“Better scholarship leads to better understanding, and better understanding leads to better preservation”

Zeynep Yurekli-Gorkay
Associate Professor, Oxford University
Member of The Barakat Trust Academic Advisory Committee
OUR COVERAGE

35+ years
40 countries
700 projects
About Us
We were set up to nurture new generations of heritage professionals and support established scholars and conservators committed to preserving the heritage of the Islamic world. Many of our grantees are today leading practitioners and academics in the field.

Well Established
We were founded as a UK charity in 1987 by Hamida and Tarik Alireza, and Shahnaz Bagherzade, who were struck by the inadequate initiatives to preserve the heritage of the Islamic world, and the limited professional expertise in countries where that heritage was to be found.

Forward Looking
We were set up to nurture new generations of heritage professionals and support established scholars and conservators committed to preserving the heritage of the Islamic world. Many of our grantees are today leading practitioners and academics in the field.

Global in Reach
We have successfully supported more than 700 projects across 40 countries.
ABOUT
BARAKAT CULTURE CIC

The Barakat Trust set up Barakat Culture CIC, a social enterprise, to:

- Engage audiences with the heritage of the Islamic world in exciting ways
- Support entities passionate about heritage preservation by providing specialist heritage consultancy services
- Share our global specialist network to enable better preservation
- Channel all profits generated to The Barakat Trust’s annual grants programme

“The Barakat Trust is an organisation that truly cares about the preservation of Islamic heritage, that understands the challenges, and is willing to take them on, even though they are difficult.”

Dr May Al-Ibrashy, Honorary Professor of Practice
SOAS, University of London, Founder of Megawra, one of Egypt’s leading heritage consultancies Barakat Trust Grantee between 1995 and 2020
OUR ETHOS

To respect the integrity of historic sites
To utilise insider knowledge to ensure local relevance
To embed training opportunities in every project we undertake
To approach preservation as an opportunity for community development
To make heritage accessible to diverse audiences
To raise awareness about the value of heritage
Consultancy Approach
OUR CONSULTANCY APPROACH

CULTURAL MAPPING
Situating a project within its larger context

DETERMINING ASPIRATIONS
Identifying stakeholders and their needs and expectations

BENCHMARKING SUCCESS
Identifying regional & international good practice and processes driving those successes

IDENTIFYING COLLABORATORS
Bringing together the right specialists and partners to achieve results

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
Developing project components including long-term project sustainability

IMPLEMENTATION
Ensuring effective operational plans and delivery of projects

MEASURING IMPACT
Measuring a project’s impact on stakeholders, local communities and heritage
Consultancy Services
Together we transform your vision into achievable & impactful plans

We create sustainable organisational plans that achieve your heritage goals

We undertake research to reveal the stories of the past and bring together the best skills to conserve material culture

We design cultural experiences by creating engaging content and stories

We offer specialised advisory services, from assessing projects to headhunting for heritage roles
OUR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

STRATEGY

Capture stakeholders’ voices, aims and aspirations
Understand audience needs to assist in programme development

Develop project vision and framework
Situate the project within its cultural context through cultural mapping

Identify achievable goals that meet audience needs

Together we transform your vision into achievable plans

We can help you
OUR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

BUSINESS PLANNING

We can help you

Prepare comprehensive business plans reflecting your values and aims

Create cultural benchmarks to identify relevant global best practice

Design detailed organisational structures and job descriptions

Build the capacity of your heritage and cultural experience team

Focus on financial sustainability through financial modelling

Develop relationships with relevant external partners

We create sustainable organisational plans that engage stakeholders and achieve your heritage related goals
We undertake research and analysis to reveal the stories of past peoples, places and objects, and bring together the best skills to conserve material culture.

- Assess collections, buildings and urban landscapes
- Identify suitable specialists for research and conservation
- Develop curatorial narratives
- Document and conserve artefacts and buildings
- Plan curatorially to put management and engagement plans in place
OUR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

ENGAGEMENT

We design cultural experiences by creating engaging content from well-researched stories.

- Developing and curating exhibitions
- Creatively interpreting heritage using digital and traditional means
- Developing cultural, educational and heritage events and activities
- Understanding target audience profiles, interests and motivators
- Working with local communities to develop heritage programmes
- Providing tailor-made educational programmes for young audiences
- Promoting heritage and culture to diverse audiences
We provide specialised advisory services, from assessing project funding and awards to headhunting professionals for heritage roles.

**We can help you**

- Assess historic buildings or collections to determine effective interventions
- Assess heritage projects submitted for funding
- Assess projects being considered for awards
- Headhunt candidates and partners in the cultural sector
- Provide advice on how to develop a heritage project/funding proposal
- Design specialised cultural immersion itineraries
Case Studies
Integrated cultural heritage strategy for a historic battle site, Medina, Saudi Arabia

We developed an integrated cultural heritage strategy sensitive to community needs, conservation issues, tourism opportunities and cultural values making the best use of immersive cutting-edge technology to bring the site to life.
Arts in Isolation: Global Engagement with Islamic Art

In 2020 we partnered with Asia House and brought together leading specialists in the field to share their knowledge with international audiences in an internationally acclaimed podcast series “Arts in Isolation”, sharing the heritage and culture of the Islamic world.

“This was fantastic. We should learn.”

Farrokh Derakhshani, Director, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.
Architectural and urban appraisals of historic cities in the Gulf

In 2019, we delivered historic urban environment appraisals for historic environments prior to intervention in Tarout, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia (For Barker Langham) and evaluated the effectiveness of a 15 year rehabilitation scheme in Muharraq, Bahrain (for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture).
Recent Initiatives:

We have extensive experience of developing structured and informal cultural activities especially aimed at children and families to enable them to learn about heritage in enjoyable and immersive ways.

“\textit{A great way for my children to discover their culture}”

Syrian parent in London.

CASE STUDY 4

Educational Programmes in the UK

- Family workshops about the Damascus House (London Festival for Architecture 2019)
- International Baccalaureate educational modules about architecture and heritage for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (2018)
- Culture Vulture Kids Camps - topics include Islamic Science & Inventions; Islamic Miniatures and Noble Sports, Islamic Art and Design (UK, 2017)
International Exhibitions

We have curated engaging exhibitions about the heritage and culture of the Islamic world catering to diverse audiences.

Recent exhibitions

**Hajj Journey**
the Islamic Arts Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, (Dec 2019 – Feb 2020)

**Departures: A Photographic Journey Through the Islamic World**
Asia House, London, United Kingdom (April-May 2019)

**Jeddah of Bygone Days**
Bait al-Jaar, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, (June 2016)

**Magna Carta: Spirit of Justice – Power of Words**

“Stunning – so much beauty & meaning in the pictures displayed”
Visitor to "Departures: A Photographic Journey through the Islamic World” London, 2019.
Craft Development and Living Heritage in Cairo, Egypt

We are involved in projects that preserve and revive craft heritage and make it more relevant today. We see crafts as an important link between heritage and local economies and understand their effectiveness as tools for community empowerment.

Recent Initiatives:
- Leather jewelry making workshops for local women in Cairo’s City of the Dead
- Public awareness and craft development initiatives with the tentmakers of Cairo.

“You have brought us so many great clients over the years and exposed us to new inspiration”

Mohamed Abdel Wahed, Cairo tentmaker.
Developing new heritage mapping technology: Layersoflondon.org

We have experience with the most up to date heritage mapping tools that can enable public contributions to enrich the history of places and promote engagement by school groups, community groups and interested individuals.

“Amazing new maps of London unearth history beneath the capital’s streets”


“Layers of London” is a pioneering digital mapping project for Greater London, Institute of Historical Research, University of London. (2016-2020)
Heritage Professionals Capacity Building

We support capacity building for professionals in the fields of conservation, museology, art and architectural history, creating a new generation of heritage professionals in the Islamic world. We can offer diverse training and mentoring schemes in a wide range of heritage fields.

“I do believe that every achievement that I accomplished in my career is thanks to the Barakat Trust, for which I am forever thankful.”

Dr Hossam Mahdy, International Heritage Consultant, and advisor to ICOMOS

Case Study 8

Paper and Manuscript Conservation Training, Gaza, Palestine and Qairawan, Tunisia (2019, 2020)

The British Museum’s International Training Programme Scheme for Young Curators, United Kingdom (2005-2019)

Training of young archaeologists in al-Baydha, Jordan, and Walila (Morocco, 2013-2020)

Training of architectural students to appraise historic buildings (Bulaq, Cairo, Egypt 2019)

Increasing global access by digitising heritage collections

We are pioneers in the field of digitising collections; putting together the ideal teams to undertake digitisation and digital access projects. We also have expertise developing digital educational tools using QR codes and other means.

Recent Initiatives:

- **KAC Creswell Photography Digitisation Project, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom (Ongoing Since 2018)** A project to digitise one of the most important collections of early architectural photographs of the Middle East, now dispersed around the world. The collection is of great value for restoration work.

- **Digital Trails of Imam Shaf’i Area, Historic Cairo, Egypt** Telling the stories of the neighbourhood with a QR code trail.
Partnerships and People
RECENT PARTNERSHIPS

The American University in Cairo
The Arab British Centre
ASIA HOUSE
Asia Khan Trust for Children
Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Musée d’Alexandrie
V&A
Library HSLLB
The British Museum
University of Cambridge
Princeton University
The Met
University of Oxford
Yale University
Sorbonne Université
Royal College of Art
SOAS University of London
OUR PEOPLE:
KEY CONSULTANTS

Seif El Rashidi
Director
Heritage & Public Engagement Specialist

20 years of expertise revitalising historic cities in the Islamic world, Seif was also formerly the coordinator of Durham’s UNESCO World Heritage Site in the UK. He has been a technical reviewer for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture’s heritage projects and on the World Monuments Fund Project Selection Committee.

Rabya Alfadl
Trustee & Co-director of Social Enterprises
Strategic Development & Marketing Specialist

15 years in international strategic development and marketing consulting for private, public and non-profit organisations including the Ministry of Labour, General Sports Authority, Al-Nahda Philanthropic Society for Women, King Khaled Foundation and currently for The Royal Commission for AlUla.

Mick Denton, MBA
Business Development and Governance
Governance & Business Development Specialist

35 years of experience in the public & voluntary sector, supporting a wide range of organisations to achieve future sustainability. Specialist consultant on strategic development of social enterprises, focusing on engagement, facilitation, strategic planning and change and transformation management.
OUR PEOPLE: SOME OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE BARAKAT TRUST

Our trustees are specialists in the heritage, history, culture, arts and design of Saudi Arabia and the region.

Hamida Alireza
An internationally respected figure in the field of Islamic cultural heritage. She has an enviable knowledge of Hijazi heritage. She is also a co-founder of Mansoojat, a UK charity with the most important private collection of Hijazi costumes. Hamida regularly organises cultural awareness activities about Saudi heritage, including trips, talks, exhibitions and other events.

Tarik Alireza
A Jeddah-based architect, he is an authority of Hijazi architecture, a leading postal historian and has amassed an unparalleled collection of historic images of the Middle East. He has curated numerous photographic exhibitions about various aspects of architectural and cultural heritage internationally.

Sara Alireza
A founding member of the Saudi Art Council (SAC) and heads the Education Committee developing SAC’s public programme. She also sits on the Middle East acquisitions committees of the British Museum, the Centre Pompidou and other international organisations involved in art collection and curation.

Faye Behbehani
An entrepreneur & self-taught fashion designer who established Jasmine Box, a multi brand boutique in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She uses her business management experience to support the Trust through engagement and membership development and organizing cultural events.
OUR PEOPLE: THE BARAKAT TRUST NETWORK

We have one of the largest global networks in the fields of Islamic art, architecture, archaeology, conservation and museum sciences, drawn from past and present grantees and collaborators.

Dr Navina Haidar
Curator of Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

Prof. Nasser Rabbat
Aga Khan Professor, MIT, USA

Tanvir Hassan
Deputy Chairman, Donald Insall Associates, London, United Kingdom

Dr Nicholas Warner
Conservation Architect, Egypt and Afghanistan

Dr Sami De Giosa
Specialist on The Hajj, Curator, Shaikh Abdullah al-Salem Centre, Kuwait

Dr Salma Damluji
Conservation architect & scholar, Lebanon & Yemen

Dr Sussan Babaie
Reader in Islamic Art, The Courtauld Institute, London, United Kingdom

Dr Rebecca Foote
Head of Heritage and Archaeology, Royal Commission of AlUla, Saudi Arabia
The Barakat Trust
1 Gough Square, London,
EC4A 3DE
+44 (0) 20 7832 1327
Email: director@barakat.org
Charity No 1136842. Registered in England and Wales.

Barakat Culture CIC
1 Gough Square, London,
EC4A 3DE
Email: director@barakat.org
Community Interest Company registered in England and Wales with Company number 10494344