

# Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, Iran University of Art

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## Dean's Message

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The Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning at the Iran University of Art is more committed than ever to shaping a brighter future for architecture and urbanism in Iran. Our vision is to foster an environment where creativity converges with knowledge, tradition engages with innovation, and theory informs practice. We are dedicated to educating a new generation of professionals who not only master the most advanced global techniques, but also preserve their cultural and social identity and express it through their work.

Our mission is to prepare architects, urban planners, and interior architecture specialists who can integrate fundamental knowledge with applied expertise to address the complex needs of contemporary society and the challenges of tomorrow. We believe that excellence in education, pioneering research, and sustained collaboration with the professional community form the three cornerstones of our Faculty's continued success.

Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning

## About the Faculty

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The Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning at the Iran University of Art stands as one of the country's oldest and most prestigious centers for architectural and urban education. Since its establishment, the Faculty has been entrusted with the mission of educating successive generations of influential architects and urban planners, consistently remaining at the forefront of architectural transformation in Iran. Over the years, it has played a central role in shaping the contemporary identity of Iranian cities and buildings, with its graduates actively serving in key positions in design, construction, management, and urban policymaking. Today, the Faculty holds a distinguished reputation not only at the national level but also internationally, welcoming students and researchers from across the globe.

At present, the Faculty offers programs at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels, organized into five academic groups: Architecture, Interior Architecture, Architectural Technologies & Project Management, Urban Design, and Urban Planning. Supported by more than 34 full-time faculty members and 8 professional staff, the Faculty provides an integrated platform for education, research, and specialized professional services, making a significant contribution to advancing knowledge and practice in architecture and urbanism.

## Academic Departments and Programs

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### Department of Architecture

- **Mission/Philosophy:** Educating creative and critical architects equipped with both fundamental and applied knowledge to address the demands of contemporary architecture in Iran.



- **Specialized Approaches:**
  - Studio-based and experiential learning
  - Integrating Iranian architectural traditions with modern knowledge
  - Innovative research in design and construction technologies
  - Continuous engagement with the professional community and building industry
- **Programs Offered:**
  - B.Sc. in Architecture
  - M.Sc. in Architecture, M.Sc. in Iranian Architectural Studies
  - Ph.D. in Architecture

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### Department of Interior Architecture

- **Mission/Philosophy:** Training cultured, creative, and committed graduates who, through interdisciplinary knowledge and sensitivity to cultural and social values, contribute to improving human living environments and the design of interior spaces.
- **Specialized Approaches:**
  - Studio-based education emphasizing hands-on learning
  - Research-oriented and problem-solving pedagogy
  - Continuous collaboration with the professional community, building industry, and cultural institutions

- Emphasis on Iranian-Islamic identity and local resources
- Interdisciplinary perspective drawing on humanities, arts, and new technologies
- Commitment to developing postgraduate programs and expanding academic collaboration nationally and internationally
- **Programs Offered:**
  - B.Sc. in Interior Architecture
  - M.Sc. in Interior Architecture

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## Department of Architectural Technologies and Project Management

- **Mission/Philosophy:** Leading education and research in advanced architectural technologies to achieve sustainable, energy-efficient design and scientific project management in construction.
- **Specialized Approaches:**
  - Expertise in building energy and climate-responsive design
  - Scientific and technological management of construction projects
  - Direct collaboration with industry and professional organizations
  - Integration of digital technologies into education and research
- **Programs Offered:**
  - M.Sc. in Architecture and Energy, M.Sc. in Project and Construction Management
  - Ph.D. in Project Management

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## Department of Urban Design

- **Mission/Philosophy:** Preparing urban design specialists dedicated to creating sustainable, smart, and livable urban spaces that respond to social and cultural needs.
- **Specialized Approaches:**
  - Focus on high-quality public space design
  - Use of advanced technologies for urban design and visualization
  - Applied research in smart and resilient cities
  - Strong collaboration with urban management institutions and related organizations
- **Programs Offered:**
  - B.Sc. in Urbanism
  - M.Sc. in Urban Design

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## Department of Urban Planning

- **Mission/Philosophy:** Educating urban planners and managers specialized in sustainable urban development, large-scale policymaking, and effective urban governance.
- **Specialized Approaches:**
  - Expertise in contemporary urban governance and management
  - Applied research in urban policy and planning
  - Collaboration with national, regional, and international institutions
  - Emphasis on spatial justice and balanced urban development
- **Programs Offered:**
  - M.Sc. in Urban Planning, M.Sc. in Urban Management
  - Ph.D. in Urban Planning

## Educational and Research Facilities

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### Educational Infrastructure

The Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning at the Iran University of Art provides an integrated academic environment with **six fully equipped classrooms** and **eight specialized design studios**, offering a balanced setting for both theoretical and practical learning. These spaces are designed with modern equipment to support effective instruction and collaborative studio-based education.

The **Faculty's specialized library**, with its extensive collection of scholarly resources, professional journals, and access to digital databases, serves as a vital support system for both teaching and research activities.

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### Specialized Workshops and Laboratories

The Faculty maintains **one advanced workshop and six state-of-the-art laboratories**, designed to bridge theory and practice while supporting applied research:

#### Wood Workshop (Educational Facility for Model-Making and Construction Training)

A fully equipped facility for hands-on training in construction and model-making. Equipment includes table saws, drill presses, planers, band saws, multi-function woodworking machines, lathes, compressors, and mitre saws. Architecture and interior architecture students gain experience in constructing wooden furniture, architectural components such as partitions, stairs, railings, windows, and physical models for design visualization.

## **Comprehensive Laboratory of Emerging Applied Sciences in Design (Fab Lab)**

Known as the Faculty's Fab Lab, this facility supports digital fabrication and innovative construction methods. Its objectives include teaching digital design-build processes, advancing novel fabrication techniques, providing digital prototyping services, and producing complex geometries at scales ranging from small models to full-scale building components. Key equipment includes:

- Laser cutting machines
- CNC wood routers
- 3D printers (FDM and LCD)
- Robotic arms



## **Virtual Reality and Advanced Technologies Laboratory**

A dedicated platform for research and teaching in architecture and urban design, enabling qualitative and quantitative evaluation of projects in near-real environments. This laboratory strengthens the connection between academia and industry by allowing interactive simulations, user behavior analysis with eye-tracking, and rapid prototyping of design solutions. Key equipment includes:

- Latest-generation VR and AR headsets (HTC VIVE, Meta Quest, and successors)
- High-performance gaming systems for real-time rendering and interactive simulation

- Multiple eye-tracking devices (including Tobii 4C)
- Katwalk motion simulator for natural user navigation in virtual space



## **Energy Research Laboratory**

Focused on field-based architectural and urban studies, this lab enables construction and controlled testing of building elements under real or simulated conditions to measure temperature, humidity, solar radiation, lighting, and ventilation. It supports research projects at the master's and doctoral levels, particularly in architecture and energy. Key equipment includes:

- Portable weather station
- Lux meters
- Thermometers
- Hygrometers
- Thermal imaging camera

### **Acoustic Urban Landscape Laboratory (Ava-Manzar)**

Specialized in quantitative assessment of urban soundscapes and acoustic quality. Activities include identifying desirable and undesirable sounds, standardizing urban sound environments, modeling soundscapes, studying the qualitative impact of acoustics on citizen behavior, and proposing solutions to mitigate noise pollution.

Key equipment includes:

- Sound level meters
- Noise dosimeters
- Calibrators

### **Urban Morphology Laboratory**

Dedicated to studying urban form at the scales of city, neighborhood, and public space, in relation to energy, climate change, public health, economy, tourism, and spatial justice. It fosters interdisciplinary collaborations with national and international institutions and provides a platform for start-ups in urban morphology and design research.

### **Project Excellence Laboratory**

Focused on advancing knowledge of project management in construction and extending its applications to academia, industry, and society. Key areas include fostering project-oriented thinking, investigating novel concepts such as project resilience, sustainability, and flexibility, and enhancing cognitive and practical skills in project-based decision-making.

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These laboratories not only provide access to advanced research infrastructure but also **equip students with exposure to the latest global technologies**, preparing them for professional practice. The integration of traditional and digital methodologies creates a comprehensive and practice-oriented educational experience in architecture and urban planning.

## **Scientific Publications of the Faculty**

The Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning at Iran University of Art is proud of its vibrant publication culture, with faculty members contributing significant research to both domestic and international academic discourse. Our publications, including books and peer-reviewed journals, aim to promote contemporary knowledge and disseminate original achievements by our researchers and students.

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## Selected Books

- **Designing Responsive City Centers: Applicable Urban Design Guidelines** — Dr. Amir Shakibamanesh and Dr. Mahshid Ghorbanian
- **Passive Solar Systems** — Prof. Rima Fayyaz (Iran University of Art Press)
- **A Guide to Urban Landscape Design** — Prof. Mitra Habibi (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Urban Management and Governance** — Prof. Naser Barkpour and Iraj Asadi (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Smart Growth and Sustainable Transport in Cities: Theory and Application** — Dr. Amir Shakibamanesh (2019)
- **Management of Research Projects** — Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mahmoudi Sari (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Management of Design Services** — Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mahmoudi Sari (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Management of Procurement Services** — Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mahmoudi Sari (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Green Construction Management** — Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mahmoudi Sari (Iran University of Art Press)
- **The Position of Industrial Architecture in Multi-specialty Project Execution** — Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mahmoudi Sari (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Architecture and the City in Drawings** — Dr. Hossein Khosravi and Dr. Maryam Farahani (Iran University of Art Press)
- **A Thematic Review of International Laws, Regulations, and Documents on Urban Renewal and Improvement** — Dr. Gholamreza Haghigat Naeini (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Simulation for Optimal Management in Construction Projects** — Dr. Behnoud Barmayehvar and Eng. Yousef Mahmoudzadeh (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Built Environment Management for Safety Management** — Dr. Behnoud Barmayehvar and Eng. Ahmad Rabiei (Iran University of Art Press)
- **Geotechnical Strategies and Piles** — Dr. Aliakbar Heydari (Iran University of Art Press)

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## Scientific Journals

- **Nameh Memari Va Shahrsazi (Journal of Architecture and Urban Planning)**
  - This is a scientific quarterly published by **Iran University of Art** (first issue: Autumn 2008). It accepts original research articles, review papers, case studies, and methodological and applied articles, with an emphasis on originality and innovation.
  - **Website:** <https://aup.journal.art.ac.ir/journal/about?lang=en>
- **Andishnameh Memari (Architectural Thought Journal)**
  - A scientific journal for exploring theoretical, interdisciplinary, and contemporary challenges in architecture. It also provides optimal solutions for the profession and architectural education.

- Website: <https://arcand.journal.art.ac.ir/?lang=en>
- **Andishnameh Memari Dakheli (Journal of Interior Architecture)**
  - A specialized scientific journal focusing on the education, practice, and design of interior architecture, as well as its theoretical and critical foundations. It serves as a platform for publishing the results of academic and professional research projects.
  - Website: <https://intand.journal.art.ac.ir/journal/links?lang=en>
- **Andishnameh Shahr (Urban Thought Journal)**
  - A scientific bi-annual journal from the Urban Planning Department. Its goal is to publish original research in the field of urban planning and design and to become a trusted reference for researchers, policymakers, and urban managers.
  - Website: <https://urband.journal.art.ac.ir/?lang=en>

## Academic Trips and Specialized Site Visits

For the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, a "trip" is a living classroom. Our programs begin with one-day urban excursions and extend to multi-day journeys to historic villages and valuable urban fabrics across Iran. Each visit is meticulously designed with a specific research objective, preliminary study requirements, a detailed task sheet, and an assessable final output.

In small groups, students gather on-site data through measuring, photography, brief interviews, and rapid sketching. They then analyze their findings in our studios, transforming the raw data into reports, maps, models, or professional presentations. This structured process systematically strengthens their skills in precise observation, contextual analysis, and evidence-based decision-making.





## Workshops, Fabrication Labs, and Software Courses

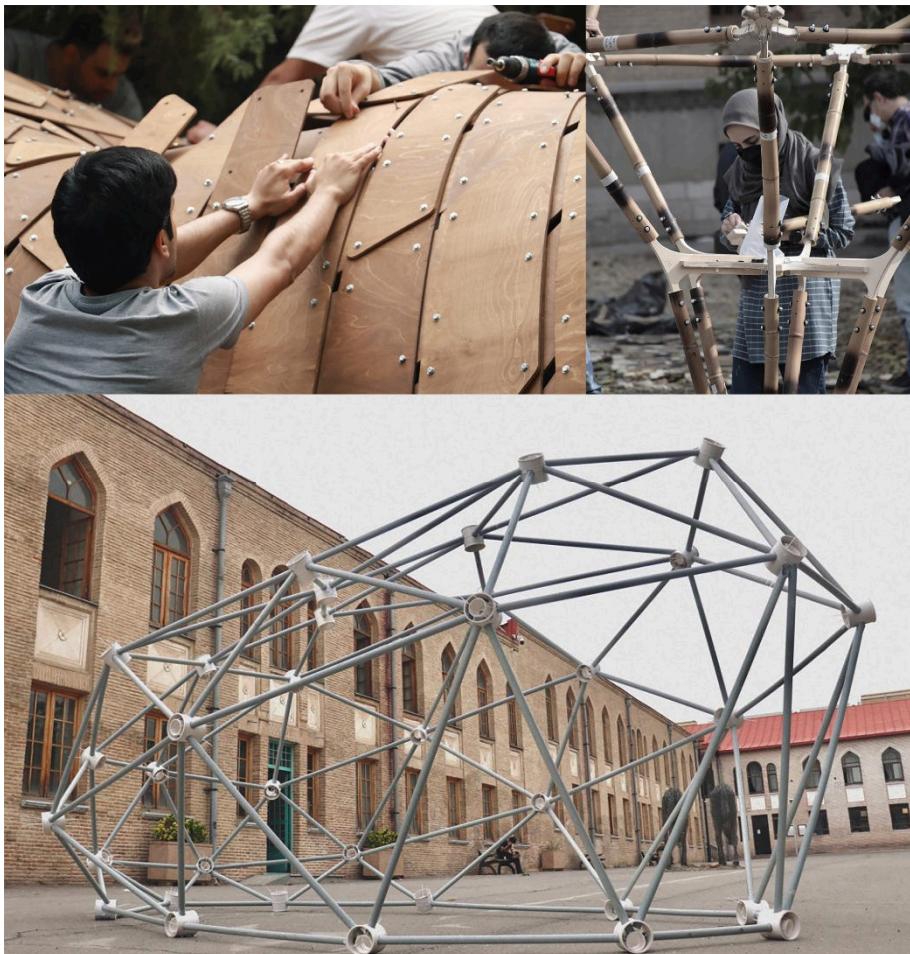
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At the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, we build professional skills on two core pillars: **fabrication** and **software**. Our intensive, project-based workshops guide students from concept to final prototype, while our software courses teach the latest tools for design, analysis, and presentation. The outcome of each program is a tangible, executed project or a professional presentation with full documentation, ready for a student's portfolio.

### Fabrication Workshops (Hands-on)

These are hands-on workshops focused on building physical objects:

- **Computelightning:** Algorithmic furniture design and prototyping
- **Active-Bending Pavilion:** Form-finding and material economy
- **Reciprocal Frame Dome:** Rapid assembly and connection details
- **Spatial Free-Form Structures:** (FSS#1 NEXORADE)
- **Bamboobam:** Lightweight structures using sustainable materials
- **Hybrid On-site/Online Programs:** (DigiPie × DigitalFutures)
- ...and more



## Software Courses for Design, Analysis, and Documentation

These are practical courses for digital tools:

- **Advanced Interior Architecture**
- **UI/UX Design for Architects and Urban Designers**
- **Parametric & Computational Design:** Rhino/Grasshopper and related plugins
- **Building Information Modeling (BIM):** Rihno, Revit, EnergyPlus and interdisciplinary workflows
- **Environmental & Energy Simulation:** (e.g.) Ecotect/Ladybug Tools
- **Rendering & Visualization:** Enscape/Lumion + professional presentation principles
- **Web-based Augmented Reality**
- **Digital Visualization in Unity**
- ...and more



## Research and Development Programs

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### Priority Research Areas

The faculty is committed to advancing knowledge in these key areas:

- **Sustainable Design and Green Architecture:** We focus on low-carbon solutions and improving energy efficiency.
- **Smart Cities and Urban Technologies:** Our research is data-driven, sensor-based, and powered by artificial intelligence.
- **Historical Building Restoration & Heritage Conservation:** We bridge the physical authenticity of historical structures with modern-day needs.
- **Housing Studies and Urban Regeneration:** Our work promotes spatial justice and neighborhood resilience.
- **Urban Morphology and Form Analysis:** We analyze urban forms, from the scale of the entire urban fabric down to individual public spaces.
- **Urban Acoustics and Soundscape:** We study the auditory quality of spaces and sound standards.
- **Digital Fabrication and Advanced Technologies:** Our research spans from computational design to advanced prototyping.
- **Project Management and Construction Excellence:** We focus on professional leadership, sustainability, and efficiency throughout the project lifecycle.

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### Faculty Development Plan (by 2031)

Our strategic plan for the coming decade is centered on four main pillars:

- **Internationalization:** We aim to expand joint collaborations, academic networking, and knowledge co-production through student and faculty exchanges.
- **Education and Research:** We are launching new majors and specializations in smart cities, emerging technologies, and data-driven fields.
- **Research Infrastructure:** We are upgrading our laboratories and advanced equipment to support problem-oriented research.
- **Industry and Community Linkage:** We are developing joint projects with urban institutions and the private sector to solve real-world urban challenges.

## Achievements and Honors

Students and faculty at the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning at Iran University of Art have a distinguished presence on both national and international stages. Their achievements reflect the high quality of education and research at the faculty, as well as its strong connection to professional practice and industry.

### Selected Student Achievements

- **Architizer A+ Awards (2024):** Special Commendation from the jury for the 'Kavyon' project.
- **Solar Decathlon International Competition (2022):** Third Place for the Iran University of Art team, Office Building Division.
- **National Project Management Competition (PMC 2025):** Top rank in the national competition.
- **Velux Biennial Competition (2022):** First Place and the Global Grand Prize in Lisbon, Portugal, for students in the Architecture and Energy program.
- **International Sweets and Chocolate Exhibition:** Awarded in the 4th Booth Design Competition.

These honors highlight our students' creativity, academic prowess, and professional skills, and underscore the faculty's prominent position in the global academic and professional community.





## Faculty Achievements

Faculty members have played a key role in elevating the scientific standing of the faculty through their effective participation in competitions, publication of international books, and domestic scholarly works.

## Research and Professional Honors

- **Second Place** for Dr. Mohammadreza Matini in the "Residential Complex of Abu Musa Island" National Architecture Competition, selected from 389 submissions.
- **Special Commendation** for the collaborative design by Dr. Manouchehr Moazami and colleagues in the same competition.

These collective achievements demonstrate the faculty's academic and professional dynamism and the significant role its members play in knowledge production, professional development, and providing innovative solutions on national and international stages.

## Final Word

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The Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning at Iran University of Art is where ideas transform into experience, and experience evolves into lasting impact—grounded in studio-based education, problem-oriented research, and meaningful engagement with industry and society. If your vision is to create spaces that enhance the quality of life—from historic neighborhoods to the smart cities of tomorrow—join us. Together, we learn, we build, and we make the world around us better.