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HASHT BIHISHT (Eight Paradises)
The Spatial Logic of Humayun's Tomb-Garden and Landscape of Nizamuddin in Mughal Delhi
by Dr. James Wescoat



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HASHT BIHISHT (Eight Paradises): The Spatial Logic of Humayun's Tomb-Garden and Landscape of Nizamuddin in Mughal Delhi

by Dr. James Wescoat
the distinguished Aga Khan Professor at MIT

Humayun's tomb-garden, built during the mid-16th century in Delhi, had great significance in the history of Mughal architecture and landscape design. Previous research has focused on its antecedents, architecture, visual power, and its location near the shrine of Sufi saint Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya (d. 1325 CE). This paper weaves these points together, showing how Humayun's tomb-garden and its surroundings were laid out through a spatial analysis of the tomb and its garden walks, walls, proportions, and details. Conversion to Mughal units of measurement reveals the spatial logic of the complex—from the *hasht bihisht* plan of the garden, tomb and decorative details, to its relationship with the River Yamuna and the historic landscape of Nizamuddin. These spatial relationships among tomb, garden, shrine, and wider landscape opens up new perspectives and questions about the design of Mughal gardens and cities.

SATURDAY, NOV. 20, 2010, 1:30 P.M.

**Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin Street, San Francisco**

Free after museum admission; light refreshments

About the speaker:

Prof. Wescoat has focused the greater part of his career on small-scale historical waterworks of Mughal gardens and cities in India and Pakistan. He led the Smithsonian Institution's project titled, "Garden, City, and Empire: The Historical Geography of Mughal Lahore" which evolved into a larger Mughal Gardens Project. It won the American Society of Landscape Architects award, as did the Moonlight Garden project on "New Discoveries at the Taj" in which Prof. Wescoat collaborated with Elizabeth Moynihan.

Prior to his current distinguished faculty position as Aga Khan Professor at MIT, Prof. Wescoat served as the head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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