

COUNTRY VILLAS IN THE ISLAMIC WEST: LEISURE AND PRODUCTION

Scientific meeting

Academic Directors:

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Presentation:

In the Islamic West the *munya/s* were country villas owned by the urban elites, usually located in the periphery of cities. A *munya* was a valuable possession both from the economic and social point view and awarded status to its owner. The role of *munya/s* was twofold: they were farming estates and places of leisure. Their general traits are known to scholars but many important questions still remain. The concept itself encompasses a number of realities that in al-Andalus as well as in the Islamic West received different names (*bustan, buhayra, riyâd, janna, karm, rahl*). *Munya/s* were often renowned by the residential building or palace they housed and were then called *dâr* or *qasr*. To what extent the manner in which a same reality was called changed over time is still unknown, as is the question of what specific traits produced different denominations. We still don't know with any degree of certainty the kind of produce that was cultivated in those estates, who and under what conditions worked in them, or the property systems involved.

Participants will discuss the *munya/s* of the Islamic West with an emphasis on the great royal estate of the Agdal of Marrakech, object of a study sponsored by the *Fundación para la Cultura Islámica (FUNCI) (Foundation for the Islamic Culture)* in which many of the lecturers of the course participate.

Most of the intervening scholars are members of the Andalusian Research Group: *Laboratorio de Arqueología y Arquitectura de la Ciudad (LAAC) (Laboratory of Archaeology and Architecture of the City)*, integrating scholars from the *Escuela de Estudios Árabes (CSIC) (School of Arabic Studies, Spanish Council for Scientific Research)* and the University of Granada.

The meeting has been developed in the context of the research project: "Typological analysis and urban and social context of the residential architecture of al-Andalus: Laying the ground for heritage intervention" (HAR2011-29963) of the Spanish National R+D Plan.

ADDRESSED TO:

Undergraduate students working towards a degree in History, Archaeology, Art History, Arabic Studies or related fields. Also of interest to graduates in those fields and to architects, landscape architects and building engineers specializing in heritage restoration.

SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Dates: May 9-12, 2013.

Location:

Escuela de Estudios Árabes – CSIC

(School of Arabic Studies, Spanish Council for Scientific Research)

22, Cuesta del Chapiz. 1810 Granada, Spain.

www.eea.csic.es

Duration: 22 hours.

Number of openings: 80.

Fee: 50€.

General Information:

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