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The American Clean Energy and Security Act: An Important First Step

Taqir Washington
Kendall Scott

On the evening of June 26th, members of the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass a controversial new climate change bill by the nerve-racking margin of 219 to 212. Introduced in mid-May, the legislation promises to cut America's greenhouse gas emissions 17 percent by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050—if it passes the Senate that is. While considerable obstacles remain between the bill and the President's desk, policy makers are optimistic. The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, or the Waxman-Markey bill as it's known around the Hill, marks a long-awaited first step in climate change legislation, and could revolutionize the way Americans use energy.

On Sunday the 28th, President Obama held an interview at the White House to discuss the implications of Friday's vote. Though unsure on some of the last minute amendments, the President stated his excitement and support for the bill's success. "This is an extraordinary first step," he explained, "I think what seems controversial now is going to seem like common sense in hindsight."

The President wasn't the only one talking about the bill. Across the Capital, environmental, economic, and political experts met to weigh-in on and evaluate the proposed legislation. At the National Press Club, Robert H. Frank, author of the *Economic Naturalist* and professor of

economics at Cornell University, and Eric Carlson, president of the environmental group Carbonfund.org, discussed the feasibility of a carbon offsets program, one of the bill's main components. As moderator Mark Schoeff whispered to the panelists before beginning, attendance was quite limited, not due to a lack of interest, but because so many similar events were occurring that same day. One was taking place just down the hall.

Discussion of the Clean Energy Act has been so extensive, because the bill's provisions are highly controversial. Written by House Representatives Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, and Ed Markey, a Democrat from Massachusetts, the bill is over 1,200 pages long, not including amendments. Within these pages is a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support renewable energy, develop environmentally friendly technologies, and promote an energy efficient economy. Such measures could obviously be quite damaging to coal, automotive, petroleum, and manufacturing industries, which produce the most pollutants and rely heavily on cheap electricity. Lobbyists from these groups are very powerful in Washington and have exerted significant pressure to reduce the bill's impacts.

Representatives from states such as West Virginia, where coal mining is directly responsible for around 40,000 jobs, are also unenthusiastic about legislation that would harm their key industries. A major criticism, primarily coming from House

Republicans, is that Waxman-Markey would hurt some states and businesses more than others, picking winners and losers, to use political terminology. In places like West Virginia, this could spell considerable job-loss and economic hardship in the midst of an already crippling recession. Though supporters of the legislation point to provisions for new green jobs and transitional assistance for groups hit the hardest, with such high stakes, it's no wonder the Clean Energy and Security Act has incited debate.

Of course, partisanship has played an important roll in Waxman-Markey's rocky road to victory as well. Of the 219 Representatives who voted in favor of the bill, 211 were Democrats and only 8 were Republicans. Of the 212 Nay votes, 148 were Republicans and 44 Democrats. The Democrats who defected were primarily from heavy industry, Rust-Belt states, where a vote in favor of climate change regulations amounts to political suicide. The Republican Party is already moving in on vulnerable freshman Congressmen, whose votes supporting the bill may anger constituents and make reelection difficult. On the other end of the spectrum, some Democratic progressives felt that, after concessions to Republicans and industrial interest groups, the Clean Energy and Security Act simply does not do enough.

Even moments before the deciding vote took place Friday night, a number of Congress men and women remained on the fence. The bill's ultimate success in the House has been attributed largely to the aggressive

lobbying of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Democratic heavyweights, who pulled out all the stops to ensure victory. Pelosi and her supporters cajoled, sweet-talked, and argued with last minute undecideds to make sure that the necessary 'Aye' votes were in place. President Obama, who like Pelosi has staked a huge amount of personal prestige on the bill's success, even pitched-in and called crucial Representatives.

But what does the Clean Energy and Security bill actually mean? Despite rampant debate throughout the capital, many Americans remain unaware of climate change legislation's existence, much less its implications. The House is, after all, only step one in what will be a very difficult process. If the Clean Energy and Security Act is to be signed into law by President Obama, it must pass through the Senate, where it will most certainly be subject to more fierce negotiations and political bickering. California Democrat Barbara Boxer is set to introduce the bill to the upper house later this summer and 60 favorable votes will be necessary to ensure that Republicans do not simply filibuster it to death. According to the *New York Times*, only 45 yes votes are currently in place.

So if the climate change bill succeeds, what will it mean? Among the act's most poorly understood provisions is the cap-and-trade system. Cap-and-trade is a mechanism for reducing the overall amount of carbon released into the atmosphere each year by a fixed percentage. Eventually, a final goal, 83 percent by 2050 in this case, is reached. An

emissions limit, the cap, is placed on all large-scale producers through mandatory permits, which must be obtained for every ton of greenhouse gases let loose. The overall number of permits available is steadily lowered, along with the total amount of carbon discharged into the atmosphere.

The trade in cap-and-trade refers to the ability of more efficient companies, which emit less than their permits allow, to sell their extra permits to less efficient companies. Under this system, the total amount of carbon produced can be lowered in an enforceable way, but some flexibility is still allowed within the market. Industries will have a monetary incentive to become more environmentally friendly, while able to purchase additional permits as necessary.

The cap-and-trade system, if properly executed, could provide the most efficient route to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. As frequently cited by supporters of the bill, cap-and-trade has already been used successfully in the early 1990s. The 1990 Clean Air Act capped the production of sulfuric gases, which had led to problems with acid rain. And when is the last time anyone has heard of that phenomenon?

At the National Press Conference discussion, Robert H. Frank and Eric Carlson spoke in full support of a carbon offset system. Though critics claim that cap-and-trade essentially allows businesses to buy their way out of trouble, Frank explained, "all we care about is the total amount of carbon in the atmosphere." And that is certainly all the planet cares about.

Cap-and-trade gets greenhouse gas emissions down, "as quickly and efficiently and painlessly as possible," which works for the environment and the economy, Carlson pointed out.

Still, the costs of a cap-and-trade program remain widely contested, and not just in the House. According to the Congressional Budget Office estimate, by 2020 carbon offsets will raise electricity prices by 175 dollars a year for the average American household. According to the American Petroleum Institute on the other hand, by that same year the price will have risen 3,000 dollars per household. The heightened cost of production for energy-dependent industries could push businesses out of the United States to countries with no regulations at all. In addition to the loss of American jobs, this could actually increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the air.

Though the Clean Energy and Security Act is not perfect, according to any side of the debate, it is an enforceable, efficient, and economically feasible mechanism to reduce the amount of carbon in our atmosphere. Voluntary emission caps have already been attempted but, as President Obama explained, "American ingenuity and technology moves a lot faster when incentives are in place." The cap-and-trade system outlined in the Waxman-Markey bill would provide such incentives, and could perhaps help reposition the United States at the forefront of a climate change solution. And in an environmental crisis that's implications are as global as its causes, even a first step is cause to celebrate.

VACANCY Project Accountant

Higher Education Development Project II

I. General Functional Areas of the Project Accountant

Under the supervision of the project's Financial Management Officer, the accountant will be in charge of recording of all financial transactions, keeping the supporting documents, preparing the financial reports of the project as required by the government regulations and the IDA credit, preparing annual and interim project's financial statements to reflect the financial positions of the project for auditing purposes. The accountant is hired as an assistant to the financial manager to support both the PHRD and PPF once on board, and if determined to be a good candidate, s/he can be proposed for the HEDP II.

The Project Accountant's basic functions will be as follows:

1. Collect and file all supporting documentation on all financial transactions of the project under the Higher Education Project (HEDP) management.
2. Record on a daily basis all financial transactions after ensuring that they have been properly authorized and in accordance with the budget and the HEDP procedures of internal control.
3. Prepare bank reconciliation between the bank's account and the Special Account (SA) withdrawals, on a monthly basis, to reflect the monthly receipts and disbursements from the SA.
4. Prepare quarterly project financial statements under the HEDP direct management, and liaise with the procurement officer, to include procurement quarterly results and the project's physical progress of activities as measured by the project's indicators. Based on the above, prepare the Project Financial Management Report (FMR) to be submitted to the SC and then to the Bank.
5. Prepare the credit withdrawal applications with supporting documentation and submit it to the HEDP manager for approval and then submission to IDA for replenishment of funds as needed.
6. Assist the external auditors in performing their annual audit of the project by providing necessary documentation, written procedures, and annual financial statements.
7. Any other tasks as required by the project Financial Management Officer.

II. Qualifications

- ✶ A minimum of five years of private sector accounting experience preferably with an auditing of accounting firm.
- ✶ A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in accounting or auditing.
- ✶ A good knowledge and use of the generally accepted principles.
- ✶ The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project's financial statements and other reports as needed by the project management.
- ✶ Proficiency in both Arabic and English
- ✶ Familiarity with computers, accounting and other software applications.

All applications along with a detailed resume should be submitted before October 7, 2009 to the following address:

Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research
Higher Education Development Project II
Alriyadh St. — Next to Alroni Building
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Tel: 471196 — 468466, Fax: 471195
Email: Info@hepyemen.org



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Save the Children in Yemen is looking for eligible candidates for the positions of:

Project Officer and 4 Project Assistants for its Child Protection/Education In Emergencies Program in Harad (Hajja) and Amran

The successful candidate for the **Project Officer** position will be managing the implementation and monitoring of a project with community based Child Protection/Education in Emergencies activities through several partner-NGOs. Duties and responsibilities include ensuring the establishment of and functioning of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), as well as development of Child Protective Networks through Child Protection Committees. In addition the Project Officer is expected to support education activities, including the establishment of temporary learning spaces. The position requires ability to liaise and coordinate with community members, humanitarian organizations and Governmental service sectors (education, health, social, legal etc).

The successful candidates for the **Project Assistant** positions will be assisting the project officer in the implementation of the project, including supporting partner NGOs with the implementation of regular activities for conflict affected children.

Requirements for the Project Officer position: College degree, computer literate and verified work experience with child protection and/or education programs, community mobilization and training skills, as well as monitoring and supporting partner NGOs.

Requirements for the Project Assistant position: At least 12th grade education, and verified work experience with child protection and/or education programs, community mobilization and training skills.

For both positions Save the Children expects willingness to do fieldwork, demonstration of well-developed skills for interpersonal communication and an ability to maintain goal-oriented when exposed to stress in emergencies. Save the Children is looking for applicants, both men and women with enthusiasm and commitment to address the right of children to be protected from harm in emergencies from Harad and Amran.

Applications and requests for a detailed Job Description need to be addressed to:

Hisham Al Hakimi,
Administrator
halhakimi@scsmena.org
Fax: 203729

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Visiting address: Algeria Street, (behind Tehama Co)

Closing date for the submission of applications is the 19 of October, 2009.

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In memory of poet Abdullah Al- Baradoni

He was a Yemeni poet, satirist, writer, radio manager, and even divorce lawyer. On the tenth anniversary of his death, Abdullah Al-Baradoni is remembered.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Yemen's late poet Abdullah Al-Baradoni was born in the village of Baradon in 1929. He contracted small pox at the age of five, leading him to lose his eyesight completely by the age of six.

He began school in his village at the age of seven, and two years later moved to Dhamar city where he enrolled at the Shamsia School. When he was 13 years old, he simultaneously started reading old poetry and writing his own.

As an adolescent, he satirized the Imamate in some of his poems which he circulated in secret, and in 1948 was arrested and thrown into prison for nine months.

He moved to Sana'a before he was 20, after his release. He studied in its Grand Mosque, the moved to Dar Al-Ulum at the beginning of 1940 to study poetry and language.

He graduated from Dar Al-Ulum with distinction and a certificate in Islamic law and Arabic language sciences. After graduation, he was

became a teacher at Dar Al-Ulum.

From 1954 to 1956, he practiced law, especially arguing the cases of divorced women, earning himself the name "the divorcees' lawyer."

After the 1962 revolution, he started working for Sana'a Radio, where he became manager in 1969 and, later, head of the programs until 1980.

He continued preparing a rich literature program called "Magazine of Thought and Literature" each week until his death in 1999.

He worked as supervisor for the army magazine from 1969 until 1975 and had a weekly article each week entitled "Thought and Literature Issues" and a weekly article in Al-Thawra newspaper entitled "Cultural Issues."

He was one of the first people to call for the creation of the Union for Yemeni Authors and Men of Letters, and was voted in as its first chairman.

Al-Baradoni was a prolific writer and published 12 volumes of poetry. Among these were: From the Land of Sheba, On the Path of Dawn, The City of Tomorrow, Journey to the Green Days, Smokey Faces in Night Mirrors,

The Quality of Time, Creatures of the Second Nostalgia, The Fluidity of Light, Answer to the Ages, and The Return of Wiseman Ben Zaid.

Al-Baradoni also authored a number of books and studies, including: A Journey in Modern and Ancient Yemen poetry, Yemeni issues, Popular culture in Yemen, Popular culture, Yemeni Experience and Sayings, Culture and the Yemeni revolution, From the First Poem to the Last Bullet: A Poetic Study of Zubairi Poetry and his Life.

Al-Baradoni, as described by most critics, contributed to the rising of the Arabic poem along with a few great poets. Not only that, but he was described as one of the best contemporary Arabic poets to enrich Arabic literature with their great works.

Al-Baradoni's life was characterized with many variables, a radical politician, fond of his country and heritage, and a writing hero in a half-educated country. In spite of being a blind, he could see what sighted people could not and he did not hesitate to express his own views transparently.

However, most of his works were not published during his life and this can be attributed to the negligence which struck his work throughout his life. It is a pity to notice that we remember our intellectuals after their death only.

It is an occasion to ask the related

authorities to publish all his works as this is the least we can do for such a great poet who lived in poverty and overcame unbearable circumstances.

A vacuum in poetry

"The great poet Abdullah Al-Baradoni's passing away has left a great vacuum in the arena of poetry," said Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, an advisor to the president and director of the Yemen Center for Studies and Research.

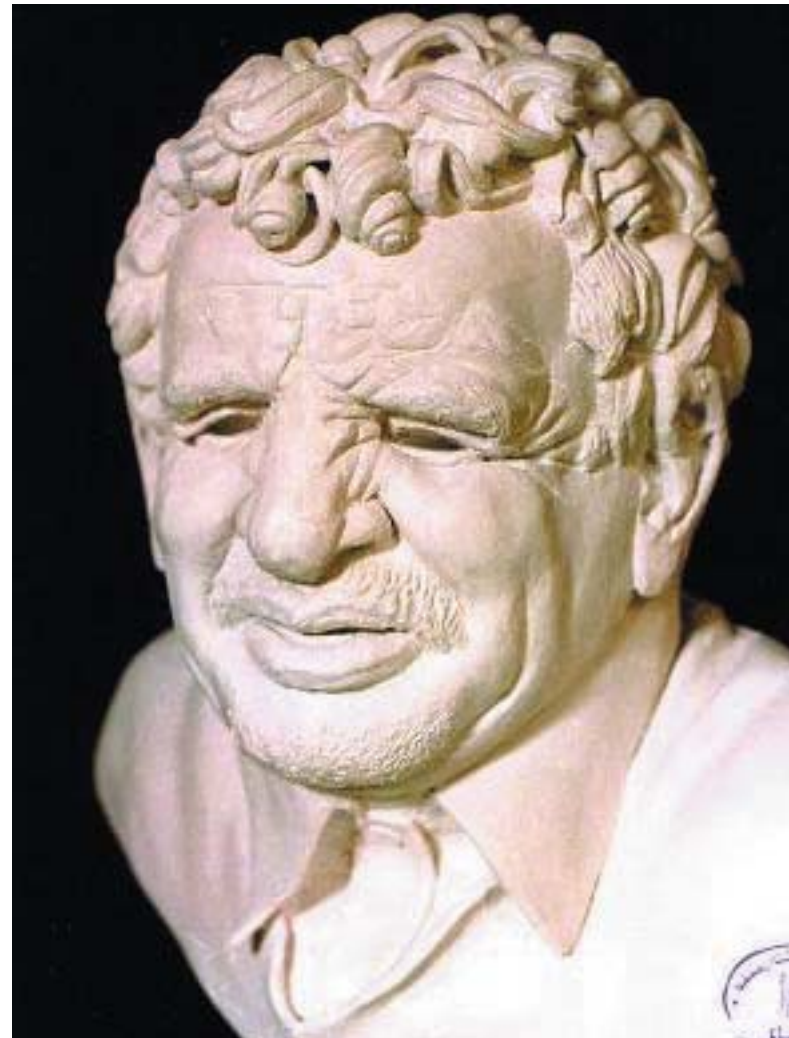
"This vacuum can be filled only by his works, which were and will remain the subject of unlimited interest for coming generations in Yemen," he said. "This generation has lagged far behind the field of literary and creativity."

Minister of Culture Mohammad Abu Bakr Al-Muflehi said that Al-Baradoni is one of the most important symbols of global culture in the second half of the 20th century.

"He is one of those people who raised the name of Yemen in the Arab and international forums," said Al-Muflehi. "Yemen now has a prominent location on the map of Arab culture."

"At the end of each August, we remember how death has taken our poet, philosopher, and thinker," he said.

"He took it upon himself to upgrade, develop, and renovate Arab poetry to



become one of its best-known poets," he said.

Arab life, with all its triumphs, advances, and defeats.
On Aug. 30, 1999, during his last journey to Jordan for medical treatment for various ailments, his heart stopped beating. He is considered by many to be one of the greatest Arab poets of the twentieth century.

Ahmed Al-Baradoni was not only a prominent poet, but a distinguished intellectual in local and Arab cultural affairs.

He was also a link between modernity and Arab heritage. His writings were a profound analysis of the realities of

Renaissance personalities



The Renaissance period (1350-1550) was the transition period between the medieval era and the modern world. The word renaissance means "revival" or "rebirth". This was a period of great achievements in the arts and sciences combined with deep religious concerns. The Renaissance became one of the most productive periods in all history.

Renaissance architecture

At the end of the fourteenth century, the impressiveness of gothic architecture began to wear off. Europe was coming out of the middle ages, and into the Renaissance. The architects of the time changed their architecture to fit the era. They revived many of the ideas from classical (Greek and Roman) architecture. They did, however, use materials not associated with Greek and Roman architecture such as brick, and the color red became common. Artists and architects worked together much more, and many renaissance buildings have statues, murals, and much more artwork to go with them.

Renaissance architecture began in Florence, Italy in the early fifteenth century. Italy had never really used gothic architecture, so when gothic became less popular, Italy had something different for the people to look to. The style spread to the area around Florence, encompassing Rome and Milan. Then it somehow got up to the Netherlands, and spread to the rest of Europe from there. Renaissance architecture was somewhat different in the rest of Europe than in Italy, but the basic principals were the same. Renaissance architecture did not get to France until nearly 125 years after it began in Florence.

A common feature of renaissance architecture was the dome. Almost all renaissance cathedrals had domes. Many domes had paintings or decorations on the ceilings. French renaissance architecture had outer walls, and towers, and the domes were usually only on the inside of a building. Some good examples of renaissance architecture with domes are the Duomo of Florence, and St. Peter's cathedral in Rome. Famous architects and artists such as Michelangelo Buonarroti, Leonardo Di Vinci, and Filippo Brunelleschi were shapers of renaissance architecture.

The renaissance style

The Renaissance style places emphasis on symmetry, proportion, geometry and the regularity of parts as they are demonstrated in the architecture of classical antiquity and in particular ancient Roman architecture, of which many examples remained. Orderly arrangements of columns, pilasters and

lintels, as well as the use of semicircular arches, hemispherical domes, niches and aedicules replaced the more complex proportional systems and irregular profiles of medieval buildings.

Developed first in Florence, with Filippo Brunelleschi as one of its innovators, the Renaissance style quickly spread to other Italian cities and then to France, Germany, England, Russia and elsewhere.

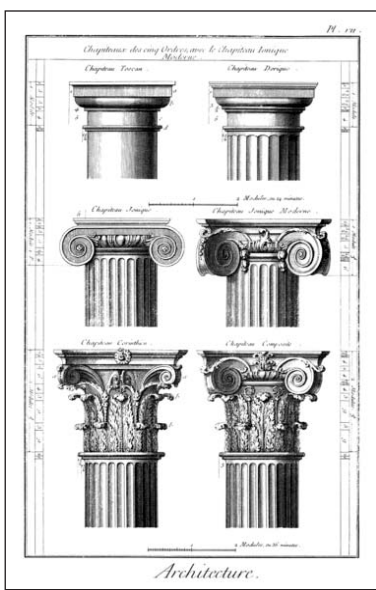
The obvious distinguishing features of Classical Roman architecture were adopted by Renaissance architects. However, the forms and purposes of buildings had changed over time. So had the structure of cities. Among the earliest buildings of the reborn Classicism were churches of a type that the Romans had never constructed. Neither were there models for the type of large city dwellings required by wealthy merchants of the 15th century. Conversely, there was no call for enormous sporting fixtures and public bath houses such as the Romans had built. The ancient orders were analysed and reconstructed to serve new purposes.

Plan

The plans of Renaissance buildings have a square, symmetrical appearance in which proportions are usually based on a module. Within a church the module is often the width of an aisle. The need to integrate the design of the plan with the façade was introduced as an issue in the work of Filippo Brunelleschi, but he was never able to carry this aspect of his work into fruition. The first building to demonstrate this was St. Andrea in Mantua by Alberti. The development of the plan in secular architecture was to take place in the 16th century and culminated with the work of Palladio.

Facade

Façades are symmetrical around their vertical axis. Church façades are generally surmounted by a pediment and organized by a system of pilasters, arches and entablatures. The columns and windows show a progression towards the center. One of the first true Renaissance façades was the Cathedral of Pienza (1459–62), which has been attributed to the Florentine architect Bernardo Gambarelli (known as Rossellino) with Alberti perhaps having some responsibility in its design as



Classical Orders, engraving from the Encyclopedie vol. 18, 18th century.

well.

Domestic buildings are often surmounted by a cornice. There is a regular repetition of openings on each floor, and the centrally placed door is marked by a feature such as a balcony, or rusticated surround. An early and much copied prototype was the façade for the Palazzo Rucellai (1446 and 1451) in Florence with its three registers of pilasters

Columns and Pilasters

The Roman orders of columns are used: Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite. The orders can either be structural, supporting an arcade or architrave, or purely decorative, set against a wall in the form of pilasters. During the Renaissance, architects aimed to use columns, pilasters, and entablatures as an integrated system. One of the first buildings to use pilasters as an integrated system was in the Old Sacristy (1421–1440) by Brunelleschi.

Arches

Arches are semi-circular or (in the Mannerist style) segmental. Arches are often used in arcades, supported on piers or columns with capitals. There may be a section of entablature



The dome of San Pietro in Vaticano (Saint Peter's Basilica) in Rome, seen from the roof of Engelsburg.

between the capital and the springing of the arch. Alberti was one of the first to use the arch on a monumental scale at the St. Andrea in Mantua.

Vaults

Vaults do not have ribs. They are semi-circular or segmental and on a square plan, unlike the Gothic vault which is frequently rectangular. The barrel vault, is returned to architectural vocabulary as at the St. Andrea in Mantua.

Domes

The dome is used frequently, both as a very large structural feature that is visible from the exterior, and also as a means of roofing smaller spaces where they are only visible internally. Domes had been used only rarely in the Middle Ages, but after the success of the dome in Brunelleschi's design for the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore and its use in Bramante's plan for St. Peter's Basilica (1506) in Rome, the dome became an indispensable element in church architecture and later even for secular architecture, such as Palladio's Villa Rotonda.[12]

Ceilings

Roofs are fitted with flat or coffered ceilings. They are not left open as in



Interior of Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral in Montreal. Personal snapshot by Montréalais, August 2003.

Medieval architecture. They are frequently painted or decorated.

Doors

Doors usually have square lintels. They may be set within an arch or surmounted by a triangular or segmental pediment. Openings that do not have doors are usually arched and frequently have a large or decorative keystone.

Windows

Windows may be paired and set within a semi-circular arch. They may have square lintels and triangular or segmental pediments, which are often used alternately. Emblematic in this respect is the Palazzo Farnese in Rome, begun in 1517.

In the Mannerist period the "Palladian" arch was employed, using a motif of a high semi-circular topped opening flanked with two lower square-topped openings. Windows are used to bring light into the building and in domestic architecture, to give views. Stained glass, although sometimes present, is not a feature.

Walls

External walls are generally of highly-finished ashlar masonry, laid in straight courses. The corners of buildings are



Renaissance façade of Graça Church in Evora, Portugal.

often emphasised by rusticated quoins. Basements and ground floors were often rusticated, as modeled on the Palazzo Medici Riccardi (1444–1460) in Florence. Internal walls are smoothly plastered and surfaced with white-chalk paint. For more formal spaces, internal surfaces are decorated with frescoes.

Details

Courses, mouldings and all decorative details are carved with great precision. Studying and mastering the details of the ancient Romans was one of the important aspects of Renaissance theory. The different orders each required different sets of details. Some architects were stricter in their use of classical details than others, but there was also a good deal of innovation in solving problems, especially at corners. Mouldings stand out around doors and windows rather than being recessed, as in Gothic Architecture. Sculptured figures may be set in niches or placed on plinths. They are not integral to the building as in Medieval architecture.

Sources: Wikipedia, Inside Architecture: library.thinkquest.org

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TIS students do charity work in Ramadan

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Turkish International School in Yemen's personnel, teachers, students and their parents organized a Ramadan food package delivery campaign for poor and needy families in Sana'a.

Besides learning how to organize a charitable event, students realized that people in need are just next door and that everyone should feel responsibility for them. These activities are part of extracurricular activities to encourage interaction between students and the community.

Every year the school delivers this aid to poor families. This year, 500 needy families received the packages. Each package included rice, sugar, oil, tomato paste, beans, noodles and biscuits.

The renowned Turkish nongovernmental organization Kimse Yok Mu Association collected the majority of the



donations and Yemeni businessmen also contributed with rice and other food.

School teachers and personnel distributed packages to families in Sunaina, Hail, Almajd Janubiyya areas.

Turkish International Schools traditionally carry out charity and social serv-

ices campaigns in order to encourage the students' to have a sense of community and their parents to contribute to the welfare of society.

The school's mission is to serve parents looking for excellent education in a purposeful, productive, caring and support-

ive environment, through recognizing and developing the individual ability, talents and interest of each child, in a serious and pleasant learning environment.

In previous years, the school has provided aid to hundreds of poor Yemeni families. After collecting the donations and purchasing the food, staff and parent and student volunteers divide the food into bags in preparation for distribution.

The school has a list of poor families in Sana'a and updates the list every year.

The students then start the distribution under the supervision of teachers, using the school vehicles. Students knock on doors, greet the families with a smile, and hand them the items. Families have already become used to kind gestures from the school and receive the students with warm hugs and gratitude.

This campaign has mobilized the students' sense of ownership and initiative towards their communities' problems, and they worked hard to collect donations from their parents and larger circles.

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