

# Applied Art and Design

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Application and Appreciation  
of Islamic Heritage in  
Contemporary Context

**Mandana Barkeshli**



**IIUM PRESS**

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

# **APPLIED ARTS AND DESIGN**

## **APPLICATION AND APPRECIATION OF ISLAMIC HERITAGE IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT**

**Mandana Barkeshli**



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## CHAPTER EIGHT

### MAN AND NATURE THROUGH INTERIOR COURTYARD AND GARDEN DESIGN

*Ismail Jasmani*

#### **ABSTRACT**

We are surrounded with things that we are not the architect of. There are natural structures, such as trees, flowers, grasses, rivers, hills and clouds around us. For centuries they have inspired us with curiosity and awe. They have been objects of delight. We have recreated them in our imaginations to reflect our moods. And we have come to think of them as contributing to an idea we have called nature.<sup>37</sup> Courtyard homes are more prevalent in temperate climates, as an open central court can be an important aid to cooling house in warm weather. However, courtyard houses have been found in harsher climates as well for centuries. The comforts offered by a courtyard air, light, privacy, security, and tranquility are properties nearly universally desired in human housing.

When man has a strong sense of sharing on the earth, the garden tends to be strong, for the making of the garden is always an act of faith. The gardens of different times and places are very different in ideas and ways they were designed because they were made with very different assumptions affecting aesthetic value of the relationship between man and nature.

In Islam the relationships between man and nature have been started from early stage as Narrated by Ibn Omar RA that the Prophet SAW said:

Amongst the trees, there is a tree, the leaves of which do not fall and is like a Muslim. Tell me the name of that tree." Everybody started thinking about the trees of the desert areas. And I thought of the date-palm tree but felt too shy to answer. The others then asked, "What is that tree, O Allah's Apostle?" He replied, "It is the date-palm tree."<sup>38</sup>

[Keywords: Courtyard, garden design, imagination, faith, nature and man.]

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<sup>37</sup> Kenneth Clark, 1949. *Landscape into Art*, John Murry 50 Albemarle St London First Edition.

<sup>38</sup> Sahih Bukhari, Book of Knowledge, Hadith #58