

WAFÀ YAHYA, MA ARCH

Architect Engineer | Spatial Researcher | AIA Assoc

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Architectural engineer and spatial designer and researcher with over 3 years of professional experience, currently undertaking a **PhD in Architecture, Interiors and Urbanism** at the University of Portsmouth. My doctoral research examines spatial theory, narratology, and the socio-ethical dimensions of urban design. Alongside my doctoral work, I lead the Blueprint Studio mentorship programme and contribute to undergraduate teaching. My work integrates research and design to promote adaptable, inclusive, and socially engaged architecture.

EDUCATION

PhD Architecture

University of Portsmouth

Expected 2028

MA Architecture – Spatial Design Practices - (Distinction)

University of Portsmouth

July 2025

- Received Academic Award
- Main Course Representative, Student Voice Committee.
- Thesis: “*Spatial Politics and the Right to Play: A Critical Study of Urban Design Norms*”

BSc Architectural Engineering

University of Sharjah, UAE

July 2020

- Senior Project: Socially responsive cultural/entertainment/education centre (A+)
- Alumni Voice Representative for MSc Architecture Accreditation (2023)

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Student Coordinator – Blueprint Studio

University of Portsmouth – Sept 2024 – Present

- Founded and coordinated a cross-year mentorship initiative focused on CAD, rendering, post-production, and architectural hand drawing.
- Designed curriculum modules in collaboration with peers and mentors; introduced additional sessions based on student feedback.
- Managed student engagement via social media, posters, and email campaigns.

Student Demonstrator – Communication Module for BA2 and IAD2

University of Portsmouth – TB1 2024

- Supported second-year students in architectural communication and representation through in-person sessions.
- Assisted in module delivery, offering software, visual, and narrative feedback during project development.

ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Architect – Muhanned Kurdi Architects

Khobar, Saudi Arabia – June – July 2023

- Developed preliminary designs and plans for five Aramco Ajyal projects, including elevations, layouts, and initial structural coordination.

Assistant Architect – Sustainable Buildings Consultancy

Dammam, Saudi Arabia – Feb 2020 – Apr 2021 – Dec 2021 – Apr 2022

- Led zoning and facade design for large-scale residential, commercial, and resort projects (300–1600 m²).
- Produced full licensing packages; coordinated with clients, municipal engineers, and consultants.

Freelance Architect / Interior Designer

Various Locations (Khobar, Riyadh, Sudan, Dubai) – 2021–2023

- Villa and office interior projects: space planning, client consultation, and layout design.
- Projects include: Minaret Office Villa (Khobar), Sahara Office (Dubai), bedroom design (Riyadh), and villa consultation (Sudan).

Architectural Social Media Manager – AlArfaj Engineering Consultants

Khobar, Saudi Arabia – Apr – Jul 2021

- Rebranded firm's identity and created custom client design packs, contracts, and questionnaires.
- Managed the firm's online presence and visual strategy.
- Screening applicants for open positions

Architectural Intern – EverGreen Zen

Dubai, UAE – Dec 2019 – Sept 2020

- Project team member for Smart Home integration (Avario) and international sustainable design projects (CoolBox, Space). Supported 3D drafting, materials submission, and inter-office coordination. Hardware sponsorship representative for SDME TeamSharjah

COMPETITIONS & DESIGN CHALLENGES

Ithra UNICEF Child Friendly City Design – Dammam, 2023

- Designed a play-informed waiting space using Playwork principles (Dr. Shelly Newstead)

Kef Holdings Villa Competition – Semi-Finalist, Dubai, 2019

- Developed BIM LOD300 modular volumetric design with precast techniques for Dubai-based villa system.

SKILLS & SOFTWARE

- Leadership and organizational skills. | Tutorials and feedback delivery | Visual storytelling
- Revit | AutoCAD | SketchUp | Enscape | Photoshop | InDesign | Illustrator
- Google Suite | MS Office | Canva | Moodle | Discord

REFERENCES

Oren Lieberman | Professor in Architecture | Oren.Lieberman@port.ac.uk

Nicola Crowson | Associate Head of Architecture | nicola.crowson@port.ac.uk

Rachael Brown | Senior Lecturer in Architecture | rachael.brown@port.ac.uk

Najla Mansour | Lecturer in Architecture | najla.mansour@port.ac.uk