



Ahmad Sukkar

P.h.D., M.Res. M.Arch, PG.Dip.Arch., B.Arch.

Visiting Assistant Professor

Islamic Art and Architecture, Cultural Heritage, Urban Conflict, and Modern Design

Architectural Engineering Department 2020-21

(in collaboration with the College of Fine Arts and Design and ICCROM-Sharjah)

Currently shortlisted, Mohamed Makiya Prize 2020, "Middle Eastern Architectural Personality of the Year"

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جامعة الشارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

كلية الهندسة
COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING

EDUCATION

London Consortium (Architectural Association, Birkbeck (University of London), Institute of Contemporary Arts, Science Museum & Tate).
Doctor of Philosophy, Architectural Humanities & Cultural Studies 07-15
Shortlisted for the De Gruyter Prize for the Study of Islam and the Muslim World, British Assoc. for Islamic Studies. Won an International Classical Islamic World Book Prize, Gorgias Press.
Master's Degree (Research), **Humanities & Cultural Studies** (Architectural Humanities) 06-07
1st Prize Award, English Heritage & Archaeopress Poster Competition, Dpr. of Archaeology, University of Southampton

Architectural Association School of Architecture's Design Research Lab (AA's DRL), London
Master's Degree (Post-professional, Architectural (parametric) Design), **Arch. & Urbanism**, Thesis-project distinction 04-06
7th Far Eastern International Digital Archi. Design Award - Design Merit

Faculty of Architecture, Damascus University
Postgraduate Diploma, Architectural Design, distinction 01-03
Bachelor's Degree, Architecture, distinction 96-01
Scholarship for Master's and PhD Degrees in the UK 04
Award for Academic Excellence, Ministry of Higher Education 99

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (selection)

London School of Economics and Political Science
Training Researcher 13-14

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of Architecture & Planning, Department of Architecture - History, Theory & Criticism of Architecture & Art Program
Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Postdoctoral Fellow/Affiliate 19-20

Middle East Studies Association in North America (MESA) Global Academy (Carnegie Corporation & vast university network)
MESA Global Academy Scholar/Fellow 19-20

Arab Reform Initiative 18-19
Course Leader – Consultant (funded by EU and Germany)

Asfari Institute for Civil Society & Citizenship, American University of Beirut, project funded by Ford Foundation
Steering Committee Member 18-20

University College London-led Relief Centre's Global Associates International Network (GAIN) funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (UK)
Associate 17-20

Orient-Institut Beirut, Max Weber Foundation of German Humanities Institute Abroad
Postdoctoral Visiting Fellow 18-19

Center for Arts & Humanities, American University of Beirut Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (Syria's Reconstruction course) 17-18

Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge Visiting Lecturer (Islamic Architecture course) 17-18

Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (Uni. of Oxford) & Barakat Trust Imam Bukhari Visiting Research Fellow 14-15

Faculty of Architecture, University of Damascus Overseas Fellow 04-15
Research & Teaching Fellow & Studio Lecturer 02-04

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (DESIGN RESEARCH)

Structures of Light (Oxford, London, Beirut & Damascus) Principal Architect 00-20
Citation, European Union-Funded Sham Spiritual Oasis 08
Finalist, AA DRL's Ten Pavilion 07

Zaha Hadid Architects, London Architect 06
Royal Institute of British Architects' European Award 13

Wael Samhouri Architecture & Urban Design, Damascus Senior Architect 01-04
Cityscape Special Award, Highly Commended - Master Planning 06
Cityscape Architectural Review Award - Master Planning 04

REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIPS (selection)

ARCHITECTURE & HUMANITIES

Architectural Humanities Research Association 13
Architecture, Culture & Spirituality Forum 14
International Council on Monuments & Sites 19
Iraqi Journal of Arch. and Planning – Advisory Board 20
MIT Alumni Assoc. (Club of Boston; Arab Alumni Assoc.) 19
MIT Postdoc. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Group 19
Order of Syrian Engineers & Architects – Assoc. Architect 01
Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain 13
Syrian British Building Forum – Founder 14

MIDDLE EASTERN, TEACHING & SPIRITUAL STUDIES

British Association for Islamic Studies 16
British Society for Middle Eastern Studies – member/expert 16
International Qur'anic Studies Association 16
International Syrian Association for Education Development 20
Middle East Studies Association 20
Middle East Studies Association's Global Academy 19
Syrian Studies Association 19
Syrian Teachers Syndicate (Damascus University) 02
The Islamic Manuscript Association – member/expert 14
U.S. Department of Stat's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs - International Exchange Alumni 20

EXAMINATION & REVIEWS (selection)

University of Wales Trinity Saint David / Prince's School of Traditional Arts, London
PhD External Examiner 19-20

Department of Architecture, King AbdulAziz University
Jury Panel Member 20

Department of Architecture, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal Uni.
Jury Panel Member 20

Dpt. of Landscape Des. & Ecosystem Mngmt, American Uni. of Beirut
Jury Panel Member 17-19

Faculty of Arch. & Design, Azm University, Tripoli, Lebanon
Jury Panel Member 18-19

Department of Arch. & Interior Design, Lebanese American Uni.
Jury Panel Member 18

Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge 17-18
Assessor 17

Department of Arch. & Design, American University of Beirut
Reviewer 17

GUEST LECTURES (selection)

Federation of Arab Engineers, Organization of Arab Architects, and Order of Engineers and Architects (Beirut)
Speaker (first virtual webinar-workshop) 20

Orient-Institut Beirut
Colloquium presenter 19

Faculty of Architecture and Design, Azm University, Tripoli, Leb.
Guest Lectures, History and Theories of architecture course 18

Department of Architecture and Design, American University of Beirut
Guest lecturer, History of Art and Architecture 17

Department of Architecture and Design, American University of Beirut
Guest talks, studio supervision, participation in the final review, Architecture and Culture: Geometry and Islamic Design course 17

Department of the History of Art and Archaeology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Guest speaker, teaching seminar for the master's degree course 'Architectural Boundaries and the Body' 14-15

Khalili Research Centre, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Uni of Oxford
Guest speaker, research seminar 15

Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, University of Oxford
Guest speaker, research seminar 14

WORKSHOPS (selection)

Heinrich Boell Stiftung – Beirut Together | To Gather, The Space We Shape, Berlin/Tripoli, and online
Participant 18-20

Asfari Institute for Civil Society & Citizenship, American University of Beirut / Harvard School of Education
Participant 19

Westminster University, London Festival of Architecture
Participant, 'Syria - Visions of Hope: Blossoming Identities' 18

Centre for Arab & Middle Eastern Studies, American Uni. of Beirut
Course leader, 'Syria's Reconstruction Workshops' 18

UNESCO - Beirut, International Coalition of Inclusive & Sustainable Cities - Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia & Intolerance
Participant, 'Regional Meeting on Participatory Research & Advocacy on Urban Inclusion' 18

Beirut Arab University /Arts & Humanities Research Council, Queen's University Belfast & the University of Leeds
Participant, 'Models of Revolt: Mapping Landscapes of Urban Unrest in the Middle East' 17

The British Academy
Participant, round-table discussion on the future of Syria 16

PUBLICATIONS (selection)

Sukkar, A., H. Fakhani & S. Abou Zainedin (2020) 'Syrian (In)formal Displacement in Lebanon: Displacement as Urbanism, Informality as Architecture', Syrian Displaced Challenges Series, Asfari Institute, American University of Beirut. (Research project: The Lay of the Land: A Social Mapping of Daily Practices in Informality amongst Syrian Displaced Communities in Lebanon, implemented by Asfari Institute & funded by Ford Foundation).

REVIEWS

Sukkar, A. (2020) Review of *Reconstructing Neighborhoods of War*, Orient-Institut Beirut, 29 Nov–1 Dec 2018, *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 9 (2): 464–66.
Sukkar, A. & Orient-Institut Beirut (2019) Review of *Reconstructing Neighborhoods of War*, conf., 29 Nov–1 Dec 2018, *Annual Report 2018: Orient-Institut Beirut*, 134–35.
Sukkar, A. (2010) 'Ḍjrit minni al-Ḥiṭān: Ilā Judrān Fairūz wa Zaha wa Ummī wa Scheherazade' (Walls Are Bored with Me: To the Walls of Fairuz, Zaha, my Mother & Scheherazade), *Al-Adab* (an Arab world's leading literary journals) 58: 99–102.

DOCTORAL THESIS

Sukkar, A. (2015) 'Structures of Light: The Body & Architecture in Premodern Islam'. PhD dissertation. London: University of London.

CONFERENCES, PANEL TALKS & PUBLIC LECTURES

Sukkar, A., H. Fakhani & S. Abou Zainedin (2020). 'Syrian Displacement & Informality in Lebanon', Middle East Studies Interdisciplinary Workshops, George Washington University.
Sukkar, A. (2019) 'Syria's Reconstruction Economy: Ex- & Re-appropriation', *War Economy/ Reconstruction Economy in Syria*, Asfari Institute, American University of Beirut.
Sukkar, A. (2018) 'Envisioning Post-Conflict Realities: Challenges for Teaching Syria's Reconstruction', Asfari Institute, American University of Beirut.
Sukkar, A. (2018) 'Taught Abroad: Syrian Urban Conflict & Reconstruction in Higher Education', Public lecture, Centre for Arts & Humanities, American University of Beirut.
Sukkar, A. (2018) 'Syria's Reconstruction', Syria Workshop Panel 10: 'Reconstruction in Syria: Post-Agreement Planning or Pre-Agreement Condition? & Who Will Pay the Bill for Reconstruction?' **Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy & International Affairs, American University of Beirut.**
Sukkar, A. (2016) 'The Human Reality & the Islamic Architectural Tradition: Theoretical Aspects & Tangible Examples', international conference *Islamic Heritage Architecture & Art, Polytechnic University of València, Spain.*
Sukkar, A. (2016) 'The Structure of Divine Light & Human Knowledge', symp. *Light & Knowledge, Wolfson College, Oxford.*
Sukkar, A. (2015) 'Crossing Boundaries between the Body, Space & Architecture in the Islamic Tradition', international conf.: *The Aesthetics of Crossing: Experiencing the Beyond in Abrahamic Traditions*, funder: European Research Council, **Depart. of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Utrecht University.**

MEDIA

Sukkar, A. (2020) 'Architectural Learning & Education beyond Covid-19: Comparative Views from the (Arab) World', Federation of Arab Engineers, Org. of Arab Architects, talk 1st virtual webinar (The Challenges of Covis-19 & their Effects on Architecture & Urbanism in the Arab World), mm. 2:30-2:53.
Sukkar, A. (2018) 'Syria's Reconstruction', panel talk, **Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut**, YouTube: Asfari Institute, American University of Beirut, 9 May.

INTERVIEW

Sukkar, A. (September 2020, expected) 'Interview with Ahamd Sukkar', Scholars in Context Series, *Jadaliyya*.

MENTIONS

Architectural Association (2007) *Architectural Association School of Architecture Prospectus 2006/07* (London: Architectural Association): 8; see also 33, 127, 129. (See '2005/06 Student Awards and Prizes' | 'G-nome Team: I Ammash, J Araiza, M L Flores, A Sukkar' | 'Design Research Lab, Distinction')
Architectural Association (2006) *AA Projects Review 05/06: ExperimentAAtion* (London: Architectural Association.): 128–29. (See 'G-nome's Net.Lab'.) ('Netlab design research work; G_nome team; The Voronoi diagramming tool')
Dempsy, A. & Y. Obuchi, eds. (2010) *Nine Problems in the Form of a Pavilion* (London: Architectural Association Pubs): 24 ('Ahmad Sukkar 2006, DRL Ten Pavilion Com. Finalist').
Flores, M. L. (2007) 'NETLAB: "Algorithm vs. Architecture" Chart Voronoi as a Design Tool', *Revista De Arquitectura de la Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo de la Universidad de Chile* 16: 46–53, front & back cover (Spanish & English).
Leach, N. & X. Wei-Guo, eds. (2006) *Emerging Talents, Emerging Technologies: Students* (Beijing: China Architecture and Planning Press): 17–19, 2nd image at the middle of the front cover (English and Chinese). (See 'Net.Lab') Trans. to Korean
Liu, Y.-T., ed. (2007) *Distinguishing Digital Architecture: 6th Far Eastern International Digital Architectural Design Award* (Basel: Birkhäuser Verlag): 33. ('Zaha Hadid Pirres Vives, Montpellier, France 2004-' | 'Credits/Data' | 'Ahmad Sukkar')
Obuchi, Y., T., Spyropoulos, & T. Verebes (2006) 'Parametric Matter', *AD* (Architectures) 76/6: 70–71. (G_nome T. Netlab)
Verebes, T. ed. (2008) *AADRL Documents 2, DRL TEN: A Design Research Compendium* (London: AA Publications): 236 (image no. 4)–237 (4. Ahmad Sukkar 2006)