Associate Professor Mahmoud Reza Saghafi

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Career Summary

I am an award-winning architect and online design studio educator with 22 years industry experience.

- E-Learning Expert, UNESCO Chair on E-Learning and Teaching (Mehralborz Higher Education Institute, 2014 – present)

- More than 50 publications (with 200 citations) including 10 high-ranked ISI journal papers based on SJR (7 in Q1 and 3 in Q2)

- Honoured 'Distinguished Researcher' at Art University of Isfahan, Iran, 2008, 2017, 2019

Education

2009 – 2012, Doctor of Philosophy (Design Studio Education), School of Design, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia

- o Thesis title: A Holistic Blended Design Studio Model: Exploring and Expanding Learning Opportunities

- o Supervisory team: Professor Jill Franz, Associate Professor Philip Crowther

- o My thesis was nominated for the "University Outstanding Thesis Award" by the external examiner (Professor Ashraf Salama)

1988 – 1997, Master of Architecture Engineering, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Tehran (the top one in Iran)

- o Thesis title: Planning and Designing the Residential, Cultural, and Entertainment Complex of "Soffeh" Mount with an emphasis on its Hotel

- o Supervisory team: Professor Iraj Etesam, Associate Professor Darab Diba

Employment History

- o 2019 – 2020, Visiting Lecturer, School of Design, Queensland University of Technology

- o 1997 – Present, [Associate Professor, School of Architecture and Urbanism, Art University of Isfahan](#)

Teaching experience

I have 24 years international teaching and research experience as an Academic member resulting in innovative teaching approaches, research-led educational design, and enhancing students' learning.

- o Sessional Academic Member, Tutoring Design Studios at QUT, 2019

- o Joint Design Studio Teaching with Professor J. K. Grutter, AUI, 2013

- o Honoured 'Distinguished Lecturer' at Art University of Isfahan, Iran, 2006

- o Certification for Educational design in e-learning, University of Isfahan, 2003

Selected Research Projects

I am an international expert in sustainable design (passive systems- as an element of ecological sustainability), participatory approach in designing community schools (as an element of social sustainability), and blended learning environments (including online design studio education). Moreover, I have supervised twenty Dissertations in Master of Architecture and ten Theses in Doctoral degree in the areas of Architectural Education and Sustainable Design such as:

- o Mohsen Moosavi, The Teaching Model "DCIS" (Direct Collaboration of Instructor and Student) in Architectural Design Basics

- o M. A. Ashraf Ganjooie, Methods of eliciting mental imagery in design creativity for architecture students

- o Elham Sarkardehee, A combined system of passive cooling and heating for energy saving: Combination of wind tower and sunspace in residential buildings of Yazd

- o Amin Mohammadi, Effects of Vernacular Climatic Strategies (VCS) on Energy Consumption in Common Residential Buildings in Southern Iran

- o Massoud Shamaeezadeh, Ecological Wisdom of Ancient Iranians to Create Hydraulic Structures in the Arid Regions. Tsinghua University

Selected Publications

- **Book**

  o Saghafi, M. R. (2021). Lost Spaces: Optimizing Open and Semi-Open Spaces of Contemporary Urban Housing. Jahad Daneshgahi-Isfahan branch (in Persian).

  o Saghafi, M. R. (2013). A Holistic Blended Design Studio Model: Exploring and Expanding Learning Opportunities. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing.

- **Book Chapter**

  o Saghafi, M. R. (2019). Implementing Grounded Theory in Research on Blended Learning Environments. In K. Fisher (Ed.), The Translational Design of Universities (pp. 177-204): Brill Sense.

- **Refereed Journal Articles**

  o Saghafi, M. R., & Crowther, P. (2021). Integrating Technology Subjects with Design Studio Teaching: Comparing Curriculum of Architecture Education in Australia and Iran. IJAR International Journal of Architectural Research. (**Q1**)

  o Saghafi, M. R., & Sanders, P. (2020). A Comparison Study of Integrating Theoretical and Practical Components of the Architecture Education Curriculum in Iran and Australia. International Journal of Architectural Engineering & Urban Planning, 30(2), 147-157. Retrieved from http://ijaup.iust.ac.ir/article-1-583-en.html

  o Saghafi, M. R. (2020). "Teaching Strategies for Linking Knowledge Acquisition and Application in the Architectural Design Studio." IJAR International Journal of Architectural Research (**Q1**), 14(3).

  o Saghafi, M. R., & Mirzaei, B. (2020). The spatial configuration analysis of a high school through a participatory approach. *Architectural Engineering and Design Management* (**Q1**), 1-19.

  o Asadpour, K., Nastaran, M. and Saghafi, M. R. (2020). "Collaborative Urban Planning Capacity to Respond to Issues of Urban Elderly." *Geography (Regional Planning)* 10 (1): 43-56. http://www.jgeoqeshm.ir/article_93315_9c3295d2b47b8ac2e89ca948f75a7b06.pdf

  o Afrooz, L., & Saghafi, M. R. (2019). The Proposed Model of User Participation in Programming Process of the Community School Case Study: Omolbanin Primary School at Mollasadra neighborhood in Isfahan. *Hoviatshahr*. 14, 5-16. http://hoviatshahr.srbiau.ac.ir/article_14225.html

  o Khosravi, F., Saghafi, M. R., Kamelnia, H. (2019). Investigating the Effect Indicators in Designing Community Rural Schools Using Collaborative Approaches: A Case Study of Zirkan Village (Mashhad). *Journal of Housing and Rural Environment*, 37 (161). https://www.sid.ir/en/journal/ViewPaper.aspx?ID=651475

- Saghafi, M.R., Iranmanesh, M., and Ganjouei, M. A. A., (2019). "Influence of visual stimulus variety on student design creativity in architecture." Iranian Association of Architecture & Urbanism. http://www.isau.ir/article_87944.html

- Moosavi, S.M., Saghafi, M.R., Mozaffar, F. and Izadi, S. (2019). "Achieving an Effective Teaching Model in Architectural Education; Case Study: Architectural Design Basics Two." *Armanshahr Architecture & Urban Development* 12 (28): 103-114. http://www.armanshahrjournal.com/article_97364_en.html

- Sarkardehee, E., Saghafi, M. R., & Nasrollahi, F. (2019). Effects of Southern Wall Angle on Heating Performance and Energy Consumption of Residential Buildings in Yazd. *Journal of Energy Planning And Policy Research*. 5(1), 197-227.

- Izadi Najafabadi, Farzane, Neda Torabi Farsani, Mahmoud Reza Saghafi, and Samira Mansouri Roudkoli. (2019). "Key Components for Organizing Architectural Tours in Isfahan, Iran." *Journal of Quality Assurance in Hospitality and Tourism* (**Q2**) 20 (3): 259-272.

- Moosavi, S. M., Saghafi, M. R., Mozaffar, F., & Izadi, S. (2018). Using Vernacular Architecture in Design of Practices for Architectural Design Basics. *Scientific Journal of Maremat & Me'mari-e Iran (Biannual)*, 7(14).

- Mohammadi, A., Saghafi, M. R., Tahbaz, M., & Nasrollahi, F. (2018). The study of climate-responsive solutions in traditional dwellings of Bushehr City in Southern Iran. *Journal of Building Engineering* (**Q1**), 16, 169-183.

- Fard, R. A., Saghafi, M. R., & Tahbaz, M. (2018). A study of the concurrent effect of the walls thermal resistance and air infiltration rate on the energy consumption of schools in the humid temperate climate of Iran. *International Journal of Sustainable Building Technology and Urban Development* (**Q2**), 9(3), 124-138.

- Ahadi, A. a., Saghafi, M. R., & Tahbaz, M. (2018). The Optimization of Light-wells with Integrating Daylight and Stack Natural Ventilation Systems in Deep-plan Residential Buildings: A case Study of Tehran. *Journal of Building Engineering* (**Q1**), 18, 220-244.

- Sarkardehee, E., Saghafi, M. R., Nasrollahi, F. (2018). The Study of Performance Southern Greenhouse in reducing of heat loss in an apartment in Shahrud. Iranian Association of Architecture & Urbanism, 9, 135-148

- Shahhosseini, Safiyeh, and Mahmoud Reza Saghafi. (2018). "Creative Environments at Children's Club " *MANZAR, the Scientific Journal of landscape* 10 (44): 24-39. http://www.manzar-sj.com/jufile?ar_sfile=1025106

- Mohammadi, A., Saghafi, M. R., Tahbaz, M., & Nasrollahi, F. (2017). Effects of Vernacular Climatic Strategies (VCS) on Energy Consumption in Common Residential Buildings in Southern Iran: The Case Study of Bushehr City. *Sustainability* (**Q2**), 9(11).

- Ahadi, A. A., Saghafi, M. R., & Tahbaz, M. (2017). The Study of Effective Factors in Daylight Performance of Light-wells with Dynamic Daylight Metrics in Residential Buildings. *Solar Energy* (**Q1**), 155, 679–697

- Mohammadi, Amin, Mahmoud Reza Saghafi, Mansoureh Tahbaz, and Farshad Nasrollahi. (2017). "Potentials of Vernacular Climatic Solutions (VCS) in Energy Efficiency of Domestic Buildings in Hot and Humid Climate: The Case Study of Bushehr, Iran." *Space Ontology International Journal* 6 (3): 56-76.

- Ganjouei, M. A. A., Saghafi, M. R., & Iranmanesh, M. (2017). Visual Stimuli Impacts on Student's Creativity. *Soffeh*. 26(75), 5-18.

- Mohammadi, M., Nadimi, H., & Saghafi, M. R. (2017). Investigating the Impact of the Concept of Affordance in the Design and Evaluation of the Built Environment. Soffeh, 27(77).

- Saghafi, M. R., (2016). A Comparison of Design Patterns between Ordinary Schools and Open Schools in terms of the Effectiveness of the Learning Environment. *Scientific Journal of Maremat & Me'mari-e Iran (Biannual)*, 6(12), 11-19

- Saghafi, M. R., Ashraf Ganjooie, M. A. (2016). The Effect of Visual Stimuli and its Quality on the Design Creativity of Architecture Students. *Iranian Journal of Engineering Education*. 18 (71), 127-143.

- Saghafi, M. R., Mozaffar, F., & Moosavi, S. M. (2016). Investigating the Impact of DCIS Teaching Method on the Learning Process of Architectural Design Basics (Module I). *Scientific Journal of Maremat & Me'mari-e Iran (Biannual), 5*(10), 79-90.

- Saghafi, M. R. (2015). A Holistic Model for Architectural Education: Blending Face-to-Face and Web-Based Learning Environments. *Journal of Technology and Education, 9*(4), 253-263.

- Saghafi, M. R., Mozaffar, F., & Moosavi, S. M. (2015). Teaching Methods in Architectural Design Basics. Ciência eNatura, 37 (1).

- Saghafi, M. R., Franz, J., & Crowther, P. (2014). A holistic model for blended learning. *Journal of Interactive Learning Research* (**Q3**), 25(4), 531-549.

- Saghafi, M. R., & Grutter, J. K. (2013). One experience, Two Perspectives; Differences in Architecture Education in Iran and the West in a Joint Design Studio. Hamshahri Memari, 22.

- Saghafi, M. R., Franz, J., & Crowther, P. (2012). Perceptions of physical versus virtual design studio education. *IJAR International Journal of Architectural Research* (**Q1**), 6(1), 6-22.

- **Refereed Conference Papers**

  o Saghafi, M. R., Ashraf Ganjooie, M. A. (2018). *The Effect of Using Rerepresentation on the Creativity of Architecture Students*. Twelfth International Conference on Design Principles & Practices, Barcelona, Spain.

  o Saghafi, M. R. (2018), *Effective Factors in Architecture Education Quality at Design Studio Learning Environments*. National Conference on Architecture Education. Tehran, Iran.

  o Mohammadi, M., Pepping, G.-J., & Saghafi, M. R. (2017). *The Need for an Affordance-Based Evaluation Framework for Architectural Design*. Paper presented at the Studies in Perception and Action XIV: Nineteenth International Conference, Seoul, Korea.

  o Saghafi, M. R., Sarmadi, M., Peykanpour, F. (2016). *The Process of Design Studio Education in Learning Environment: Case Study; Architecture Studio 6 at Art University of Isfahan*. National Conference on Architecture of Educational Spaces. Tehran, Iran.

  o Saghafi, M. R., Franz, J., & Crowther, P. (2012). *A Holistic Blended Design Studio Model: a Basis for Exploring and Expanding Learning Opportunities*. SITE: Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education, Austin, Texas, USA.

  o Saghafi, M. R., Franz, J., Crowther, P., Sanders, P., Santo, Y., & Gard, S. (2012). *Bending and Blurring Blended Learning Boundaries*. 2012 Sloan– C, Blended Learning Conference and Workshop: Perfecting the Blend, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

  o Saghafi, M. R., Franz, J., & Crowther, P. (2010). *Crossing the Cultural Divide: A Contemporary Holistic Framework for Conceptualising Design Studio Education*. Connected 2010 – 2nd International Conference on Design Education, Sydney, Australia.

Grants, Awards, Honours, Exhibitions

- Collaboration in "Studio Matters 2021" which is focused on the contemporary research of the architecture educational studio in collaboration with 15 leading studio educators and researchers

- Honorary reviewer for two high-ranked journals (IJAR and Sustainability)

- Research awards (AU$ 80000), Integrating Theoretical and Practical Components of the Architecture Education, Visiting Lecturer, School of Design, QUT, Australia, 2019-2020. This research has been resulted in three ISI journal papers.

- **First place** in a National Competition for "Risbaf Regeneration" of an industrial building which represent a cultural heritage for historical city of Isfahan, Iran, 2018

- Honoured '**Distinguished Researcher**' at Art University of Isfahan, Iran, 2008, 2017, 2019

- Digital Exhibition on Teaching Architectural Design, Nanjing Forestry University, Nanjing, China, 2014

- Write up Scholarship (AU$ 6000), QUT, Australia, 2012

- PhD Scholarship in Architecture Education (AU$ 220,000), QUT, Australia, 2009 – 2012

- Group Exhibition of my students' works on Visual Communication, Contemporary Arts Museum, Isfahan, Iran, 2002

Administration

I am able to champion ideas in collaborative team environments. I have applied exceptional leadership, critical analysis, and time management in my administrative roles:

o Vice-president (Research and Technology), Art University of Isfahan, 2015 – 2019

o Head of the University Entrepreneurship Committee, 2015 – 2019

o Head of Central Library at the Art University of Isfahan, 2002 – 2007

I have also contributed to the administration decision making process and served in relevant Faculty and University Committees.

Professional Services

As a practitioner, my practice is devoted to residential buildings and educational design projects, with an emphasis on sustainable design.

Professional Membership

- E-Learning Expert, UNESCO Chair on E-Learning and Teaching (Mehralborz Higher Education Institute, 2014 – present)

- Member of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education, 2012-present
- Member of the management and council committee of "**Isfahan Art Incubator**", 2015 – 2019
- Member of 'Supporters of Energy and Environment' (NGO), Iran, 2002 – present

Computer skills

Elluminate Live, Blackboard Collaboration Tools**,** MAXQDA, NVivo, Leximancer

Artistic skills

Sketching, Drawing, Photography