

Vestiges of Islamic Architecture in the West



Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar, Spain

PARIS (Kawa News) – Many Western cities are home to buildings constructed in the Moorish style. Most of these buildings were erected in the 19th and 20th centuries, and represent a period when Western architects took a great interest in Islamic architecture.

In the Western medieval Muslim world, namely the Maghreb and Andalusia, a distinct architectural manner emerged – recognized as the Moorish style. Many structures constructed in this fashion still persist, drawing in visitors, notably the Alhambra palace. The Moorish style is renowned for its elaborate patterns, also known as Arabesque, horseshoe-shaped arches, intricate tile artistry, and domes.

The 19th century saw the revival of Moorish aesthetics via the Neo-Moorish movement, spurred by a fascination for the exotic and an aspiration to blend historical modes with present-day sensitivities. However, this time the movement did not unfold in the Arab world, but rather in Western nations. Presented here are five celebrated edifices commemorating this resurgence.

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar

Built in 1838 by John Pitt, 2nd Earl of Chatham, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar serves as the main cathedral for the Church of England Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe. Often referred to as Gibraltar Cathedral, it exhibits Moorish revival architecture, notably in its use of horseshoe arches.

Kórník Castle in Poland

Kórník Castle, located in Poland, houses the Kórník Library and a

museum showcasing an array of unique items, including furniture, paintings, sculptures, and more. The Moor Room within the castle draws inspiration from the Court of the Lions in Spain's Alhambra, built by the Andalusians. The castle also features rooms displaying ethnographic and natural collections brought from Australia and Oceania.

Gran Teatro Falla in Cádiz

The Gran Teatro Falla, situated in Cádiz, Spain, was constructed beginning in 1884 based on the plans of architect Adolfo Morales de los Ríos. This theater was a replacement for the previous Gran Teatro de Cádiz, which had burned down in 1881. The completed theater, built in Neo-Mudéjar, or Neo-Moorish style, showcases horseshoe arch entryways, a distinctive element derived from Moorish architectural influence.

Yeshiva University in New York City

Yeshiva University is one of the world's largest Jewish institutions. In 1928, Zysman Hall – the university's oldest building – in Washington Heights was remodeled to incorporate a Moorish style, embodying this movement in the midst of New York City.

The Carpenter Center in Virginia

The Carpenter Center, located in Richmond, Virginia, was designed by architect John Ebersson and influenced by Spanish Baroque and Moorish architecture. It is notably considered an atmospheric theater due to its design, which simulates a streetscape under a night sky, complete with starry ceilings.

Prominent Sculptor Jalal Shabahangi Passes Away



TEHRAN – Prominent Iranian artist and pioneer painter-sculptor Jalal Shabahangi has passed away at the age of 88.

A funeral procession will be held for Shabahangi in Tehran on Sunday.

Shabahangi was a distinguished painter, graphic artist, sculptor, and professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran, as well as a member of the Iranian Academy of Arts.

Born on December 16, 1935 in Tehran, Shabahangi graduated from San Jose State University in California with a master's

degree in contemporary graphic design and painting, and a bachelor's degree in graphic advertising.

Shabahangi was instrumental in introducing the art of "Glass Blowing" in Iran and Murano, Italy, and his works are considered a special collection in the field of glass sculpting.

His minimalist paintings depicted a remarkable interpretation of nature, including landscapes, deserts, and flowers.

Shabahangi participated in numerous art exhibitions in Iran and across the world.

Hiroshima Hosts Iran-Japan Peace Film Festival

TEHRAN – The 10th edition of the Iran-Japan Love and Peace Film Festival was held in the presence of a number of Iranian war veterans and artists of the Tehran Veterans Museum in Hiroshima.

During the festival, the Iranian films 'Yadu' by Mehdi Jafari, 'Walnut Tree' by Muhammad Hussein Mahdavian, 'The Situation of Mehdi' by Hadi Hejazifar, and 'The Miracle of Bonasan' by Habib Ahmadzadeh were screened in Tokyo and Hiroshima.

'Yadu' is about the first months of the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran. At a time when families in different cities of Khuzestan were forced to leave their homes and all their attachments and took refuge in other cities to save their lives.

'Walnut Tree' is a 2020 Iranian biographical war drama film. It revolves around the Chemical bombing of Sardasht in 1987. The film screened for the first time at the 38th Fajr Film Festival and



received 11 nominations. Mahdavian won a Crystal Simorgh for Best Director and Maadi won the Crystal Simorgh for Best Actor for his performance.

'The Miracle of Bonasan' is the story of a genie that has to compose a melody with help from four humans. The idea is to create a human miracle and symphony, or he would be expelled from the Solar System for eternity.

'The Situation of Mehdi' is a 2022 Iranian biographical war drama film about Mehdi Bakeri, an Iranian war hero in the Iran-Iraq war. The film screened for the first time at the 40th Fajr Film Festival where it won five awards and earned nine nominations.

Parviz Parastui (actor), Muhammad Hossein Mahdavian (director and actor), Hadi Hejazifar (director and actor), Malek Siraj

(actor), Ahmad Yousefzadeh (war veteran and writer), Mehrdad Afrasyabi (cinematographer), Adel Memarnia (cinematographer), Mohsen Sharifian (musician) Habib Ahmadzadeh (writer and director), Muhammad Mahdi Dadman (cultural manager), Zeinab Ahmadzadeh (writer) and Bijan Abdulkarimi (writer and university philosophy professor) were Iranian artists who were present in the festival.

On the sidelines of the festival, Iranian artists and war veterans met with the mayor of Hiroshima on the occasion of the anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and presented the statue of Iranian martyr Daryagholi Sourani to the mayor.

Mohsen Sharifian, as a musician, also performed some pieces of Iranian music at the event.

The event was held by Hiroshima MOCT and Tehran Peace Museum in collaboration Iranian embassy in Tokyo.

Afif-Abad Garden in Shiraz



TEHRAN -- With its delicate Persian architecture, breathtaking landscapes, and rich cultural heritage, the his-

torical museum of Afif-Abad Garden in Shiraz has enchanted visitors for centuries.

A trip to Shiraz in the right

season is definitely an unforgettable experience as the city has amazing attractions to offer, iFilm reported.

As April and May roll around, the city transforms into a mesmerizing tapestry of vibrant colors and enchanting scents. It's the time when garden gardens burst into full bloom, painting the landscape with nature's finest strokes.

Constructed in the Safavid era, the Afif-Abad Garden is one of the most beautiful and ancient places in Shiraz.

Besides its green garden, the

building in its heart is among the architectural heritages of the country.

The property encompasses 127,000 square meters and boasts a historic residence surrounded by rows of rose bushes and seasonal flowers.

The garden is situated in an affluent neighborhood of Shiraz and on a street with the same name.

Steeped in history and culture, the garden has witnessed the rise and fall of various dynasties, making it a must-visit destination for history buffs.

Venice Festival to Screen 'Harmonica'

TEHRAN – Iranian film 'Harmonica' by Amir Naderi will be screened in the 80th edition of the Venice International Film Festival in Italy.

Written and directed by Amir Naderi and produced in 1974, 'Harmonica' is part of the Venice Classics program of the 80th Venice International Film Festival.

The film is set on the sun-drenched southern coast of Iran. It is about a young boy who receives a musical present from abroad. Fascinated and envious, his friends make him to the leader of the pack, as they compete for the privilege of holding the harmonica or even blowing a few notes. No one is more obsessed than Amiru, gentle and heavy-set, who seems willing to do anything to get close to the harmonica and its owner.

Mehdi Javadi, Abbas Pourahadi, Jomeh Vafabakhsh, Mahmoud Vafabakhsh, Shahla Darvishi, Masoud Goudarzi are the cast of the film.

Venice Classics is the section that since 2012 has presented world premiere screenings at the Venice Film Festival of a selection of the best resto-

rations of film classics carried out over the past year by film archives, cultural institutions and production companies around the world.

'One from the Heart' by Francis Ford Coppola, 'Pro-

fundo Carmesi' (Deep Crimson) by Arturo Ripstein, 'Andrei Rublev' by Andrei Tarkovsky, 'The Exorcist' by William Friedkin, 'King and Country' by Joseph Losey, 'Tini zabutych predkiv' (Shad-

ows of Forgotten Ancestors) by Sergei Parajanov, and 'Les Créatures (The Creatures) by Agnès Varda are among the films that will be screened at the Venice Classics program of the festival.

Picture of the Day



Residents of the Khalifeh Heydar village in Khuzestan receive pilgrims heading to Karbala for Arba'een marking 40 days after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS).