

Dr. Gizem Kahraman

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Dr Gizem Kahraman (Aksoy) is an architect and affiliated postdoctoral researcher at the University of Exeter's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, where she also completed her PhD in 2022, holding a Gulf Studies/Al-Qassimi scholarship. She is the co-founding partner and co-director of Teos Heritage Consultancy (established in 2019), an independent heritage consultancy specialising in Western Asia and undertaking a wide range of heritage assessment work and site surveys. At Teos Heritage, Gizem actively works on architectural heritage related aspects of the company's ongoing projects, alongside her managerial responsibilities.

Her research focuses on the historical and contemporary social production of space in the Gulf, drawing on architecture, urbanism, material culture and ethnography. Within this, she investigates vernacular architectural production in Qatar from the pre-oil period to the present, a subject closely intertwined with Doha's urban and socio-economic transformation, migration, and practices of homemaking.

Gizem was a member of the Origins of Doha and Qatar project team at University College London-Qatar from 2015 to 2016, where she worked on Doha's vernacular architecture and the post-oil occupancy of vernacular houses. In 2016, she was part of the winning team of the Unlimited Doha Design Prize, an urban design competition organised by the British Council and Qatar Museums that explored the revitalisation of Doha's older neighbourhoods.

Gizem gained an MSc in Architectural Engineering from the Politecnico di Milano in 2013 and a BArch in Architecture from Izmir University of Economics in 2009, both with educational scholarships. She has worked in academic institutions as well as professional architectural practices in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Italy, Qatar and the United Kingdom. She was part of the Milano Sesto Urban Regeneration and Master Plan for the Ex-Falck Area, led by Renzo Piano Building Workshop and Buzzi & Partners Development Agency, where she contributed urban and architectural proposals related to the area's UNESCO World Heritage candidacy.

Following is a selection of her research outputs:

Research Papers in Journals:

- Kahraman, G. (2025) From Qatari Vernacular to Migrant Housing: Continuities in the Production of Doha's Courtyard Houses, *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*, 37(1), 69-85.
- Aksoy, Ö. C. & Kahraman, G. (2022) Memorialisation of the Turkish War of Independence: Monuments, narratives and commemoration at the battlegrounds of Dumlupınar, *War & Society*, 41(3), 220-246.
- Kahraman, G. & Carter, R. (2019) Adaptation of heritage architecture in Al Asmakh, Doha: insights into an urban environment of the Gulf, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 53(1), 38-65.
- Freire-Lista, D. M., Kahraman, G. & Carter, R. (2019) Multi-Analysis Characterisation of a Vernacular House in Doha (Qatar): Petrography and Petrophysics of its Construction Materials, *Minerals*, 9(4).
- Kahraman, G. (2009) Güneşi Yükseltmek: Karanlık Kent, *Sekans Sinema Yazıları Seçkisi*, 1, 112-119.

Book Chapter:

- Kahraman, G. (2024) In Pursuit of a Modern Home: Shared Vernacular Temporalities and Modern Aspirations of the Nationals and Transnationals in Qatar in J. Alderman & R. Stolz (eds.) *Houses Transformed: Anthropological Perspectives on Changing Practices of Dwelling and Building*. New York and Oxford: Berghahn, 100-119.

Conference Proceedings:

- Kahraman, G. (2024) The Vernacular Production of Doha Courtyard Houses: From Qatari Families to Migrants. *IASTE 2024: The Dynamism of Tradition*, Riyadh, KSA.
- Kahraman, G.(2021) In Pursuit of a Modern Home: Shared Vernacular Temporalities and Modern Aspirations of the Nationals and Transnationals in Qatar. *The Modern House: Anthropological Perspectives on the Transformation of Vernacular Houses*, Heidelberg, Germany.
- Kahraman, G. (2018) Surviving Early-Oil Era Domestic Architecture in Doha. *Traditional Gulf Architecture Week: An Exhibition and Conference at Qatar National Library*, Doha, Qatar.
- Kahraman, G. (2016) Re-Appropriation out of Necessity: A Case Study of Traditional Architecture in the Global City of Doha. *8th World Archaeological Congress*, Kyoto, Japan.

- Kahraman, G. (2015) Spatial Manipulation and Cognition in Archaeological Site Experience: The Case of Battle of Aslıhanlar. 21st Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Glasgow, Scotland.
- Tadi, M. et al. (2013). The case study of Timisoara (Romania). IMM design for a more sustainable, liveable and responsible city. Proceedings of the 6th Making Cities Liveable Conference in conjunction with Sustainable Transformation Conference, Melbourne, Australia.

Invited Speaker:

- Aksoy, Ö. C. & Kahraman, G. (2026) National Museums in the Gulf in the 21st century. Bademler Sanat Köyü Second Archaeology Conference, Izmir, Turkey.
- Kahraman, G. (2019) Migrants' Homemaking in Doha. PGR Research Seminar Series, IAIS, University of Exeter, UK.
- Kahraman, G. (2019) Migration and Homemaking in Qatar. Spaces of Domination and Resistance in the Middle-East Module, IAIS, University of Exeter, UK.
- Kahraman, G. (2019) Vernacular Architecture in Doha. Post Graduate Seminar, IAIS, University of Exeter, UK.
- Kahraman, G. (2018) Vernacular Architecture in Doha. Centre for Islamic Archaeology, University of Exeter, UK.
- Kahraman, G. (2018) Adaptation of Vernacular Architecture in Doha. Centre for Gulf Studies, University of Exeter, UK.
- Kahraman, G. (2018) Adaptation of Vernacular Architecture in Doha. PGtips: Archaeology Post Graduate Seminar Series, University of Exeter, UK.

Chair:

- Kahraman, G. (2020) Global Islamic Archaeology Showcase, Centre for Islamic Archaeology, University of Exeter, UK.
- Kahraman, G. (2017) Streets of Doha Panel Discussion, CENG, Qatar University, Qatar.