

The Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat - Tour Notes

- The space represents the Imamat, the Aga Khan is a person, and it is the largest oversees agency
- The agency works towards international world development, such as Asia and Africa
- It is oversees but the operations in Canada is fundraises for the oversees projects
- The space is to put hard topics into dialogue
- Can host conferences for 40-50
- Its focus is humanitarianism, and team networking
- Upstairs there are residencies, for when his highness comes to visit, with family , one wing residential, other office spaces
- The first building was built in Portugal, and one in France
- The second hallway, like hotel rooms
- It's a rectangle, one work side, and one resident side
- When building there were plenty of restrictions, the entrance needed to be at street level on the sussex side, so the building sits on a podium, granite
- They wanted to preserve the existing environment, and so the natural path that has been layed out, is preserved
- Maki , a Japanese architect, this is his first Canadian commission, looks like the Toronto material
- He is known as the master of light and shadows, he is modern, likes openness, transparency, all his effects with lighting and shading are intentional
- For the roof, his highness asked for it to incorporate a rock crystal, and so to embody luminosity, light and angles, the roof itself looks like a gem
- There is a second layer that creates patterns, but also geo textile, woven fiberglass, this keeps the luminosity, but lowers the temperature, thus preventing the greenhouse effect.
- The modern style is applied to Islamic architecture, the screen in the atrium is functioning, and beautiful, its still transparent
- The jail screen is natural looking, but combines modern machine work, it is a machine engine in cambrigde
- A woman drilled all the holes, double hexagons
- Its purely geometric, it's a secular space, not a place for prayer
- Everything lines up, the number 7, very important, $7 \times 7 = 49$, he is the 49th imam
- The idea of moving water, trying to keep tradition, when the snow falls, it looks like snow drops
- Each panel is 50 pounds, the inner shoirds supports the jail screen,
- Japanese architecture, little millimetre thresholds, no weather protection, the doors get jammed, its challenging
- The European designed tools, needed to slowly change to a north American standard
- Everything is incorporated with the design, from your eyes to your knees everything should be clear, so door locks are lower, the door hinges and inwards, very few signage, this is to maintain the design

- There are acoustic fibres, on the king Edward side
- Low shedding, not to waste resources on areas of the buildings that aren't in use
- The building is all glass and there's no insulation
- The maintenance so heavy, outside, the grout, all needs to be removed
- International architect, the look trying to be achieved, supersedes functionality
- To clean in between the two panels takes about 9 months
- Everything is recessed, even the elevators buttons
- Worked over the last 5 years, they want to bring in led, but there's no point, so much natural light
- Using the cycle of easter to thanksgiving
- Maki loves linearity
- The lights in hallways, go upward, with a pink hue, to emphasize the crystal
- They use crystalized glass, it is cold to the touch in winter, and warm in summer, it sparkles, and from up top it looks like a crystal
- During summer, many repairs to come, the Japanese design is not made for the Canadian environment
- The plants, needed to be swapped out, the courtyard has an eco-system, 4 plantings, voodoo sedums- 4 colors, 4 seasons
- Always refer to the design intent
- Aesthetic is major, the original design is to minimize the damage
- Last note linearity, speakers, sprinklers, and lights

Interview: Transcript

Sissi: What do you do here?

Katherine: I have been working here for about 10 years, running the visitor program, we have a team of volunteers, and unfortunately now we can't give that many tours, but we try to keep it open as much as possible.

Sissi: Do you enjoy working in this building?

Katherine: You know its funny actually, I've been working here for so long, and one day my sister came, and she said to me 'Katherine you can never quit, you need to stay in the building', the space is endearing. A CEO once said to me that this building should humble and inspire you, and well its true. We work in such high quality, it makes you want to do better, and work to make things perfect, because well the building is so perfect. The space also changes how we about our work, and how we want people to view our work.