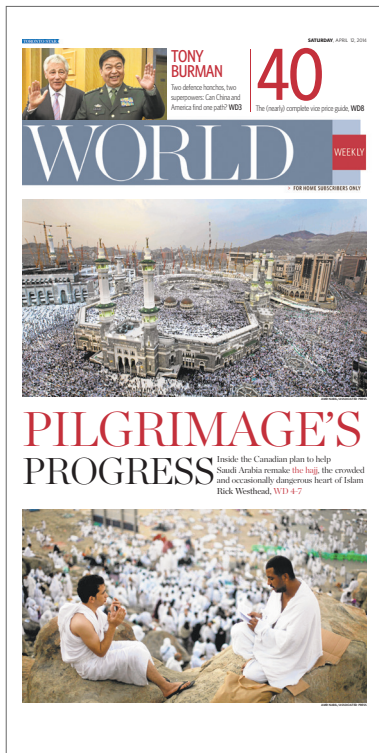


TORONTO STAR



The attached 5 page article was published on April 12th - 2014 in the Toronto Star's World Weekly section. It looks at some of the challenges Moriyama & Teshima / MMM Group faced on the long-road to proposing change for Mecca and Madinah.



MORIYAMA & TESHIMA ARCHITECTS

Mecca to Undergo Makeover with Help from Two Canadian Firms

"The hajj pilgrimage draws millions of Muslims each year, sometimes overwhelming host Saudi Arabia. Toronto architectural firm, Moriyama and Teshima and engineering company MMM Group are helping make the holy journey better — a \$227-billion, 30-year project." - Toronto Star April 12th 2014

It was with great honour that in 2009 Moriyama & Teshima Architects in collaboration with MMM Group were commissioned to complete a Comprehensive Master Plan for the Holy Cities of Islam – Mecca and Madinah.

The Plan responds to the growing pressures from accelerated development for accommodating the millions of pilgrims journeying to the Holy Cities. It proposes to strike a balance between urbanism and protecting sacred and natural features to preserve the setting in which the rituals have been performed since the time of the Prophet (PBUH).

Forty-two inter-disciplinary reports describe a coordinated and sustainable approach to urban development, transportation-infrastructure as well as environmental stewardship while maintaining focus on the sacred rituals of pilgrims.

The planning strategies, developed by Moriyama & Teshima / MMM Group, were presented to the Development Commissions of Mecca and Madinah and reviewed by international experts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In August 2012, His Royal Highness, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and his Council of Ministers endorsed the Comprehensive Master Plan. Since then various agencies have been working towards implementation.

If you would like further information on this project please contact Jason Moriyama.

Links:

"Pilgrimage's Progress"
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