

## Volume 12 Al Manakh

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on the centenary of the death of rasputin comes a definitive biography that will dramatically change our understanding of this fascinating figure a hundred years after his murder rasputin continues to excite the popular imagination as the personification of evil numerous biographies novels and films recount his mysterious rise to power as nicholas and alexandra s confidant and the guardian of the sickly heir to the russian throne his debauchery and sinister political influence are the stuff of legend and the downfall of the romanov dynasty was laid at his feet but as the prizewinning historian douglas smith shows the true story of rasputin s life and death has remained shrouded in myth a major new work that combines probing scholarship and powerful storytelling

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rasputin separates fact from fiction to reveal the real life of one of history's most alluring figures drawing on a wealth of forgotten documents from archives in seven countries smith presents rasputin in all his complexity man of god voice of peace loyal subject adulterer drunkard rasputin is not just a definitive biography of an extraordinary and legendary man but a fascinating portrait of the twilight of imperial russia as it lurched toward catastrophe

this is the first book ever to examine the architecture and urbanism of the persian gulf as a complete entity dealing equally with conditions on the eastern iranian shoreline as in arabic countries on the western side by inviting a range of architects and scholars to write about historical and contemporary influences on 14 cities along both gulf coastlines the book traces the changes in architecture and human settlement in relation to environmental factors and particularity of place it provides an innovative contribution to the study of architecture and globalisation through a detailed investigation of this particular region investigating how buildings and cities are being shaped as a result a set of thematic essays at the end offer important insights into issues of globalisation urbanism and environmental design drawing from the experience of the persian gulf the outcome is a unique record of the gulf in the early 21st century at a point when global capitalism is making major inroads and yet questions of architectural design climate change ecological sustainability cultural identity and so called facebook democracy are likewise shaking up the middle eastern region the book thus offers a fresh reading of the architecture and urbanism of a fascinating and often contradictory region while also showing how globalisation can be analysed in a more engaged and integrated manner

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this book opens with an interesting question why do monarchies which seem to be dying out everywhere else thrive in the middle east the answer by peterson an expert on the arabian peninsula who has already written fine books on oman and north yemen is that the emirs of the arab gulf have sought to be accountable to their citizens through a flexible mixture of traditional assemblies like the diwan and modern instruments like parliaments and an independent press peterson illustrates his argument with detailed case studies of political institutions in kuwait and bahrain and with looser comparisons of the united arab emirates qatar oman and saudi arabia lucid writing and fascinating anecdotes make the text accessible to undergraduates interested in the gulf modernization or democratization in the third world choice

published on the occasion of the first aros triennial a new international contemporary art exhibition that will be presented every three years in aarhus denmark in association with the aros art museum a catalogue on man's changing relations to nature as seen through art using the garden as a symbol the

triennial covers artworks from the baroque to contemporary art and from painting sculpture and installations to art works that redefine the boundaries for art and nature the aros triennial the garden end of times beginning of times uses man s coexistence with and view on nature indicating how varying world views religious political ideological cultural or scientific have had an impact on how nature has been represented in art through the ages english and danish text

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