

# Naji Akbar

Nationality: Canadian

Master of Environmental Design, Canada

Master of Architecture, Canada

Bachelor of Architecture

Portfolio: [Behance](#)  
Google Scholar: [Naji Akbar](#)

Calgary, AB, Canada. Currently located in Ajman, UAE  
Email: [najiakbar@gmail.com](mailto:najiakbar@gmail.com)

## PROFILE

Architect excelling in research, educational management, design, professional practice, and construction.

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATION

- Possesses over 15-year practical exposure of designing and constructing meaningful architectural projects.
- Has comprehensive experience of teaching architecture in different international universities.
- Demonstrates excellence in research, writing, publishing, and training.
- Competent in dealing with educational accreditation.
- Equipped with skills to teach multiple courses across various design disciplines.
- Proficient in Revit, SketchUp, Word, Power Point, and Adobe InDesign. Well familiar with AutoCAD, Photoshop, Rhino and Excel.
- Hands-on understanding of Blackboard and D2L.
- Efficient learner and a passionate team player.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE-Architectural Academics

### Lecturer

2022-till date

College of Architecture, Art and Design, Ajman University, UAE

#### Responsibilities:

- CIDA program accreditation
- Teaching courses related to freehand drawing

### Lecturer

2017-2022

College of Architecture and Planning, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Saudi Arabia

#### Responsibilities:

- NCAAA program accreditation: Preparation of annual program reports, stakeholder surveys, employer engagement and community service policies, and quality assurance action plans.
- Design supervision: Mainly responsible for training 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year interior architecture studios.
- Teaching of theory courses: Professional Practice, Research & Programming, Furniture design.
- Academic management: Official correspondences, presentations, program development.

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

2016-2017

School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape, University of Calgary, AB, Canada

#### Responsibilities:

- Co-teaching of History of Architecture-1. Lecturing, assignment checking, result preparation, maintaining course website.
- Co-teaching of Professional Architectural Practice. Report checking, building code explanation.

**Professional Expert Teacher****1999-2012**

Department of Visual Studies, University of Karachi, Pakistan

**Responsibilities:**

- Studio supervising for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year architecture classes.
- Teaching of Basic Drafting and Environmental Psychology.
- Accreditation work for the bachelor program of Architecture, Dept. of Visual Studies.

**Description of Academic Projects****Books**

Akbar, N. (2012). **Communication Drawings: A Beginner's Guide to Graphical Language**, Karachi, Visual Studies Press.

**Book Chapters**

Agha, S. A., Soomro, T. A., Akbar, N., Iqbal, A., Abubakar, I. R (2022). **Adaptive reuse of historic buildings: An ecological indicator of urban metabolism**, Springer Nature (under preparation).

**Articles**

Al-Gehlani, Wadee G. A., Akbar, N., Dano, U. L., Al-Hafnavi, M. A. M., & Istambouli, M. J. (2022). **Assessment of learning modes preferences during COVID-19 pandemic: A case study of IAU, Saudi Arabia**. (Under preparation).

Akbar, N., Abubakar, I. R., Shah, A. A., & Al-Madani, W. (2021). **Ecological Embeddedness in the Maya Built Environment: Inspiration for Contemporary Cities**. Land, 10(12), 1360.

Akbar, N., Abubakar, I. R., & Bouregh, A. S. (2020). **Fostering Urban Sustainability through the Ecological Wisdom of Traditional Settlements**. Sustainability, 12(23), 10033.

Akbar, N. (2015). **How Green is Calgary** [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://makecalgary.com/?p=19860>

Akbar, N. (2015). **The Genesis Centre You Need to Know** [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://makecalgary.com/?p=19816>

Akbar, N. (2008). **Pointification: Rethinking Change**. The Daily Dawn. Retrieved from <http://www.dawn.com/news/881844/pointification-rethinking-change>

Akbar, N. (2007). **Training Architecture Students**. Archi Times. ISSN No. 2073-9001

**Conferences**

Akbar, N., Bouregh A. S., Abdelghany, G. (June 2019). **Towards a Post-Capitalist Society: Strategies for an economically, socially and environmentally responsive built-environment**. Artwork presented in 3<sup>rd</sup> Peaceful Coexistence Colloquium, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Akbar, N., (June 2018). **Post-Capitalism and the Built-Environment: Redefining Human Scale to Envision an Economically, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Neighbourhood for the Area of Manchester, Calgary, Canada**. Research poster presented in the International Sustainability Transitions, IST 2018, University of Manchester, UK.

Akbar, N., (June 2017). **Post-Capitalism and the Built-Environment: Envisioning Neighbourhoods for a Better Future**. Research poster presented in the International Sustainability Transitions, IST 2017, University of Chalmers, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Akbar, N., (June 2011). **Communication Drawings: A Beginner's Guide to Graphical Language**. Research presented about communication drawings in the annual IAPEx Conference held by the Institute of Architects Pakistan.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE-Architectural Practice

### Principal Architect

1998-till date

Naji & Kamran Architectural Consultants, Karachi, Pakistan.

#### Responsibilities

- Architectural proposal making for residential, commercial, and renovation projects.
- Contract writing and preparation of other legal documents.
- Client dealing, delivering presentations.
- Municipality/building code coordination.
- Production of construction drawings.
- Supervision of construction sites/contract administration
- Undertaking turn-key assignments

#### Description of Selected Architectural Projects

##### Military Museums of Calgary, AB, Canada (design proposal for new construction). 2016

- The design concept promotes resistance to capitalist industrialization and mass urbanization by proposing an urban wall. This results in using less site area leaving significant open spaces for outdoor activities, festivals, and other museum events.
- The proposed design uses existing museum structure to reduce construction time and cost.

##### Centre for Sacred Communication, Calgary, Canada (design proposal for new construction). 2015

- Based on a concept of introspection, the design uses minimally punctured walls and evocative entries for sunlight to communicate importance of reflective introspection.
- The use of unfinished poured concrete for vertical surfaces enhances the insulation value reducing heating and finishing costs.

##### Shams-ul-Arfeen, 2500 square feet residence (renovation). 2010

- Saved 15% cost of construction for the client by objectively scrutinizing contractors' bids. This entailed market surveys and material and price comparison.
- Worked as an effective team player helping the contractor finish the job on time and on budget by regularly visiting the site and tackling design and construction related issues as they cropped up on the site.

##### Shakeel Ahmed residence, 800 square yards residence (new construction). 2010

- Enhanced the utility of the ground floor to 40% by taking visitors lounge and dining in the basement proposing dumb-waiter for food serving purposes and guests powder room.
- Beneficially integrated the basement, first and second floors of the residence by creating a central atrium enhancing light quality and visual connections within the project storeys.

##### Bashir Juma multi-story office building, 742 square yards (design proposal for new construction). 2008

- Minimized circulation area to 20% by locating the lift core and ancillary facilities in the centre of this small sized oblong plot .
- Achieved a ratio of 1.5 cars per office within the tight space of the building by proposing car lifts and doing away with lengthy ramps. This also helped in de-congesting the adjacent streets.
- Created a unique appearance for an office type building by off-setting masses fragmenting vertical form in section and incorporating proportionately large sized corner windows.

**Imam Clinic intensive care unit, 2500 square feet (renovation). 2004**

- Successfully converted a residual space into a functional 10 bed ICU by planning according to the existing column grids and hiding the beams and service ducts in false ceiling.
- Increased the number of ICU clients by 50% introducing a pleasing interior design scheme and a comfortable waiting area for patients' relatives, attached with a bath and pantry for light snacks.

**Nadeem Qureshi residence, 2000 square yards (new construction). 2002**

- Achieved an interesting figure-ground relationship in plan by consistently shifting movement axes, resulting in a playful arrangement of spaces that pleasingly interlocked the surrounding landscape.
- Reduced electricity and gas bills by 30% through proposing continuous insulation layer and working with Rober's unit based central air-conditioning system.

**HONORS & AWARDS**

Queen Elizabeth Research Funding, Canada	2016
EVDS Scholarship Award, University of Calgary, Canada	2016
EVDS Research Award, University of Calgary, Canada	2016
Alberta Learners' Scholarship, Alberta, Canada	2013
Guest speaker for TV program 'Mosques of Pakistan' aired by News One Pakistan	2011

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE****2012-2021**

- **RSFA Grant for Sustainability in the Built Environment** (currently volunteering as Grant convenor)
- **International School, Alkhuber, Saudi Arabia** (volunteered as a moderator for workshop titled "Teachers as Leading Facilitators of Change")
- **Alberta Association of Architects, Canada** (volunteered as Student Representative)
- **Junior Achievements of Southern Alberta, Canada** (delivered "Economics for Success Program" to 9 grade students at the Ian Bazelgette School, Calgary)
- **Habitat for Humanity, Calgary, Canada** (volunteered as construction crew member).
- **Centre De Sources (French Library), Calgary, Canada** (helped the management in determining interior design needs and appropriate schemes)
- **Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP)** (volunteered as Honorary Secretary IAP Karachi Chapter)

**EDUCATION**

<b>Master of Environmental Design</b> , University of Calgary, Canada	2021
<b>Master of Architecture</b> , University of Calgary, Canada	2016
<b>Building Information Modeling Program (BIM)</b> , Bredin Institute, Calgary, Canada	2013
<b>Alberta Building Code</b> , Part 9 Certification, Safety Codes Council, Edmonton, Canada	2013
<b>Bachelor of Architecture</b> , NED University of Engineering & Technology, Pakistan	1998

**MEMBERSHIPS**

<b>Student Member</b> , Alberta Association of Architects, AAA	(2014-2021)
<b>Associate</b> , Institute of Architects, Pakistan, IAP.	Lifetime member
<b>Member</b> , Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners, PCATP.	Lifetime member