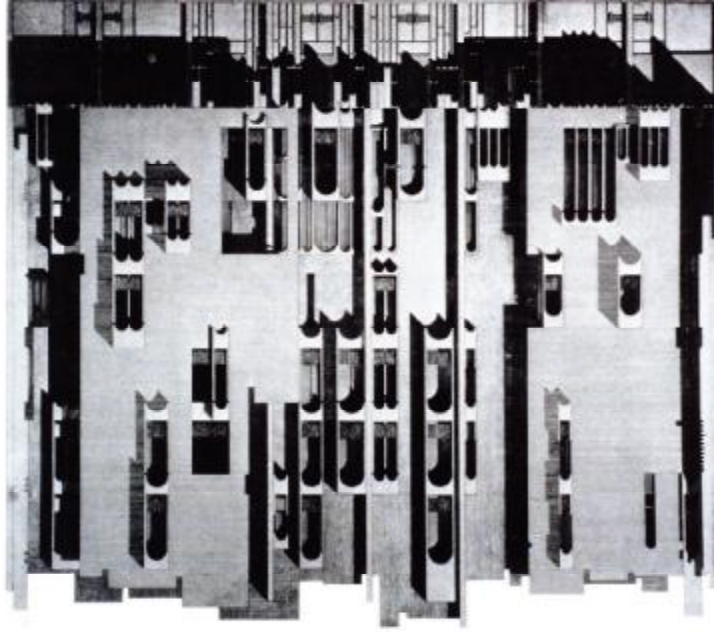


New developments in the construction industry and progress in building technology that spread around the globe were major elements in globalising the built environment. Villas of the 1950s, inspired by American and European architecture, could be seen in the affluent neighbourhoods of Beirut, Alexandria, Istanbul and Tehran.

Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM) and Saeed HAKKI Eldem, Istanbul Hilton, Istanbul, 1955
 Turkey's first five-star hotel with 258 rooms, the Istanbul Hilton epitomised the modern, Cereusian in style. It was raised on concrete pilots, with balconies, and had a domed nightclub.

Fatih Chedeffi, Exchanges of Federation of Iraqi Industries, Baghdad, 1966
 Before Chedeffi's search for a regional Modernism that synthesised elements of the rich Islamic heritage with the principles of 20th-century international architecture, found expression in central-concrete buildings and in his plans for Baghdad.



The 1950s onwards saw a parallel attempt among the intelligentsia in search of the 'local modern', and in architecture this was not only expressed in formal aspects in the design of buildings, but also in architectural discourse. In Turkey, Saeed Haki Eldem (1926–86) was a pioneer; his ideas and buildings have had a great impact on the next generation of architects. In Egypt, Hassan Fathy introduced the idea of 'architecture for the poor', which was welcomed internationally before being accepted by Egyptian architects.³ Rifaat Chadirji's projects in the 1960s and 1970s, and his writing in Arabic, reached far beyond his home country Iraq. Iran in the late 1960s and early 1970s enjoyed a blooming of a contemporary Iranian architecture by a number of young architects. In 1978, Bernard Huet, editor of *l'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, dedicated an issue to Hassan Fathy and the new Iranian architecture, introducing these emerging trends to a Western audience.

In the 1980s and 1990s, following the oil boom and the introduction of free-market policies, some countries (including Turkey, and especially in the Gulf region) witnessed a construction boom. In Iran, the 1979 revolution, eight years of war with Iraq, a Western boycott and mass migration of the intelligentsia caused a rupture of architectural production. Although a large quantity of construction took place, the