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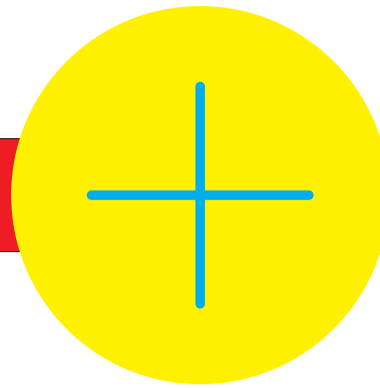
Scotland's first cinema still screens movies



A Scottish cinema built over 100 years ago that is said to be the oldest surviving purpose-built movie theatre in the country remains open to this day.

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Kashan's Aqa Bozorg Mosque, fusion of Iranian and Islamic cultures

One of the most significant buildings in Iranian architecture is Aqa Bozorg Mosque in Kashan, Isfahan Province. You can see a fusion of Iranian and Islamic cultures in this

mosque. Aqa Bozorg Mosque, which stands out in the heart of the desert, is one of the most magnificent monuments left from the Qajar Period (1789-1925 CE), surfiran.com wrote.

This mosque is located in a complex consisting of a mosque and a school, which is attributed to Mullah Mahdi Naraq, a Shi'a scholar. This mosque has exquisite decorations and elements used in it. The muqarnas structure of the mosque's entrance and delicate plasterworks and unique tile works dazzle the eyes.

Aqa Bozorg Mosque has five floors and two courtyards at the top and bottom. One of the most outstanding points about the site is that it combines the mosque and the school, and all the diverse spaces needed by the two buildings are placed together. Aqa Bozorg School was built

in the style of Chahar Bag and Sadr Schools in Isfahan. The existence of the Khajeh Tajeddin historical monument, which is 700 years old and located in the east of the mosque, cannot be ignored. Another unusual part of this historical building is its portal, which reminds us of old Iranian gardens. This portal has caused the porticoes and the dome to have a certain height, which is different from usual architecture.

The central courtyard and the lovely pool in its middle are good examples of Persian architecture. Another place of wonder in this structure is the ceiling under the dome. Moreover, the school located next to the mosque

has a badgir, the traditional wind-catcher in Persian architecture that worked as an air-conditioner for the building. All of these elements represent the simple life of both the people and rulers of Kashan many years ago. Other than admiring its beauty, the best thing to do is to take your camera and capture little interesting details that you find in every corner of this majestic mosque.

Agha Bozorg Mosque is in the heart of Kashan, so you have easy access to most of the famous tourist attractions of Kashan such as Borujerdiha House, Tabatabaei House, Ameri House, Sultan Amir Ahmad Bathhouse, and the Toy Museum.



Itto.org

Brazilian favela 'shack' wins 'house of the year' award

At first glance, it is a house like dozens of others in the crowded favelas of Brazil. But this seemingly modest dwelling of 66 square metres (710 square feet), with its exposed brick walls, has just been recognised as the "house of the year" in an international architecture competition.

The house honoured by specialised website ArchDaily belongs to Kdu dos Anjos, a 32-year-old artist living in the bustling Aglomerado da Serra favela at the bottom of a hill on the edge of the southeastern city of Belo Horizonte, aljazeera.com reported. The two-storey structure defeated some more imposing

contest entries from India, Mexico, Vietnam and Germany. "I'm very proud that my house won this prize, because most of the news about the favelas talks of violence and homes destroyed by landslides," said dos Anjos. "Today, my home is on top of the world!"

The house, built on a small lot dos Anjos purchased in 2017, is well ventilated and enjoys abundant natural light; it features horizontal casement windows and a large terrace. "The design of the house represents a constructive model that uses common materials in the slums, with an adequate implementation and attention

to lighting and ventilation, resulting in a space with great environmental quality," ArchDaily wrote on its website.

For dos Anjos, who founded a cultural centre in his community, the prize carries special significance.

"I know my house isn't the most chic in the world, but it's a well-built shack," he says with a grin.

Dos Anjos has been living there since 2020, along with two dogs, a cat and more than 60 plants.

"What the architects did is pure magic," he added. "We barely have 66 square metres, but I've had parties here with close to 200 people." One apparent difference with



nearby houses is in the arrangement of the bricks, laid horizontally — not vertically — and in staggered rows, which adds solidity and im-

proves insulation.

"Winning this prize after having suffered from architecture-related problems represents a great victory for me."

What does generative AI mean for Moroccan artists?



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is getting more advanced and complex at a daily rate, with generative AI the most visible in our current online environment. While experts remain divided on whether AI is a force for good or evil in the long run, a variety of companies are rushing forward with their advances in what has been dubbed an "AI arms race."

The current form of generative AI went viral after OpenAI released its ChatGPT tool, which allows anyone to interact with its AI to produce a variety of written text and even coding. While ChatGPT received the most attention out of all the current AI technology in development, it is by far the most advanced system on offer.

Over the past year Generative AI has expanded into AI-produced visuals, with paid tools such as MidJourney and OpenAI's DALL-E. These tools offer users the ability to produce striking, and sometimes unnerving, imagery using simple textual prompts, morocoworldnews.com wrote.

The advances in generative AI took another leap when an open-source tool, Stability AI's Stable Diffusion, allowed users to run AI models directly from their computers, away from the control and content moderation of the companies that typically produce such tools.

For Moroccan artists, this element of an AI learning and copying a particular style has the potential to allow anyone around the world to replicate their local style, whether it be orientalist paintings of fantasias seen at most Moroccan tourist shops, or even the intricate patterns of Zellige and Moroccan fashion.

While generative AI holds great potential for creatives without much actual artistic skill, for many artists around the world the tools present an "adapt or die" moment. With governments being years behind on AI-related legislation, many are trying to use existing copyright law to fight back. Yet AI companies such as Stability AI insist that allegations of copyright infringement "represent a misunderstanding about how our technology works and the law."