

Prominent Architect Iraj Etesam Passes Away



TEHRAN (Honaronline) – U.S.-based Iranian architect Iraj Etesam, who designed numerous buildings across the world, has passed away in his home in San Jose. He was 92.

His death was announced without additional details by several Iranian news websites on Monday evening.

Shah Cheragh, the shrine of Ahmad ibn Musa (AS), the brother of Imam Reza (AS), in Shiraz was designed by Etesam.

He completed a Ph.D. in architecture at the University of Florence in 1960 and began cooperation with the United Nations on regional urban planning in 1971.

Dozens of Iranian structures, including the campus of Sistan and Baluchestan University, and Mahallat Tourism Complex, were designed by architect Etesam. He also did the urban planning for Lalyan, a new town located about 25 kilometers northeast of Tehran.

He was invited to design and implement several residential complexes in Saint Tropez, France, and in Seattle in the United States.

Etesam also authored and translated several books. He teamed up with Hamid Mirmiran in 2011 to complete the book “75 Years of Contemporary Iranian Architecture”, which remained unfinished after the death of the renowned architect Seyyed Hadi Mirmiran.

His Persian translations of Constantinos A. Doxiadis’s “The Two-Headed Eagle: From the Past to the Future of Human Settlements” and Robert Hillenbrand’s

“Islamic Architecture: Form, Function and Meaning” have been printed by Iranian publishers.

He was a visiting professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, a lecturer at the University of California, and a researcher at the Center for Urban Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

In an article published in 2011 by several Persian websites, Etesam said that European and American architects were outstanding figures of modern architecture during the 20th century.

He added that contemporary Iranian architecture has been influenced by Western styles since the Qajar period (1789–1925).

“However, there have been skilled Iranian architects who are both well aware of the rich culture of their own local architecture, and familiar as well with its local structural and geographical characteristics, and are also mindful of progressive Western technology,” he explained.

He noted that Iranian architects have created numerous quality designs and buildings, which unfortunately have been overshadowed by construction based on trite designs that are now commonplace amidst the hustle and bustle of the local construction market.

“We should find quality architectural designs and introduce them to society. Those architects who have had the opportunity to work abroad have a better chance to introduce their works,” Etesam wrote.

Coffee May Increase Risk of Heart Death



TOKYO (Dispatches) -- In a recent study, researchers found that drinking too much coffee among people with hypertension may double their risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

The participants of the study included more than 6,570 men and more than 12,000 women, ages 40 to 79 years at the start of the research. They provided data through health examinations and self-administered questionnaires assessing lifestyle, diet and medical history.

During nearly 19 years of follow-up (through 2009), 842 cardiovascular-related deaths

were documented.

The study’s senior author Hiroyasu Iso, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the Institute for Global Health Policy Research, Bureau of International Health Cooperation, National Center for Global Health and Medicine in Tokyo, Japan, and professor emeritus at Osaka University, found an association between drinking 2 or more cups of coffee daily and cardiovascular disease mortality among people whose blood pressure was 160/100 mm Hg or higher compared to those who did not drink any coffee.

Best Documentary Award Goes to ‘Days of Ignorance’ in Romania

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian documentary ‘Days of Ignorance’ has grabbed an award at the Autumn in Voronet International Film Festival in Romania.

The Iranian Youth Cinema Society reported that ‘Days of Ignorance’, written and directed by Abolfazl Tajik, won the best documentary award at the 42nd edition of the Autumn in Voronet.

The film is about Ali Mohammad, an 84-year-old man, the last felt-maker in a village in Neyshabur County.

The documentary previously took part in several film festivals in Iran and across the world, including the 19th Ischia International Film Festival

in Italy, as well as the 37th Tehran International Short Film Festival and the 51st Roshd International Film Festival, both in Iran.

‘Days of Ignorance’ also won the best film editing award at the BJX, Bajio International Film Festival in Mexico.

The Autumn in Voronet International Film Festival is “meant to promote documentary films, student films, video production, and the culture of audio-visual communication”, according to an online submission platform.

It also “aims to foster the creativity of film schools, competence, and professionalism in the field and encourage networking among differ-



A still from Iranian documentary ‘Days of Ignorance’.

ent generations of filmmakers, thus stimulating young filmmakers”.

The 42nd edition of the Autumn in Voronet took place in September.

Great Success ‘World War III’ En Route to China



A scene from Iranian feature film ‘World War III’.

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Acclaimed Iranian feature film ‘World War III’ has been competing at the 4th Hainan Island International Film Festival (HIIFF) in China.

The festival opened on December 18 in Sanya, a resort city in

south China’s Hainan Province, screening dozens of movies from across the world.

In “World War III”, director Hooman Seyyedi depicts Shakib, a homeless day laborer who never got over the loss of his wife and

son in an earthquake years ago.

He works in a place where a movie on the World War is being filmed, and when one of the actors collapses, Shakib has been chosen as his stand-in.

Shakib is allowed to stay in the actor’s fake mansion, but on condition that he doesn’t receive any visitors, but he makes a decision that endangers his fate.

The film is co-written by Seyyedi himself, Arian Vazir-Daftari, and Azad Jafarian.

The cast members of the film include Mohsen Tanabandeh, Neda Jebreeli, Mahsa Hejazi, and Navid Nosrati.

The flick is the recipient of the Orizzonti Award for Best Film at the 79th Venice International Film Festival in Italy.

Mohsen Tanabandeh also received the award for best actor at the major international event for his portrayal of Shakib.

The film has already been screened at the 35th Tokyo International Film Festival where it won the second-place special jury prize of the event.

Two of the main awards of the 8th Asian World Film Festival-Los Angeles (AWFF) in the US are also among the accolades grabbed by the flick.

The 20th Chennai International Film Festival (CIFF) in India, the 34th Palm Springs Film Festival in the U.S. and the 26th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (POFF) in Estonia also hosted ‘World War III’.

The festival is hosted by the China Media Group, dedicated to accelerating and promoting cross-cultural exchanges and collaboration, establishing close connections between international filmmakers and industries.

The event will wrap up on December 25, 2022.

Persian Literature Teaching in English Youtubed

TEHRAN (IBNA) - An Iranian academic Bahador Bagheri has started the program of introducing Iranian literature and literary figures in English on YouTube to make the people of the world more familiar with this language.

He is a faculty member of Khwarzmi University in Tehran and vice president of the Institute for the Expansion of Persian Language and Iranian Studies in Universities and Scientific Centers Abroad.

Describing his act, Bagheri writes on his personal website: “Undoubtedly YouTube is one of the most popular mass media in the world, and some of its videos have billions of viewers.”

“Unfortunately, there are almost no scientific and significant video in English about Persian literature and famous Iranian poets in this medium. For a long time, I have been thinking about how to take advantage of this valuable opportunity and introduce Iranian literary figures and their brilliant thought and art to the world in short videos,” he stated.

“Recently, I uploaded the first video as an introduction to Persian literature in English with Farsi subtitles, and I will start with the second part of Hafez studies. This is the first cultural activity of its kind in this field.”

“Moreover, I would like to say that since the beginning of the semester, I have come to China for a three-year course of teaching Persian language and literature at the invitation of Peking University’s Faculty of Foreign Languages and at the expense of that university.”

Bahador Bagheri holds a Ph.D. degree in Persian language and literature from Tarbiat Modares University and is a member of the academic staff of the Department of Persian Language and Literature at Khwarzmi University in Tehran. He has already taught Persian language at the universities of Ukraine, Colombia, Uruguay, Armenia and Bangladesh.



Picture of the Day



A number of relics discovered from Tepe Rivi, a millennia-old archaeological hill in northeast Iran, have been put on view at a display case embedded at the archaeological site. The newly-constructed glass case showcases restored objects including pots, clays, bricks, stone mortars, etc. that date back to the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras.

Courtesy of IFILM