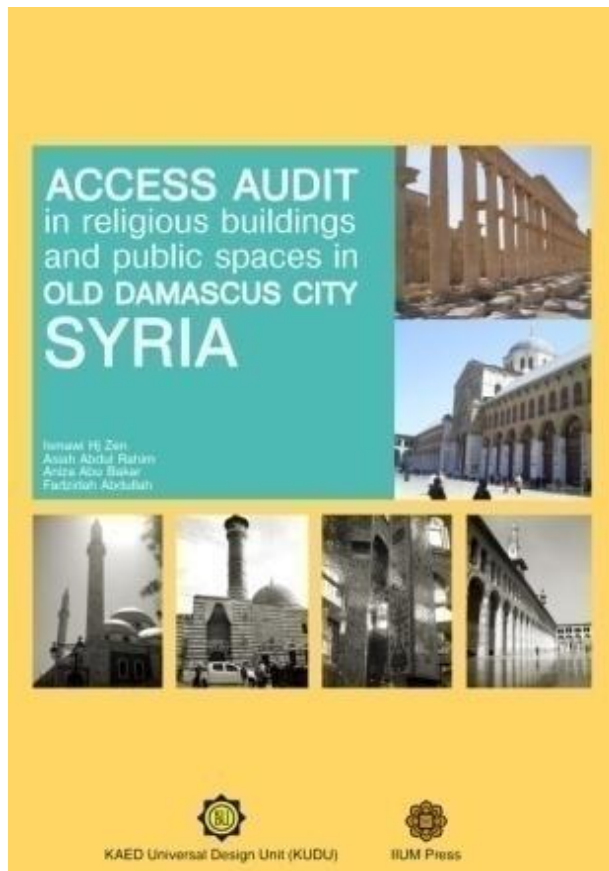


## BOOK REVIEW



**Ismawi Hj. Zen  
Asiah Abdul Rahim  
Aniza Abu Bakar  
Fadzidah Abdullah**

Name of Book: Access Audit in Religious Building and Public Spaces in Old Damascus City Syria

Publisher: IIUM Press (Editor, 5 Chapters).

Date of publication: 2012 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)

Size: B5, Gloss Lamination, Perfect Bind

Total Pages: 223

Language: English

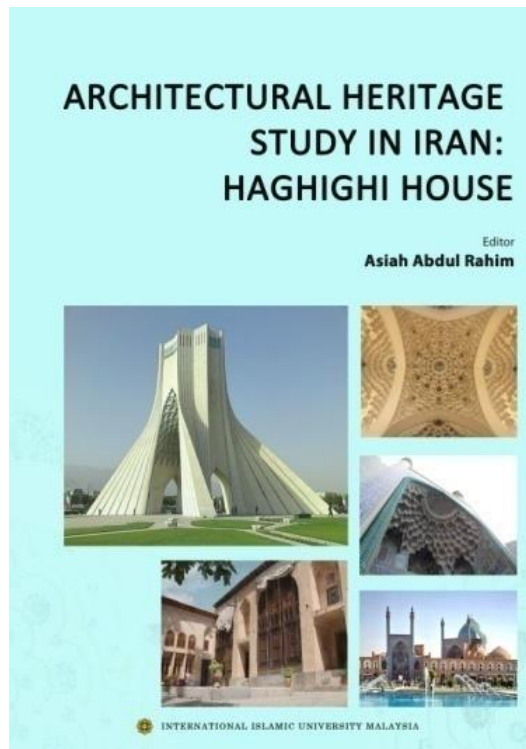
The significant of this book edited by Asiah Abdul Rahim presents title Access audit in religious buildings and public spaces in Old Damascus City Syria. The book was published in 2012 with five (5) chapters of an inclusive of four (4) case study building, authored by Ismawi Zen, Asiah Abdul Rahim, Aniza Abu Bakar and Fadzidah Abdullah. Heritage buildings in the Islamic Era have been known due to its significant contribution and heritage trails of previous Islamic rulers of its time. The typology of these heritage buildings are according to function and usage but most of it are consider public building that accommodates the livelihood of traders and merchants during the trades era. Damascus is the capital of the first Islamic empire namely the Umayyad after the seat of government was moved Madinah al Munawarah.

Currently Damascus is the capital of modern day of Syria. Damascus is important to the Islamic world due to its high heritage value. It has become the central focus by many people from all over the world. The city contains heritage areas and buildings reflected the milestones of Islamic civilization. However, a section of the society consisting of people of various disabilities and the elderly are unable to visit and appreciate these legacies.

In order to address these apparent deficiencies, a study was carried out using access audit approach. Four case studies were selected in Damascus: Khan Asa'ad Pasha, Omawi or Umayyad Mosque, Bimaristan Al-Nouri and Al-Azem Palace, Damascus Syria. They were selected based on them being representative of the various eras in the fabric of Islamic civilization in Syria. The data were collected based on observation and simulation. These data were then tabulated and analyzed to arrive at findings which were descriptively elucidated. These finally formed guidelines to the effort in making heritage areas and buildings universally accessible for all.

**Reviewed by:**

**Prof. Dato' Ar. Dr. Asiah Abdul Rahim**  
**Department of Architecture**



**Asiah Abdul Rahim**

Name of Book: Architectural Heritage study in Iran: Haghghi House.

Publisher: International Islamic University Malaysia (Editor, 7 Chapters).

Date of publication: 2013 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)

Size: B5, Gloss Lamination, Perfect Bind

Total Pages: 155

Language: English

ISBN: 978-967-418-204-2

The significant of this book is to revive in the reconsideration of the implementation of these unique elements into contemporary house designs, where invention and improvement can still exist together with authority and authenticity of the precedents and tradition, while still observing the Islamic teachings, socially and culturally acceptable in the present and future time.

In chapter 5 in the book, explained the background of Haghghi House including the detailed site analysis history of the house, spatial organization, building morphology, decoration and ornamentation and in chapter 6 has discussed in detail the methods of construction, which cover the followings: structural system, foundation, floor, load bearing wall, beam structure, roof, doors, windows and façade design.

Islam has given us a general framework within which we may operate and create a built environment that suite the requirements of age, circumstances, climate, geography and culture. Practically, the Islamic architecture principles represent the religion of Islam that has been translated into reality at the hands of Muslims as it is also a representation of Islamic culture and civilization.

The applications of veil architecture in the Iranian traditional courtyard reflect the social, culture and economy of the owner, it is also a means and adaptation of architectural design elements that is in compliance with the Islamic beliefs and teachings. The courtyard, distinct spatial arrangements and unique architectural elements are profoundly essential to design a house fulfilling the complex human and environmental needs equally. The components and space planning inside the house provide further protection and privacy to its inhabitants against outsiders and rough weather. The courtyard house is therefore veiled climatically and culturally acceptable.

**Reviewed by:**

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