

ALIREZA SHAHBAZIN (Ph.D. CANDIDATE)

M: 438-680-3141 (Canada)

www.alirezashahbazin.comali.shahbazin@mail.mcgill.ca**EDUCATION**

- 2018 - 2024 expected** **Ph.D. Candidate in Architecture**, McGill University, Montréal, Québec.
Dissertation: “In Place in the World City: The Architecture of *The Alexandria Quartet*.”
Committee members: Alberto Pérez-Gómez (chair), Sandeep Banerjee, Lisa Landrum.
- 2015 - 2018** **Professional Master of Architecture**, Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Savannah, USA.
- 2007 - 2012** **Bachelor of Science, Architecture**, Azad University of Qazvin, Qazvin, Iran.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Book Chapter

- In Press** **“Here Once Lay the Body of the Great Alexander: From Poetic Imagination to Dwelling in Alexandria,”** in *Mysticisms, Heresies and Heterotopias in Lawrence Durrell’s work* (New Jersey: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2024).
This chapter explores an interdisciplinary viewpoint, illuminating the correlation between architectural dwelling and poetic imagination.

Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2021** **“Placed Appearances: Narrative, The Space of Appearance, Place,”** *Athens Journal of Architecture*, vol. 7, no. 3 (July 2021): 403-14.
This article focuses on the importance of place and narrativity for Hannah Arendt’s notion of public spaces.

Articles

- 2018** **“Home as mother!-Earth,”** *Pidgin Magazine: Princeton University School of Architecture’s Student-run Journal*, no. 24 (November 2018): 200-19.
A phenomenological and architectural reading of Darren Aronofsky’s film, *mother!* (2017).

- 2017** [“Utopia and Dystopia: From Narration to Architecture,”](#) *Paper M: Architecture’s Student-run Journal*, SCAD, no. 00 (Winter 2017): 26-30.
Explored architecture of utopias and dystopias using fictive sources.
- 2017** [“The City and its Story: The \(Re\)Productive Role of Imagination,”](#) *deFACTO: Architecture’s student-run Pamphlet*, SCAD, no. 08 (2017).
Researched the impact of city novels on imagination and urban perceptions.
- 2016** [“Archi-Caricature: Mouse Trapped,”](#) *deFACTO*, no. 06 (2016). Three Member Curatorial Team.

Article in Preparation

- 2024** **“How I love the place you have no idea: Poetic Language in the Arab Quarter of Alexandria,”** submitted abstract (under review) for the peer-reviewed *Journal for Architecture and Literature*, *Writing Place* series #10: Poetics of Place, TU Delft University.
The article explores the use of poetic language as a design strategy for architects to capture the singularity of a place.
- “The Queen and Her World: The Embodiment of Queen Farah Pahlavi in the Iran Pavilion at Expo 67,”** (preparing for a peer-reviewed journal).
The paper revolves around the Iran Pavilion at EXPO 67 in Montréal and explores architecture as a biographical expression.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES

Research Assistant

- 2024** **Graduate Research Assistant for McGill Writing Center**
Contribute to curriculum planning at the Centre, identifying best practices, tools, and resources to enhance written and oral communication skills for architecture Ph.D. students.
Curating materials for a course aimed at equipping a Writing Fellow who will develop, organize, and deliver graduate writing initiatives within the school of architecture.

Teaching Assistant

- 2020 - 2023** [Lecture Class: Architectural History from the Ancient to the Baroque Era,](#) Ricardo Castro, Fall Semesters, McGill.
Guided 45-61 undergraduates in creating graphic posters that explored architectural history across different cultural contexts.

Facilitated discussions on *The Eyes of the Skin* (1996) by Juhani Pallasmaa.
Supported students in visually conveying urban narratives inspired by Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities* (1972) through cinematic storyboarding for their final projects.

2021

Lecture Class: Global Architectural History from the 19th Century to Present, Ipek Türeli, Winter Semester, McGill.

Aimed at cultivating globally informed “citizen” architects.
Assigned 74 undergraduates a 2000-word essay on “Race and Space,” with a focus on #BlackLivesMatter, emphasizing the importance of centering Black lives in architectural thinking.
Instructed weekly discussion sessions and handled grading responsibilities for midterm and final exams.

2020

Lecture Class: Origins of Modern Architecture, Alberto Pérez-Gómez, Winter Semester, McGill.

Led 32 undergraduate and graduate students to consider how architecture can learn from literature.
Developed and assigned projects, requiring students to translate literary spaces into architectural spaces.
Encouraged architectural expression through two artistic collages.

2017

Architectural Fundamentals Studio, Julie Rogers Varland, Spring Quarter, SCAD.

Guided 15 sophomore undergraduates with their studio project to design a residency and art studio for an artist.
Conducted desk critique, and participated as a juror in other studio reviews.

Architecture Instructor

2018

Introduction to Architecture Studio, Summer Session (Jun.-Aug.), EXPLOR Summer School at Yale, New Haven, USA.

Taught architectural design and art foundations to international high school students.
Instructed 64 students across two sessions in the design of residential dwellings for their final project situated in The Pinehills, a classic New England village in Massachusetts.
Coordinating collaborative architectural student field trips to museums and New York, the Guggenheim, and the Met.
Organized and curated the final student exhibition at the Yale Green Art Gallery.

Intern Architect

- 2014 - 2015** **RIRA Architecture Office**, Qazvin, Iran.
 Worked as a designer on interior design projects, urban planning,
 and developing schematic design work.
 Made drawing using AutoCAD and 3DsMax.
 Adjusted architectural presentations using Photoshop.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- 2024** **[“The Queen and Her World: The Embodiment of Queen Farah Pahlavi in the Iran Pavilion at Expo 67,”](#)** presentation at “Institute for the Study of International Expositions (Isie)” online.
 The Isie serves as a network connecting researchers who share a common interest in the design and impact of global expos.
- 2023** **[“How I love the place you have no idea: Poetic Language in the Arab Quarter of Alexandria,”](#)** presentation at “DocTalks,” online.
 DocTalks is an inter-institutional platform for architecture and urbanism PhDs.
- 2022** **“Here Once Lay the Body of the Great Alexander: From Poetic Imagination to Dwelling in Alexandria,”** presented at London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, online.
- 2020** **[“Justine in Place: World City in *The Alexandria Quartet*,”](#)** presentation at “World Cities in 19th and Early 20th Century Literature” in Northeast Modern Language Association 51st Annual Convention (NeMLA), Boston University.
 This was a presentation about the exploration of urban cosmopolitanism in literature.
- 2017** **[Lead Role in Creation and Presentation of *Paper M: Architecture’s Student-run Journal, SCAD*,](#)** presented the publication as content editor at “Open Issues” (Conference on Student Publications) in Harvard Graduate School of Design, Boston, USA.
- 2016** **“Alfred Hitchcock is an Architect,”** presentation at South Quad, American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), SCAD, Savannah.
 Exploring the significance of architectural spaces in Hitchcock’s cinematography.

Talks

- 2023** **Co-presented “Pointed Arch: From Islamic to Gothic Architecture”** with Ricardo Castro (McGill University) for Carlos Rueda’s Design Studio at Manitoba University School of Architecture.
Discussed the influence of Islamic Architecture on Europe’s Gothic architecture.
- Co-presented “Polis: From Greece to Persia”** with Castro for Rueda’s Design Studio.
Explored architectural styles and philosophies by comparing ancient Persia’s Persepolis and Greece’s Acropolis.
- 2016** **“AIAS SCAD Chapter, Architecture and Cinema Lectures Series,”** SCAD, Savannah.
Curated and delivered a lecture series exploring the intersecting realms of cinema and architecture.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2021- 2023** **FRQSC Doctoral Research Scholarships:** \$49,000.00 *Fonds de Recherche du Québec – Société et Culture* (Québec Government Research Scholarship), competitive provincial award.
- 2021 - 2022** **McGill Graduate Excellence Fellowship:** \$10,875.00 for doctoral studies.
- 2019 - 2020** **McGill Graduate Mobility Award:** \$1,500.00 for visiting Alexandria, Egypt.
- 2018 - 2021** **McGill Mini MEDA Award:** \$42,000.00 for doctoral studies.
- 2018 - 2019** **McGill Schulich Award:** \$25,000.00 for doctoral studies.
- 2015 - 2017** **SCAD Scholarships:** \$25,000.00 for master’s Studies.

AWARDS

- 2022** **Recipient of the William Godshalk Prize for New Durrell Scholarship,** for an article based on the first chapter of my dissertation, University of Toulouse and International Lawrence Durrell Society.
Biannual award for emerging scholars worldwide conducting research on the celebrated British writer Lawrence Durrell.
- 2017** **Earned SCAD Chair’s Graduate Thesis Award for Outstanding Artistry in a Final Exhibit,** Savannah.
Awarded for my Master’s thesis project in the school of architecture.
Supervisor: Scott Singeisen.

- 2016** **Winner of the AIA South Region Conference Student Charrette Project** (5 Member Team), Savannah.
Shelter design proposal for those without stable housing.
- 2016** **CLAIM (Y)OUR SPACE**, SCAD, Part of the AIA #ilookup Film Challenge, Finalist (5 Member Team), Savannah.
The challenge called for films by architects and filmmakers that highlight projects that help communities to improve public spaces.
- 2012** **“Outstanding Student Projects”** by ETOOOD.com (Broadcasting Architecture Website), for my undergraduate thesis, Tehran.

ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICES

- 2020** **Moderator for “Race, Protest, and Public Space,”** in McGill Race + Space event, presented by Ayca Koseoglu, McGill, Montréal.
A presentation centered around the capacity of architects to address racism and spatial injustice through their intellectual and professional actions.
- 2020** **Engaged in the Hiring Process**, McGill Sustainable Future Team, McGill, Montréal.
Tasked with selecting two proficient McGill architecture students.
Aimed to utilize students’ skills in designing and creating architectural renderings that embody McGill’s sustainable vision.
- 2019 - 2020** **PhD Representative in GASA** (Graduate Architecture Students’ Association), McGill, Montréal.
Elected as the Ph.D. representative, engaged in efforts to support the academic journey of architecture Ph.D. students.
Arranged meetings and events to foster academic engagement.
Updated the School of Architecture Ph.D. Forum about conferences, and call for papers.
Represented the school to prospective Ph.D. students.
- 2019** **Summer-Ambassador** for McGill International Institute of Education’s Student Academy, Montréal.
Chaperoned a group of 33 high school students from the UAE as part of an academic summer program, collaborating with a team of 5 chaperones.
Enhanced students’ educational experience and provided academic support.
Guided students to explore Québec and –Montréal’s cultural and academic environment.

- 2016 - 2017** **Secretary and Historian of Freedom by Design (FBD)**, American Institute of Architecture Students, SCAD, FBD Board Member, Savannah. Supporting and encouraging student talents to contribute to communities through design and construction solutions.

CREATIVE WRITING PUBLICATIONS

Novels in Persian

- 2022** *Maidens' Necklaces and Murderous Traces* (Tehran: Cheshmeh Publications, 2022).
 Drew inspiration from North American Noir novels to create a city novel.
 Brought my hometown, Karaj, Iran, to life through vivid architectural descriptions in the urban detective tale.
 The novel's copyright has been acquired for a drama television series.
- 2015** *The Night of Regicide* (Tehran: Cheshmeh Publications, 2015).
 Authored a historical novel set in the Achaemenid Empire (401 BCE).
 Incorporated iconic landmarks like Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire in Iran, as a setting within the narrative.

Selected Short Stories and Essays in Persian

- 2023** “**The Significance of Meaning in Murder Mystery Novels,**” *Tajrobeh*, new series, no. 20 (2023): 42-43.
- 2014** “**Mariette: Lola's Cousin,**” in *Parseh: Short Story Collection*, ed. Hossein Sanapour (Tehran: Raven Publication, 2014), 109-14.
- 2013** “**Desert is your only friend,**” in *Monday Stories: Short Story Collection*, ed. Mostafa Alizadeh (Tehran: ARD publication, 2013), 51-55.
- 2013** “**Bloody Bull,**” *Dastan Nameh*, Creative Writing Magazine, no. 00 (2013): 20-22.

LANGUAGES

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| Persian | Native Language |
| English | Professional fluency |
| French | Intermediate |