

Sufism Reoriented: A Sacred Design

*SACHI, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India
and Sufism Reoriented*

*Invite You to Experience a rare guided visit of the
New Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary*

Sunday, August 26, 2018, 2-4 PM

11 White Horse Court, Walnut Creek, CA. 94595

Sacred Design:

In all spiritual traditions, the design of a sanctuary strives to be an outward expression, in material form, of the still sacred space at the center of the human heart...

– Murshida Carol Weyland Conner



New Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary, Walnut Creek, California



The Prayer Hall, Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary, Walnut Creek, California

Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary is set among three acres of serene gardens in the suburbs of Walnut Creek, California. The Sanctuary was designed by the distinguished architectural firm of Philip Johnson Alan Ritchie under the guidance of Dr. Carol Weyland Conner, the spiritual leader of Sufism Reoriented.

Alan Ritchie, a colleague of the celebrated Philip Johnson, took a personal interest in the Sufism Reoriented building project. His New York-based firm, Philip Johnson/Alan Ritchie Architects, designed many renowned buildings in the U.S, among them, the Pre Columbian Art Museum at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. The firm has also had a long association with designing innovative sacred architecture, ranging from the 3,000-seat Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, to small, intimate chapels. The Sufism Reoriented project inspired Mr. Ritchie and his associates to create a beautiful sacred space.

Begun in 2012, the sanctuary's construction was completed in 2017. A distinguishing feature of the monument is its curvilinear design, influenced by the sacred symbol of the circle. Within the Sanctuary, the domes create tranquil and uplifting interior spaces for prayer and meditation.

For a deeper understanding of the principles in the Sanctuary's design, we invite you to join this very special guided tour of the building and its adjoining gardens. A unique design feature of the building is that two thirds of it lies underground, opening up space for contemplative gardens.

Free Admission; Limited Space

Rsvp Required: info@sachi.org; Tel. 650-349-1247

Please reserve early to guarantee enrollment

Sufism Reoriented

Sufism Reoriented is an American faith community that was formed in 1952 by Meher Baba, a spiritual teacher from India with an international following. The Order is nonsectarian and strives to work in harmony with all religions. Thus Sufism may be practiced in association with all the major religious streams: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism and Buddhism. To create his modern spiritual order, Meher Baba adapted the central principles of past traditions of Sufism, enlarging and re-focusing them for relevance in contemporary America, hence the name, "Sufism Reoriented."

The Sufi Afternoon Continues . . .

*Please Join us for a Tea Reception
Followed by a Screening of the PBS Film of a
Heroic Sufi Indian Princess, Noor Inayat Khan*

Sunday, August 26, 2018, 4:30-6:30 PM

Home of Rekha & Bipin Shah
15 Northridge Lane, Lafayette, CA

Rsvp Required: info@sachi.org; Tel. 650-349-1247

Limited seating and carpool recommended



Noor was born in Moscow (1914), and grew up in Paris, where she wrote Buddhist Jataka tales for children. A descendent of Indian royalty and deeply spiritual, she was only 13 when her father, a Sufi Indian mystic and musician, Hazrat Inayat Khan – a pioneer who introduced Sufism to the West - died unexpectedly. The family left for England during the Nazi invasion of France. Despite her pacifist background, Noor was recruited by the Allied Special Operations Executive (SEO) to become the first female radio operator in Nazi occupied Paris. After leading a courageous and successful espionage operation for several months, she was betrayed, tortured and executed in Dachau on Sep.13,1944 at the tender age of 30.

Posthumously awarded the George Cross in England and the Croix de Guerre in France, the highest civilian honors in each country, Noor's is one of the most inspiring stories of World War 11.

*Noor Inayat Khan, the daughter of a Sufi musician and mystic
Hazrat Inayat Khan who introduced Sufism to the West*

From PBS - Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story brings to life the story of a woman's extraordinary courage, tested in the crucible of Nazi-occupied Paris. With an American mother and Sufi Indian father, Noor Inayat Khan was an extremely unusual British agent. Her life spent growing up in a Sufi center of learning in Paris seemed an unlikely preparation for the dangerous work to come. Yet it was in this place of universal peace and contemplation that her remarkable courage was forged. In early 1943, Khan was recruited as a covert operative into Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE). Churchill's orders: to "Set Europe ablaze". After the collapse and arrest of her entire network, Khan became the only surviving radio operator linking the British to the French Resistance in Paris, coordinating the airdrop of weapons, explosives, and agents and supporting the rescue of downed Allied fliers. Betrayed by a French collaborator after four months, Khan resisted brutal interrogation by the Gestapo, escaping twice--only to be recaptured and sent to Germany where, at last, she was executed at Dachau.

– Anonymous



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*SACHI extends grateful appreciation to Sufism Reoriented
Invitation Team and to hosts Rekha & Bipin Shah for enabling
a special afternoon, celebrating the Sufi spirit.*