



Venice, Italy. (Photograph courtesy of Rita Crane Photography.)

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## MURAQQA'



MURAQQA'  
*Returning to the City*, digital collage  
by Dhuru A. Thadani, 2009

The Persian word *muraqqa'* translates as "patched," as in a collection of recycled fabric that was sown together to make a cloak, worn by a Sufi sage to signify poverty. The word came to be applied to an "album" produced to record the life of Mogul emperors. These royal albums were in fact a patchwork of paper construction, which included paintings, calligraphy, pieces of script, and nonfigural decoration.

Most of the ideas within the book have been spawned by empirical observation, lectures I have attended, and conversations I have had over the past thirty-five years. I have and continue to imbue myself in matters concerning cities, urban form, and historical precedents.

The sketchbooks I customarily carried have served as a journal, and have been a guide and reference for what is contained in the following pages. Experiences and observations usually led to taking notes and recording images through sketches, which in turn produced diagrams and drawings.

The reader should consider this publication a *muraqqa'*, as it is an appropriate term for this patchwork collection of words and terms that document my love affair with urbanism.

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