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THE AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE

- Awarded to Moriyama & Teshima Planners in November 2010 for one of the largest ever environmental restorations: The Wadi Hanifah project.
- This is the 11th cycle of this most prestigious recognition, awarded every three years. The Aga Khan Award for Architecture was established in 1977 by His Highness the Aga Khan, the forty-ninth hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims.
- The Award strives to explore new frontiers while maintaining a generous and pluralistic perspective, engaging projects that contribute to the transformation and improvement of the quality of the built environment.
- Promotes the most successful interventions in the built environment, while ensuring that they set the highest standards of excellence.
- In 2010, 401 projects were nominated, 19 of which were shortlisted and five selected as Award recipients.
- All award-winning projects brought forward the need for improving the quality of life in local communities while being capable of serving as role models for other communities in the Islamic world. They provide an ethical sensitivity to their contexts, by promoting sustainability on all fronts: environmental, social and economic.
- The Award recognizes:
 - Ecologically sound projects in conception and implementation which demonstrated sensitivity to environmental concerns;
 - Projects aiming at the preservation and reclamation of recent heritage;
 - An understanding that enlightened design is crucial in the development of safe and efficient workplaces, and that the worst effects of industrialising our world can be avoided; and
 - The need for extreme sensitivity to location and historic landscape.
- The selection process emphasizes architecture that not only provides for people's physical, social and economic needs, but that stimulates and responds to their cultural and spiritual expectations. Particular attention is given to building schemes that use local resources and appropriate technology in an innovative way and to projects likely to inspire similar efforts elsewhere.
- Prizes are awarded for architectural excellence in a wide variety of areas including contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, restoration, reuse, area conservation, as well as landscaping and environmental projects.
- The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) brings together a number of development agencies, institutions, and programmes that work primarily in the poorest parts of Asia and Africa. AKDN is an endeavour of the Ismaili Imamate to realise the social conscience of Islam through institutional action. AKDN agencies conduct their programmes without regard to faith, origin or gender.