

Farhat Afzal

[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Academia](#)

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EDUCATION:

Year	Degree	CGPA
2023-2025	Master of Science in Architecture University of Cincinnati	3.92/4.0
2024-2025	Museum Studies Graduate Certificate University of Cincinnati	N/A
2019-2023	Master of Architecture Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology	3.33/4.0
2010-2015	Bachelor of Architecture American International University - Bangladesh	3.57/4.0

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Jan 2024 - Apr 2024	Graduate Teaching Assistant for Professor Jeff Tilman School of Architecture and Interior Design, University of Cincinnati
Jan 2024 - Apr 2024	Student Worker, archiving drawings by Benjamin Dombar, AIA DAAP Library, University of Cincinnati
Oct 2021 - Apr 2023	Associate Coordinator of the Academic Program Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements
Aug 2015- Sep 2021	Academic Associate Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

1. Guest reviewer for the following studio reviews at University of Cincinnati's School of Architecture and Interior Design:

- Midterm review for project on Community Center/Clubhouse for ARCH 4005, Fall 2023.
- Final review for project on Adaptive Reuse for INTD 4022: History, Theory, Criticism II, Fall 2023.
- Studio review for project on Adaptive Reuse for INTD 5002: Senior Capstone Studio 2, Spring 2024.

2. Support crew for the project Tektoniks, a series of innovative rammed earth structures, at the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center (CAC). These structures were designed by artist Rand Abdul Jabbar, as a part of an [exhibition](#) commemorating the 20th anniversary of the CAC building's design by the architect Zaha Hadid.
3. Design and editorial associate for the architectural exhibition "[Bengal Stream: The Vibrant Architecture Scene of Bangladesh](#)", organized at Bengal Shilpalay, Dhaka, in December, 2022. My responsibilities included writing and editing textual narratives for all public communications of the exhibition, preparing the guest list and sending out individual invitations, assisting with the installation of the exhibition on site and managing a team of volunteers.
4. Host and coordinator of a special [webinar](#) titled "Women as Mother and Mentor", organized by Context BD, on the occasion of International Women's Day, March 2022. Available online [here](#).
5. Design and editorial associate for the architectural exhibition "[Nogornama - The Future of Our Habitats](#)", organized at Bengal Shilpalay, Dhaka, in November, 2019. My responsibilities included writing and editing textual narratives for installation panels displayed at the exhibition, assisting with the installation of the exhibition on site and managing all public communications related to the exhibition.
6. Host of a book launch ceremony for '[Bengal Stream: The Vibrant Architecture Scene of Bangladesh](#)', March 2018, Dhaka.
7. Host of a public lecture event by Tapati Guha-Thakurta, titled '[Contesting Careers of the Artwork and the Religious Icon in Contemporary India](#)', March 2018, Dhaka.
8. Co-facilitator of CEPT University's [Winter School Program](#) in collaboration with Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements, in December, 2017.

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

1. Edited and wrote for 3 consecutive issues of Bengal Institute's annual publication, Vas. My responsibilities included researching topics pertinent to issues related to the built environment and design intelligence in the context of Bangladesh and beyond, writing articles on some of those topics and editing all the contents included in the publication. [Links: [Issue 2](#) | [Issue 3](#) | [Issue 4](#)]
2. Edited and coordinated "Hidden Heritage: Homes in Dhaka", a dedicated documentation and web-based presentation of significant homes and buildings in Dhaka, organized by

the Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements, with the support and participation of EUNIC (the European National Institutes for Culture). Completed in June 2022. The website can be viewed [here](#). My responsibilities included writing and editing the textual narratives required for each of the documented houses, providing captions for all images, and recording a voiceover for the 360 degree virtual tour of one of the houses.

3. Presented the paper titled "Anime and Modernism: Using Hayao Miyazaki's Films as a Medium for Critiquing and Understanding Modernism's Impact on the Environment" at the International Graduate Research Symposium, held at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine on 3rd November 2023.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Assisted with planning and organizing 25 successful postgraduate level academic programs (including seminars, hands-on workshops and design studios), 22 public lecture events and 2 large scale symposiums on topics related to architecture, history and theory, landscape and urbanism between 2016 and 2022. These programs were conducted by some of the leading scholars and architects from both home and abroad, including Balkrishna Doshi, Kenneth Frampton, Rahul Mehrotra, Marina Tabassum, Juhani Pallasmaa, Saif Ul Haque, Richard Lepastrier, Dirk van Gameren, Chelvadurai Anjalendran, Kazi Khaleed Ashraf and Gregory Burgess.
- Key contributor with architectural historian and urbanist Kazi Khaleed Ashraf and winner of 2016 Aga Khan Award for Architecture Marina Tabassum, in developing the proposal and course contents for two editions of 'Learning from the Aga Khan Award for Architecture', organized by Bengal Institute and Aga Khan Trust for Culture in 2018 and 2021.
- Assisted Kazi Khaleed Ashraf and Marina Tabassum with developing the first ever joint studio program on hydrological housing in collaboration with Delft University of Technology, in 2021 and 2022.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Book essays

- 2022 Afzal, F., Kabir, R., and Naz, F. (2023). 'Fresh Air and Safe Spaces', in *Next 50: Collective Futures - Critical-creative perspectives on the built environment in Bangladesh* (1st ed.). To be published in Spring 2023.

Journal articles

2021 Afzal, F. (2021). 'Bengal Institute Confronts the Coronavirus - COVID-19 CONVERSATION' - *Architecture Asia Journal*. architecture-asia.com. Available online [here](#).

Academic research papers

2020 Afzal, F. (2020). 'Writing in Design Curriculum: Investigating the Struggle Behind Writing Practices of Architecture Students in Dhaka' (Unpublished). Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Available online [here](#).

2019 Afzal, F. (2019). 'The Imperial Power Move: Investigating the Politics Behind the Architecture Styles of the Colonial and Post-colonial Era' (Unpublished). Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Available online [here](#).

Public scholarship

- **Colonialism and architecture history of Bengal**

2020 Afzal, F. (2020). 'The Regional Politics of East Pakistan and Architecture by Doxiadis'. Available online [here](#).

2019 Afzal, F. (2019). 'Exhibiting the New Spirit in Bangladeshi Architecture'. *The Daily Star* (the leading daily newspaper in Bangladesh). Available online [here](#).

2018 Afzal, F. (2018). 'Scope of History in the Land of Rivers'. *The Daily Star*. Available online [here](#)

2018 Afzal, F. (2018). 'Humayun's Tomb'. *The Daily Star*. Available online [here](#).

2018 Afzal, F. (2018). 'British Colonial Architecture in Bengal'. *The Daily Star*. Available online [here](#).

2017 Afzal, F. (2017). 'Confessions of a Non-Architect'. *Context BD*. Available online [here](#).

- **Art, society, and urbanism**

2021 Afzal, F. (2021). 'The Future is the City—But What Will It Be'? *VAS*, Issue 4. Available online [here](#).

2021 Afzal, F. (2021). 'How Aerial Imagery Changed Our Perception'. *VAS*, Issue 4. Available online [here](#).

2019 Afzal, F. (2019). 'The Mughal Miniaturist of Jorasanko'. *VAS* Issue 4. Available online

[here](#).

2018 Afzal, F. (2018). ‘Cities Are Changing Faster Than You Think’. *The Daily Star*. Available online [here](#).

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCES

1. **Teaching assistant**, for a joint semester-long studio titled “[Dhaka Studio: Dwelling in the Delta](#)”, organized jointly by Bengal Institute and TU Delft in Spring 2022. Conducted by Dirk van Gameren, Dean of TU Delft in Netherlands, and Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, Director-General of Bengal Institute in Bangladesh.

2. **Teaching assistant**, for a lecture titled “The power of ideas and images, from buildings to urban and community projects”, conducted by Hasan-Uddin Khan, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Roger Williams University, United States. This lecture was a part of a special seminar on [Learning from the Aga Khan Award for Architecture](#), organized by Bengal Institute via Zoom, and sponsored by Aga Khan Trust for Culture, in November 2021.

3. **Teaching assistant**, for a joint semester-long studio titled “[In the Flow: Hydro-logical Housing in Dhaka](#)”, organized jointly by Bengal Institute and TU Delft in Spring 2021. Conducted by Dirk van Gameren, Dean of TU Delft in Netherlands, with Marina Tabassum and Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, Directors of Bengal Institute in Bangladesh.

4. **Guest lecturer**, for a talk on “Scope of history in the land of rivers,” during the academic program ‘[Histories and Theories](#)’, at Bengal Institute, Dhaka, March 2018. Here, I highlighted the fact that due to Bangladesh’s shifting geographic and political parameters, a lack of evidence in the country’s historical domain, and a dependency on textbooks written with Eurocentric perspectives has warped how we understand and construct history of the region.

TECHNICAL SKILL SETS

1. AutoCAD 2007 and 2010, for drawing architectural plans, elevations and sections.
2. Google SketchUp + V Ray, for 3D rendering of models.
3. Adobe Photoshop CS5, for creating any kind of visual materials and presentations.
4. Web development skills using WordPress.
5. Typing speed in English: 61 words per minute (WPM).
6. Video editing and graphic design skills using Canva.

TEST SCORES

International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Overall score 8.5 out of 9

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Associate Member, Institute of Architects Bangladesh

AWARDS AND HONORS:

- **The Daily Star Award 2011**
Certificate of Excellence awarded for 3 A grades in the GCE A'Level Examinations held in the 2009-10 sessions.
- **The Daily Star Award 2009**
Certificate of Excellence for receiving 7 A grades in the GCE O'Level Examinations held in the 2007-08 sessions.

REFERENCES: Available upon request.