

A CHURCH, A MOSQUE

Interdisciplinary Conversations between Architecture and Art History

ALEXANDRIA
18-20 May 2026



Organised by

Fatma Keshk, Sabine Frommel, and Thomas Faucher

📍 Venues

Anna Lindh Foundation

Institut français d'Egypte à Alexandrie



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Monday May 18th

► Institut français d'Égypte à Alexandrie

Pre-Conference: Opening Keynote

- **18:00–19:30: Inaugural Keynote Lecture**
 - Mohamed Dessouki: St. Mark's Church in Manshiyya Square.
 - **19:30: Welcome Cocktail Reception.**
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Tuesday May 19th: Full Session (09:00 – 17:00)

► Anna Lindh Foundation

Theme: Transfers, Hybridization, and Materiality

- **09:30–10:00: Welcome Remarks & Introduction.**
 - Josep Ferré, Anna Lindh executive director
 - Sabine Frommel, Fatma Keshk and Thomas Faucher
- **10:00–11:30: Session 1 –The Iberian Peninsula & Mediterranean Models**
 - **Felix Arnold:** *Hybrid architecture on the Iberian Peninsula: Dichotomies between form and space (9th-11th century CE).*
 - **Luis Rueda:** *Coptic vs. Christian Iberian Woodworking: Two Ways of Assimilating Islamic Arts.*
 - **Carlos Plaza:** *Cultural Interaction Spaces: Mosque-Churches in the Hispanic Renaissance, from Seville to Mexico.*
- **11:30–12:00: Coffee Break.**
- **11:30–13:00: Session 2 –Between Rome, Byzantium, and Istanbul**
 - **David Hendrix:** *The Conversions of Byzantine Churches in Istanbul and Thessaloniki.*

- **Sabine Frommel:** *Rome and Istanbul in the 16th Century: The Architectural Treatise as a Vector of Transmission.*
 - **13:00 –14:30:** Lunch break (for speakers only).
 - **14:30 –16:00:** Session 3 –Symbolism, Light, and Imperial Significance
 - **Eman Shokry Hesham:** *Red Porphyry: Survival of the Imperial Significance.*
 - **Nader Gharib:** *Contemporary Natural Lighting Techniques for Symbolic Expression in Religious Architecture.*
 - **Manfred Luchterhand:** *Defilers of Islam: Al-Turtusi's Critique of Christian Aesthetics in Early Mosque Architecture and its cultural Background.*
 - **16:00 –17:00:** Round Table Discussion: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Sacred Space.
 - **19:30:** Dinner (speakers only). Greek club in Qaitbay (White and Blue).
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Wednesday May 20th: Morning Sessions & Site Visits

► Anna Lindh Foundation

Theme: Memory, Modernity, and Local Identities

- **09:00 –10:30: Session 4 –19th Century Neoclassicism & Modernity**
 - **Barbara von Orelli:** *Squaring the Circle. Gottfried Semper's Dresden Synagogue: An Oscillation Between the Forms of the Church, the Mosque, and the Synagogue.*
 - **Mathieu Lours:** *Neoclassical Churches, Temples, and Synagogues (Mid-18th to Mid-19th Century France).*
 - **Kristina Seiling:** *Minaret and Church Tower: Hassan Fathy's Mosque in New Gourna and Coptic Sacred Architecture.*
- **10:30 –11:00:** Coffee Break.
- **11:00 –12:30: Session 5 –Plural Memories and Urban Landscapes**
 - **Kathrin Machinek & Mahmoud Said:** *Alexandria: cathedrals and congregational mosques in a cosmopolitan city.*
 - **Alaa El-Habashi:** *Sacred Places- Heritage Places: The Evaluation of Authenticity in Selected Churches and Mosques in Egypt.*
 - **Souad Toumi:** *Goulette: History, Multiple Architecture, and Plural Memory.*
 - **Sabine Frommel, Fatma Keshk:** *Concluding Remarks and Perspective on Heritage.*
- **13:00 –14:00:** Closing Lunch (for speakers only).

Afternoon: Architectural Site Visits (for speakers only)

- **14:30–15:15: Abu al-Abbas al-Mursi Mosque**
 - An exploration of the neo-Islamic style developed by Mario Rossi, illustrating the 20th-century dialogue between Mediterranean traditions.
- **15:30–16:00: Synagogue of Alexandria**
 - The Eliyahu Hanavi Synagogue in Alexandria stands as a testament to Egypt's Jewish heritage, renowned for its Italian-built architecture.
- **16:15–17:00: St. Catherine's Cathedral**
 - A landmark of the Latin Catholic community in Alexandria, showcasing European-inspired sacred architecture.





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