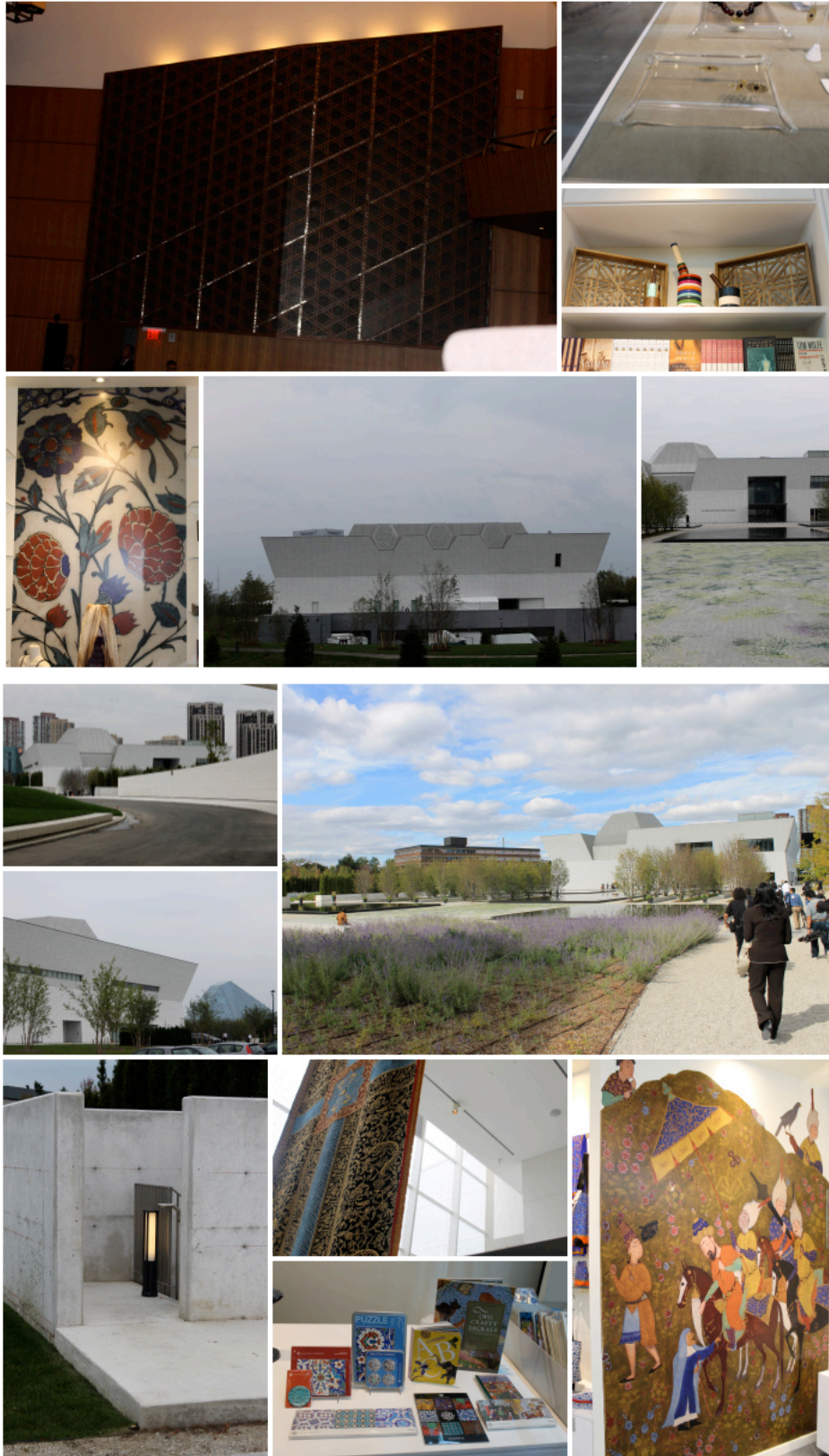
Aga Khan Museum: Welcomes the World – Doors Open to the Public

Moments away from the opening of the Aga Khan Museum to the general public in Toronto, Ismailmail is excited to present a gallery of photos that were taken on site by Ismailmail during last week's press briefings.

During the course of the day, Ismailmail will present thematic posts on various areas and topics related to the Aga Khan Museum. We present the first of several posts for our readers all over the world.





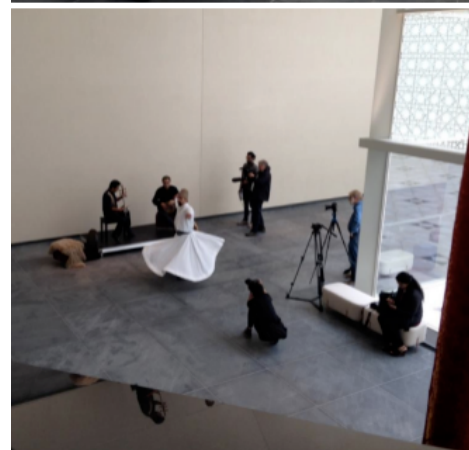




Japanese performers outside the Aga Khan Museum welcoming the guests
Photo: Ismailimail



Whirling Dervish in the courtyard



Performance in the hallway of the Museum

**Discovering the Aga Khan Museum:
Bellerive Room:
Prince and Princess Sadruddin Aga Khan Collection**

Ismailmail presents its second thematic post in celebration of the opening of Aga Khan Museum. We bring into focus Prince Sadruddin's and Princess Catherine's contributions.

"I should like to give particular thanks to Princess Catherine Aga Khan, the widow of my late uncle, Prince Sadruddin. Not only has the collection that she and my uncle formed over the years constituted the nucleus of the Museum's collections today, but she has allowed us to repeat, within the Museum, an entire room from their house in Geneva, which we call the Bellerive room, and which is a space I personally find as poetic as it is illuminating. I must also thank my brother and all those who have lent or given works of art to enlarge and expand our collections."

**Prince Ameen Aga Khan, Opening of the Aga Khan Museum
Toronto, September 12, 2014**

"... Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, passed away, and his widow, Princess Catherine, invited me to become the owner of their remarkable Islamic art collection ... I was able to join my late uncle's collection with part of the collection that I had assembled for The Institute of Ismaili Studies in London, and with some of my personal objects. But where should this assembled collection then be situated? After numerous discussions with many thoughtful people, the decision was made to build a museum on the very site that had been selected originally for the Ismaili Centre."

**His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, Opening of the Ismaili Centre
Toronto, Canada Friday, 12 September 2014**

"Prince Sadruddin's art acquisitions parallel his good works ... Prince Sadruddin's pictures and objects are a splendid harvest, chosen with both his heart and mind ... the choices all reflect developments in his own life. Reminded all too often through his work of humanity's suffering, Prince Sadruddin avoids buying works of art that evoke pain. Visitors to his house are struck by his penchant for the happy and the lyrical. Several of his paintings relate to gardens and flowers. ... People, however remain the primary concern at Bellerive, and those paintings, like the guests at Bellerive, are memorable for their expressive originality, whether stately as Shah Jahan, charismatically powerful as Akbar, cleverly masterful as Shah 'Abbas or positively comical."

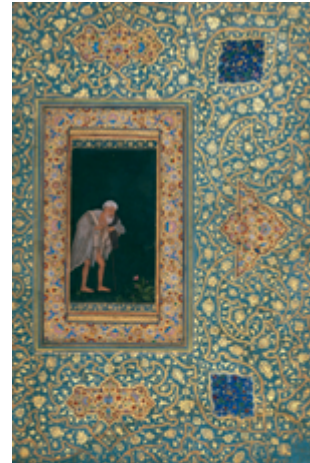
**S.C. Welch, Preface
Published in Princes, Poets & Paladins by Sheila R. Canby
British Museum, Press, London, 1998**



Persian style Salon at the home of late Prince Sadruddin and Princess Catherine
 Photo: AKM Facebook



“My first awareness of art from the Islamic world goes back to the library of the Villa Jane-Andrée at Cap d’Antibes, where my parents spent much time before and after the Second World War. It was a musty and dark place. The curtains were often drawn to prevent the Mediterranean sun from bleaching the huge 14th century Mamluk Qur’an which lay open on the rosewood stand, usually at the beginning of ‘Surat-ul-Nas,’ which my father never tired of quoting. I was fascinated by the power of its calligraphic counterpoint, the diacritics and illuminations. Though I could not decipher the text, the burnished pages and their dark corners where the thumb and forefinger had left their mark over the centuries exuded a special mystery which I never forgot. My grandmother, who was the granddaughter of Fath ‘Ali Shah Qajar, had left us a large library of Persian books, particularly in Bombay and Poona. The classics of Hafiz, Rumi, Firdausi, Baba Tahir, Omar Khayyam and astrological treatises filled the shelves beside Nasir-i Khusraw, mystical texts by Hallaj and assorted works on the Shiite Imams and Ismailism. Sadly, the Shahnama’s illustrations were mostly 19th century kitsch. Mustachioed faces of Nasir-u’d Din Shah and Muzaffaru’d Din Shah peered out of golden lacquered bindings.



An Aged Pilgrim
Signed by
Nader al-Zaman India
ca. 1618
AKM 152

... Many years have passed and the world is a different place, but my love of Arab manuscripts and Persian and Indian paintings has never ceased. I am grateful to my wife for putting up with my occasional fits of ‘collector’s dementia,’ especially in the saleroom. It has been a fascinating journey during which the ‘Court of Gayumars’ from Shah Tahmasp’s Shahnama became its Holy Grail, like the flower to which the aged pilgrim is drawn in one of my favourite Mughal pictures by Abu’l Hasan, Emperor Jehangir’s ‘Nadir al-Zaman’ (‘Rarity of the age’).

It is my hope that Princes, Poets & Paladins will spread a timeless message, one befitting the halls of the British Museum.

H.H. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan
Bellerive, Switzerland

Published in Princes, Poets & Paladins by Sheila R. Canby, British Museum
Press, London, 1998

Read complete address of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan and Prince Amyn Aga Khan at: [TheIsmaili](#) or [Aga Khan Development Network](#)

Excerpts from Princes, Poets & Paladins via research done and shared by [Nimira Dewji](#)

Discovering the Aga Khan Park: Reflections – An Interplay of Nature with the Built Environment

Ismailmail presents its third thematic post in celebration of the opening of Aga Khan Museum. We shed light on the interplay of nature and the built environment.

The Aga Khan Park uniting and embracing the Aga Khan Museum and the Ismaili Centre, Toronto is a testament of the unprecedented commitment of resources invested in bringing mature flora to the site. Trees that were damaged due to the earlier ice storm and freezing weather were replaced with new ones. Ismailmail experienced firsthand the tranquility and peace that these gardens and spaces bring to the mind and soul. We encourage you to enjoy the park and experience it firsthand. When you do, please share your experiences with us.



“As a whole, this entire site speaks to the unity in Islamic thought – the profound unity – of three great dimensions of human life: the cultural, the spiritual and the natural.”

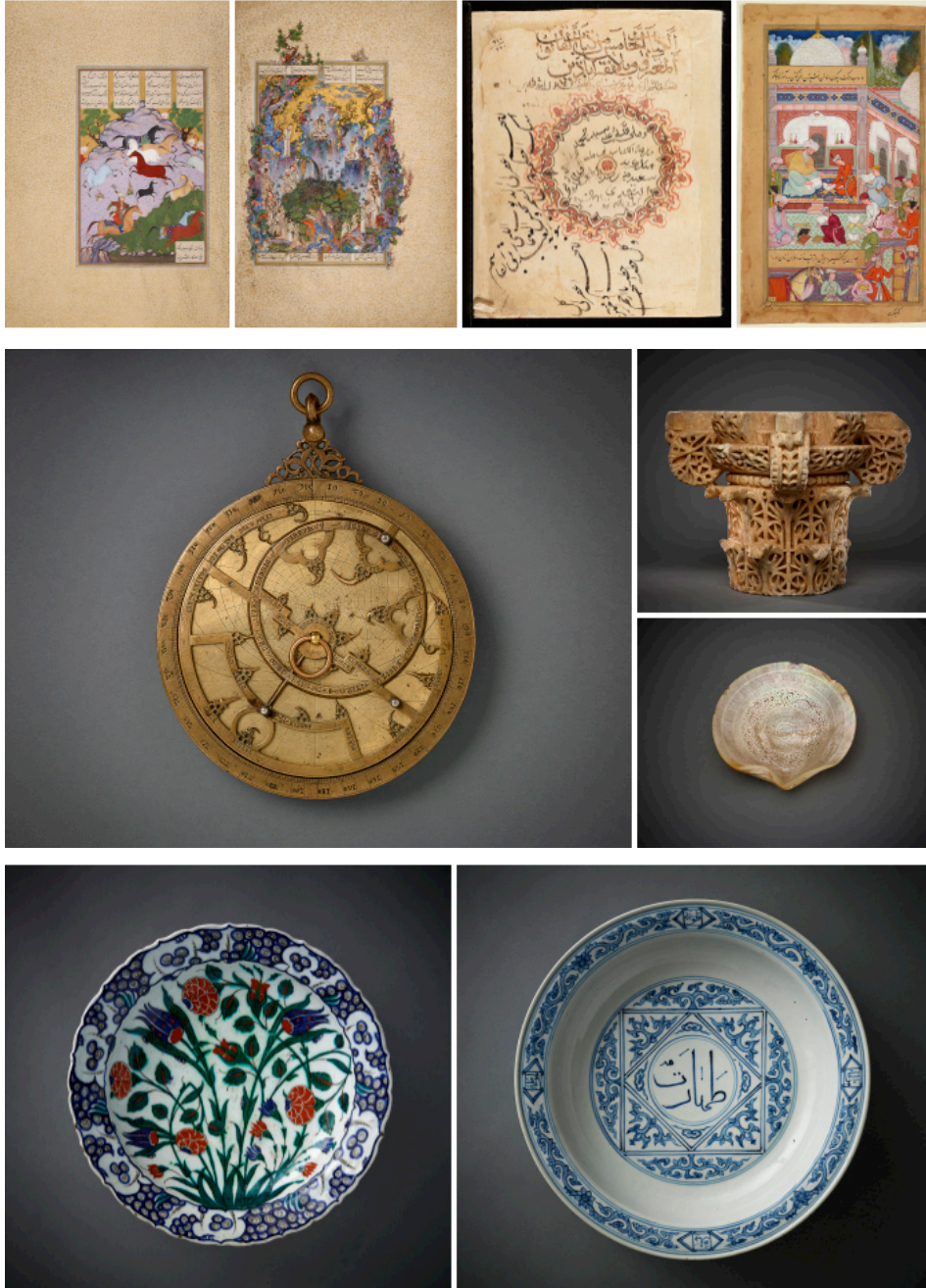
**Prince Ameen
September 12, 2014**

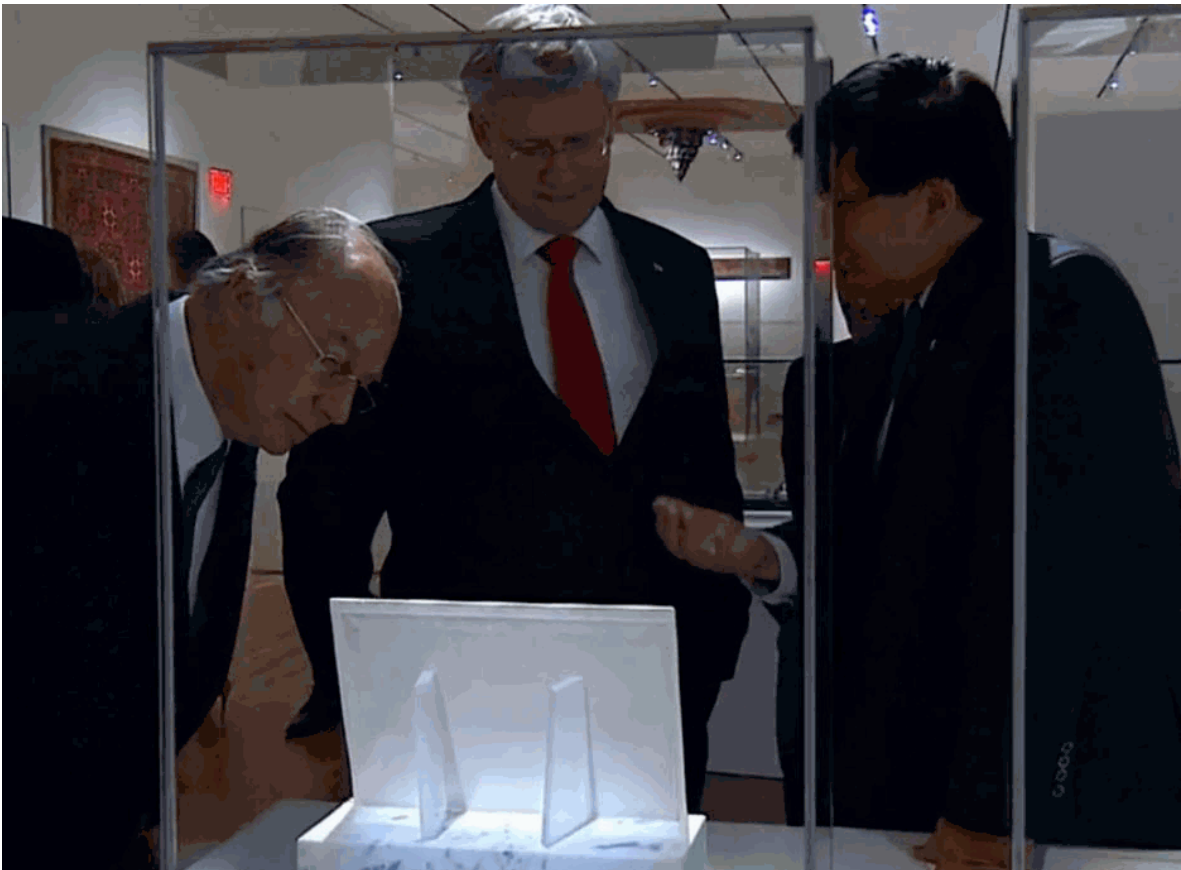


Discovering the Aga Khan Museum: Masterpieces from the Collection

Ismailmail presents its fourth thematic post in celebration of the opening of the Aga Khan Museum. We share with you some of the masterpieces that are among the collection of a thousand artifacts.

The Planispheric Astrolabe shown in the image gallery below, is one of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan's personal favorites.





Director of the Aga Khan Museum, Henry Kim explains an artefact to Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Photo: TheIsmaili.org

Discovering the Aga Khan Museum: Performing Arts Venues: Auditorium, Courtyard, Hallways and the Park

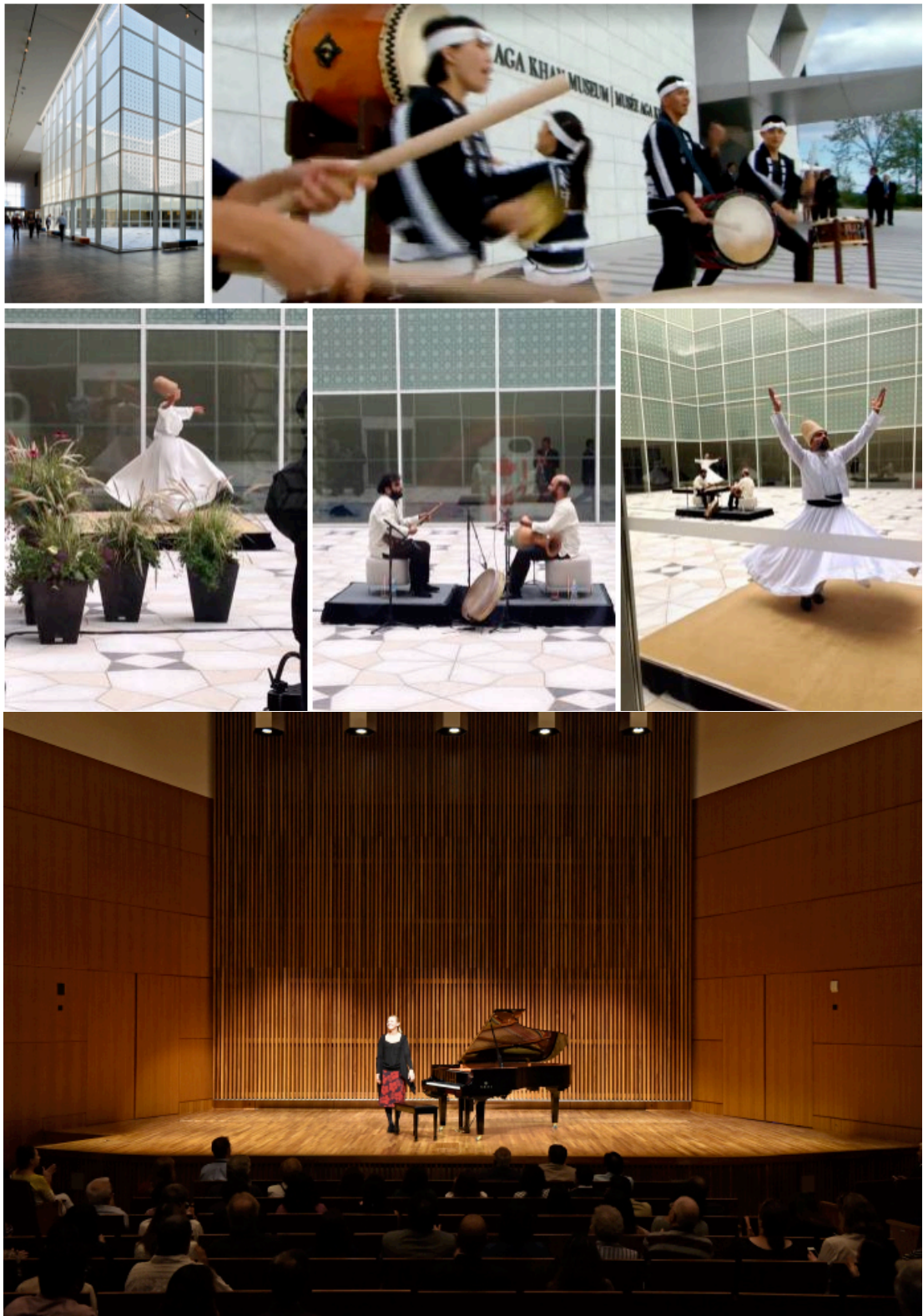
Ismailimail presents its fifth thematic post in celebration of the opening of the Aga Khan Museum. We focus on the compelling argument and forward thinking vision of the Head of Performing Arts, **Amirali Alibhai**, that performing arts need not be confined to the museum's auditorium.

Extending his sentiment, Ismailimail could not agree more as we witnessed various musical and related performances held simultaneously outside the museum and inside – in the museum's hallways as well as in the stunning *jali* patterned glass enclosed courtyard; outside – near the entrance to the museum and in the future, in the open expanses of the Aga Khan Park's inviting gardens.

The symphony of sounds added to the feeling of jubilation and celebration, an exciting addition to the sonic senses to further enhance the experience at the Aga Khan Museum.



Artists performing in the courtyard of the Aga Khan Museum
Photo: Ismailimail



Discovering the Aga Khan Museum: In Conversation with Pakistan's Genius Artist – Imran Qureshi

In a series of conversations held by Ismailimail while reporting from Toronto, we share an account of the discussion with Imran Qureshi.

Ismailimail met Imran on Tuesday night, the sun had already set and it was dark outside but the mood in the park was tranquil even though there were a lot of volunteers getting things ready for the pre-opening press conference the following day. As I inquired what was going on, Imran introduced himself and mentioned that he was working day and night completing his art work “garden in a garden”. He was very gracious to take a short break and tell us a little about what he was doing.



Imran Qureshi takes a break to pose for a picture with the Aga Khan Museum in the background

Photo: Ismailimail/AM

It was until later that I got a better understanding and appreciation of the scale of his work. Over the next few days I had many encounters with him as he worked tirelessly transforming the open dark granite stone square in between the reflecting pools of the Aga Khan Park into a spectacular symphony of color – black, green, yellow and purple – the colors of the surrounding pool, foliage and flora. I continued to take his pictures while he worked and then finally caught up to complete our conversation.



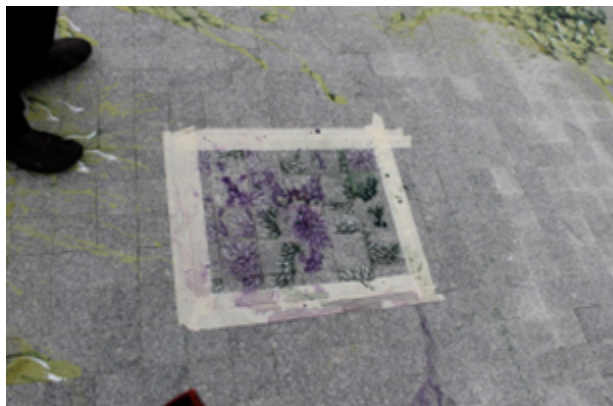
Violent strokes interspersed with gentle designs

Photo: Ismailimail

Imran Qureshi has technical training in miniature art with emphasis in the Mughal era and his love for that artistic tradition finds expression in contemporary artworks.

He says he “paints what he feels in his heart” always relating his work with the “architectural and natural surroundings, and the state of human affairs.” I inquired what do you mean? He responded with a profoundly serious look, “In my country – Pakistan, there is a lot of trouble and killing, and in all this chaos and violence people are always hopeful for a better future. That feeling of hope for peace and life returning to a peaceful time is beautiful feeling. And that is what my work reflects,” he said. “You will see,” as he pointed out to various rugged parts of his artwork, “there are violent brush strokes and rough, uncontrolled and splattered paint in many parts ... that reflects the violence in our lives. Then I have more smooth and beautiful parts and that represents the beautiful parts of our life, love, family, peace.” I was stunned by this deep philosophical and contemplative explanation of his work. My thoughts were brought to a halt as he continued, “the colours I have chosen to work with are the ones that I find in the natural setting of this garden.”

And so, this short conversation of his work and the many hours he had spent over several days brought new meaning of art to me. Strongly resonating with the theme of The Garden of Ideas, it had me captivated. He showed me more gardens within the garden he had painted and at one point informed me, ‘this is the design they are going to use to create wrapping paper for the gift shop,’ as he pointed to an area that had been squared off with masking tape.



Garden in a Garden – Pattern squared off to inspire the wrapping paper design for the gift shop

Photo: [Ismailimail/AM](#)

I wished him much success as he recounted with deep appreciation what an honor it was for him to be here at the opening of the Aga Khan Museum and have his works featured both indoors and outdoors.

Inside the museum, more works of Imran are displayed as are other wonderful works by artists from Pakistan. As we strolled through the exhibit I reflected on what a novel approach he had taken to extend his work inside and outside the museum. I smiled with pride remembering his expressions and words of “garden in a garden” ... it resonated well with me and I was convinced Imran is a genius. I am glad that I had met him and got to know him and his work better.

Imran Qureshi and his peers have done Pakistan proud in addition to many more who have become fans of their artwork.



“We are what we come from, and to think we come from nowhere is both an intellectual and a natural fallacy.....the Aga Khan Museum will regularly organise temporary exhibitions of contemporary artists too, as it should reflect the evolution of the creative arts in the Muslim world.”

**Prince Amyn Aga Khan
Opening of Aga Khan Museum, Toronto
September 12, 2014**

The Vision for the Aga Khan Museum



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lCsDoXMWRE>



"We are going to lead the way, we are going to showcase Islamic art not only through the artwork, but also through performances: music, dance, film performance, poetry and literature."

Henry Kim
CEO & Director of the Aga Khan Museum



“Here in Toronto, visitors from all over the world will be uniquely able to experience and appreciate the intellectual, cultural and artistic heritage of Muslim civilisations in all of its rich diversity. Simply by emphasising that diversity, the Museum will make an important point that is so often now misunderstood by both the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds.”

Prince Ameen
September 12, 2014



“The work of the Museum will follow in the best tradition of the venerable Islamic cultural centre,..... where great libraries and other collections became prodigious centres for a continuing process of intellectual and artistic enquiry — a process of exploration and edification, of dialogue and discovery.

Prince Ameen
September 12, 2014

Reflections



“And I know that all of you will also share my profound wish that the Centre will now prolong, decade after decade, its beautiful legacy of friendship and enlightenment.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam
September 12, 2014



“... if I were looking for a single word to sum up my intention and hope for the Aga Khan Museum, it would be the word “enlightenment.” It is a word which has both cultural and spiritual significance. The history of the thought and the creations of man can perhaps be said to be a long path from one period of enlightenment to another. I would hope that this Museum will contribute to a new period of enlightenment, helping visitors from around the world to rediscover the common symbols that unite us all across the globe, across all civilisations, across time.”

Prince Ayn
September 12, 2014