



University of  
Zurich <sup>UZH</sup>

Institute of Art History

University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe



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# The Power of Symbols

## The Alhambra in a Global Context

International Conference, Zurich, September 15–17, 2016

# Outline

In view of the current international globalisation debate this three-day conference intends to foster a re-interpretation of the Alhambra. Topics like the positioning of the Nasrid architecture in a global Islamic context, the phenomenon of cultural exchange on the Iberian Peninsula, the controversial debate of Orientalism after Said's *Orientalism* (1978) or the political instrumentalisation of architecture will be the centre of attention.

- 2 Does the Alhambra—with its decorative motives and building techniques taken from al-Andalus, the Islamic East, North Africa and Christian Castile—not invite us to adopt a global point of view? Did the Alhambra of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, famous through its neo-Nasrid buildings and interiors, not stand at the beginning of a global building tradition, which spread out to the New World? At the same time, the reception of the Alhambra raises conceptual questions. Has the significance of the Nasrid palace-town for the national identity of Christian Spain been perceived outside the Iberian Peninsula? Why did other nations, such as Brazil for instance, choose to represent themselves with neo-Nasrid pavilions at the International World Exhibitions?

The world-wide fame of the Alhambra, that mostly relies upon British and French travellers of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, has however also its negative sides. How can the Nasrid palaces be conserved for future generations? Can the increasing pressure of the tourism industry be faced, and how? Which are the actual challenges that Granada, the Patronato and the international research community have to face?

*Francine Giese and Ariane Varela Braga*

# Workshop

## “The Alhambra and the Synagogue”

Thursday, September 15, 2016

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**Location**      **University of Zurich, Room RAA G-01 (Aula), Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich**

**13:30–14:00**    **Welcome and registration**

**14:00–14:15**    **Carola Jäggi (University of Zurich)**

Inauguration

**14:15–14:30**    **Francine Giese and Ariane Varela Braga (University of Zurich)**

Opening Remarks

Chair of the Workshop: Jacques Picard (University of Basel)

**14:30–15:00**    **Helena Lahoz Kopsiske (University of Zurich)**

Eine monumentale Synagoge für Sefarad: Die Synagoge von Samuel ha-Levi und das kulturelle Gedächtnis

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**15:00–15:30**    **Fani Gargova (University of Vienna)**

The Alhambra and the Dream of Sefarad

**15:30–16:00**    **Barbara von Orelli (University of Zurich)**

Gottfried Semper's Dresden Synagogue Revised: An Echo of the Alhambra?

**Coffee Break**

**16:30–17:00**    **Hildegard Frübis (Humboldt Universität Berlin/KFU Graz)**

Die Neue Synagoge in Berlin (1866) und die Alhambra

**17:00–17:30**    **Christoph Uehlinger (University of Zurich)**

Sefarad in Ashkenaz? Orientalizing and Orientalization in Late 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Synagogues (Zurich and Switzerland)

**18:00**            **Evening Lecture: Ron Epstein (Zurich)**

Maurische Stilelemente in Schweizer Synagogenbauten

**19:00**            **Opening Reception**

# Conference Program: Day 1

Friday, September 16, 2016

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**Location** University of Zurich, Room RAA G-01 (Aula), Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich

**8:30–9:00** **Welcome and registration**

**9:00** **Luis Calvo Merino (Spanish Consul General)**

Inauguration

**9:15** **Francine Giese and Ariane Varela Braga (University of Zurich)**

Opening Remarks

**9:30–10:15** **Keynote Lecture: Fernando Valdés (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)**

Arqueología y melancolía. Algunas observaciones a la biografía del arquitecto Leopoldo Torres Balbás

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**Session I** **The Islamic Alhambra**

Chair: Francine Giese (University of Zürich)

**10:15–10:45** **Carmen Rallo Gruss (Madrid)**

*“... En el mundo nosotros debemos nuestra fortuna a nuestras espada”,*

Muhammad V promotor de las pinturas de la Sala de los Reyes en la Alhambra

**10:45–11:15** **Sarah Keller (Vitrocentre Romont)**

Slivers of Light: Stained Glass in Al-Andalus

**Coffee Break**

**Session II** **The Alhambra in a Cross-Cultural Perspective**

Chair: Henrik Karge (TU Dresden)

**11:45–12:15** **Juan Carlos Ruiz Souza (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)**

El Palacio de los Leones de la Alhambra y el Palacio de la Montería del Alcázar de Sevilla. Espacios de virtud del príncipe en el contexto de la arquitectura bajomedieval

**12:15–12:45 Manuel Parada López de Corselas (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)**  
El Mediterráneo islámico y la pintura flamenca: la Alhambra y Jan van Eyck en contexto

**12:45–13:15 Edhem Eldem (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)**  
The Ottomans at the Alhambra, 1844–1914: History, Politics, and Culture

### Lunch

### Session III **The Alhambra in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Spain**

Chair: Pedro A. Galera Andreu (Universidad de Jaén)

**14:30–15:00 Asun González Pérez (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid / V&A)**  
Rafael Contreras and his Influence in the Reshaping of the Alhambra in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**15:00–15:30 Rafael Cómez Ramos (Universidad de Sevilla)**  
Alhambra de Granada versus Alcázar de Sevilla

**15:30–16:00 Laura Castro Royo (University of Zurich)**  
La inserción del pasado islámico en la identidad nacional española a través de la arquitectura revival: el caso del Palacio de Laredo

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### Coffee Break

### Session IV **The Alhambra Reception in Germany**

Chair: Hildegard Frübis (Humboldt Universität Berlin/KFU Graz)

**16:30–17:00 Henrik Karge (TU Dresden)**  
Zwischen Imagination und Formanalyse: Die Alhambra in der frühen deutschen Kunstgeschichtsschreibung

**17:00–17:30 Francine Giese (University of Zurich)**  
An Inclination for the Moorish Style. Architects and Networks in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Germany

**17:30–18:00 Josephin Heller (Leipzig)**  
Alhambra-Rezeption in Dresden: Carl von Diebitschs 'maurisches Bad' auf Schloss Albrechtsberg

**20:00 Conference Dinner (invitation required)**

# Conference Program: Day 2

Saturday, September 17, 2016

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**Location** University of Zurich, Room KO2 F-152, Karl Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zurich

**8:30–9:00** Registration

**9:15–10:00** **Keynote Lecture: Pedro A. Galera Andreu (Universidad de Jaén)**  
La Alhambra y el Orientalismo islámico. La visión de los artistas románticos

**Session V** **The Imaginary Alhambra**

Chair: Sarah Keller (VITROCENTRE Romont)

**10:00–10:30** **Sarah Tabbal (LMU München)**

Die Alhambra in der Malerei des 19. Jahrhunderts: Projektionsfläche und Symbolträger einer imaginierten Vergangenheit

**10:30–11:00** **Ariane Varela Braga (University of Zurich)**

Dreaming the Alhambra: The Castello di Sammezzano at Regello

**Coffee Break**

**Session VI** **The Alhambra in Zarist Russia**

Chair: Anna McSweeney (The Warburg Institute, Bilderfahrzeuge Project)

**11:30–12:00** **Nadezhda Stanulevich (The Russian Academy of Fine Arts Museum)**

Photographs of Alhambra at the Russian Academy of Fine Arts Museum

**12:00–12:30** **Luidmilla Kondratenko and Ekaterina Savinova (The Russian Academy of Fine Arts Museum)**

The History of the Alhambra Models Collection in Russia: Its Role in Educating Future Architects at the Academy of Arts

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**12:30–13:00** **Katrin Kaufmann (University of Zurich)**  
Building Moorish Wonders: *Alhambrismo* in Tsarist Russia

**Lunch**

**Session VII** **The Alhambra in the World**

Chair: Fernando Valdés (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

**14:30–15:00** **Anna McSweeney (The Warburg Institute, Bilderfahrzeuge Project)**  
The Alhambresque in Ottoman Architecture: Versions and Revisions of an Islamic Palace Style in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**15:00–15:30** **Ieva Kalnača (Art Academy of Letony/Latvian National Museum of Art)**  
El alhambrismo en tierras de Letonia: segunda mitad del siglo XIX y primer tercio del siglo XX

**15:30–16:00** **Antonieta Emparán (Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile)**  
Palacio de La Alhambra: un orientalismo chileno del siglo XIX

**Coffee Break**

**Session VIII** **The Alhambra Renewed**

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Chair: Ariane Varela Braga (University of Zürich)

**16:30–17:00** **Davy Depelchin (Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium/Ghent University)**  
Orientalism Challenged: The Spanish Pavilion on the 1910 Brussels International Exhibition

**17:00–17:30** **Yoshihiko Ito (Tokai University) and Jorge Almazán Caballero (Keio University)**

Entre la modernidad, la universalidad y la identidad nacional: la Alhambra y Katsura en la mirada de arquitectos modernos

**17:30–18:00** **Anna C. Cruz (University of California)**  
Mythologizing the Alhambra and Nasrid Granada in Contemporary Arabic Literature

**18:00** **Francine Giese and Ariane Varela Braga (University of Zurich)**  
Final Remarks

# General Information

**Locations**                      *September 15–16, 2016 (workshop and first conference day)*  
University of Zurich  
Room RAA G-01 (Aula)  
Rämistrasse 59  
CH-8001 Zurich

*September 17, 2016 (second conference day)*  
University of Zurich  
Room KO2 F-152  
Karl Schmid-Strasse 4  
CH-8006 Zurich

**Organizers**                      Prof. Dr. Francine Giese  
Dr. Ariane Varela Braga

**Registration**                      Registration required by September 12, 2016:  
[www.transculturalstudies.ch](http://www.transculturalstudies.ch)

**Internet**                              [www.transculturalstudies.ch](http://www.transculturalstudies.ch)  
[www.asienundeuropa.uzh.ch/alhambra](http://www.asienundeuropa.uzh.ch/alhambra)