



*Lecture jointly sponsored by
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Alastair Northedge
Professor of Islamic Archaeology
Université de Paris I

Stanford Archaeology Center
Monday, 1 June 2009
12:00 noon

If you have any
questions
regarding our
events,
please contact:

Mercedes Baltazar

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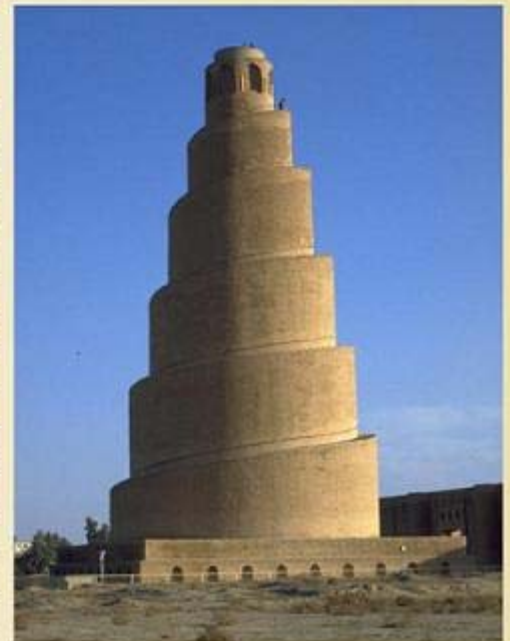
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Location:

Building 500
488 Escondido Mall
Terman Labs

Samarra of the Caliphs : an Archaeological Survey

Samarra, north of Baghdad, and capital of the Abbasid Caliphs between 836 and 892 AD, is one of the best-preserved examples of late antique/early medieval urbanism, with a densely built core of 58 km² composed largely of unfired earth construction. As a short-lived caliphal capital, it is both better preserved than, and less typical of, medieval Islamic urbanism, a partly artificial construct sharing many of its characteristics. The Survey has recovered evidence of the entire range of construction from Great Mosques to Caliphal palaces, from hunting parks to racecourses, from industrial sites to markets and lower class housing.



About the speaker:

Alastair Northedge is Professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology at Université de Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne). He has worked in Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, and conducted projects at Amman in Jordan, and Ana in Iraq, in addition to Samarra. He is author of *Studies on Roman and Islamic Amman*, joint author of *Excavations at Ana*, and has recently published *Historical Topography of Samarra*.

