

MARVI MAZHAR

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SUMMARY

Marvi Mazhar served as Director at Peace Niche (T2F) and is the co-founder of The Architectural Design Research Lab (ADRL), housed within, and affiliated with, the Department of Architecture at the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture—a research laboratory devoted to projects within the fields of architecture and urban social design. In 2016, Mazhar founded Pakistan Chowk Community Cultural Centre and became an appointed member of the Lahore Conservation Society, Karachi Biennale 2017 (*Outreach Committee*), IAMKHI Advisory Board and Secretary to South Asia Foundation (SAF-Pakistan) & ICCOMOS. She was the Project Manager of National History Museum (Lahore, Pakistan), conceptualized by The Citizens Archive of Pakistan. In 2018, she has been appointed as an advisor to the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, and National History & Literary Heritage Division. In 2021, Sindh High Court appointed Mazhar as amicus curiae as her ongoing research on ‘Land reclamation and safeguarding coastal ecology’ of urban Karachi was an important research component. In 2022, Mazhar has been awarded two grants from British Council (UK) on ‘Stories from the Coast’ and ‘Gender Ecologies’ in partnership with Westminster University of London. Mazhar is co-curating the exhibition and co-editing the book on ‘Yasmeen Lari. Architecture for the Future’ with Angelika Fitz (Director of the Az W, the Austrian Architecture Museum in Vienna), and Prof. Elke Krasny (Head of the Art and Education Program at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna) for Architekturzentrum Wien, published by MIT Press, 2023.

Marvi Mazhar & Associates (MMA)

Architecture | Historic Building Consultant | Social Initiatives | Research & Publication
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Founder & Creative Head - Pakistan Chowk Community Centre (PCCC) & Heritage Walk Karachi (HWK)

Dedicated to Arts and Culture in Old Town, Karachi, Pakistan
Old Town Rehabilitation | Town Hall | Arts & Culture | Dialogue | Civic Engagement
First Floor Sultani Mahal Building Kutchery Road Karachi Pakistan
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EDUCATION

Goldsmiths, University of London. London, UK | 09/2020- 10/2021

MA. Research in Architecture. Center of Visual Culture (CRA). ‘*Ecological epistemologies of Karachi’s urban coastal infrastructure*’ - completed with distinction.

University Di Torino. Turin, Italy | 08/2011-06/2012

Dip. Masters in World Heritage and Cultural Management. Research: ‘*Preservation of Jain Temples- where minority is the majority.*’

The Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan | 01/2005-12/2009

B.A. in Architecture, with Honors. Senior Thesis: ‘*Renovation and Re-Adaptive Use of Colonial Railway Barracks of Racecourse, Karachi.*’

Student Council Representative, Drama and Theatre Award

The Lyceum School. Karachi, Pakistan | 07/2002-07/2004

GCSE Cambridge. Advanced Level.

Student Council, Editorial Board of The Lyceum, Drama and Theatre Award, Culture and Debate Award

EXPERIENCE

Heritage Consultant & Team Leader | Principal Architect

Regional Development Project. Osh, Kyrgyzstan. 06/2023-present

Feasibility & DED of Sulaiman Too Complex and Uzgen Complex: conceptualizing Design Infrastructure for 13 heritage sites in collaboration with local organizations in Kyrgyzstan in partnership with World Bank, ARIS, RMJM & OCL PVT LTD.

Heritage Consultant | Principal Architect | Researcher & Visual Artist

Marvi Mazhar & Associates (MMA). Karachi, Pakistan | 04/2014-Present

Focuses on Contemporary Urban Solutions, Social Research, Heritage Building Assessment and Analysis, Design and Conservation, Revitalize and Rehabilitate. MMA works on independent research projects as part of spatial advocacy and civic engagement.

Pursukoon Society. Revitalization of Colonial Railway Cantt Station. Karachi, Sindh | 11/2013-2015

Urban Renewal Initiative of Cantt Station is to combine restoration, heritage social studies with environmental and socio-development on urban level.

Founder & Creative Head

Pakistan Chowk Community Centre (PCCC). Karachi, Pakistan | 12/2016

A space for research, documentation & community engagement, advancement of arts and culture, and democratic and literary discourse in Old Town. PCCC is documenting and archiving existing heritage layouts and urban narratives through collecting Oral Histories.

Project Manager & Co-Curator

The Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP) | National History Museum. Lahore, Pakistan | 11/2016-07/2018

The museum features exhibit spanning from British Raj to 1960's-dedication to Partition. Located on the grounds of the Minar-e-Pakistan, the museum engages with children and adults with interactive exhibits, virtual and augmented reality experiences, cultural programming, and research archival lab.

Cultural Director

Peace Niche | The Second Floor (T2F). Karachi, Pakistan | 06/2014-12/2016

A not-for-profit organization that promotes democratic and conflict resolution through intellectual and cultural engagement. Committed to becoming a vibrant centre of Pakistan's developing civil society, PeaceNiche works in the areas of Arts, & Culture, Science & Technology, and Advocacy

Adjunct Faculty / Lecturer

Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan | 01/2022-05/2023 (present)

Course: M.Phil. Graduate Program: Pedagogy of Place, interdisciplinary led research, and practice-based approach.

Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan | 08/2019-12/2019

Course: Built (Cultural) Heritage: Politics of Protecting the Past

Karachi University. Karachi, Pakistan | 01/2015-06/2015

Design studio: research and design development of thesis students.

DUET | Dawood University of Engineering & Technology. Karachi, Pakistan | 01/2015-06/2015

Course: research methodology and development of thesis framework.

Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Karachi, Pakistan | 08/2014-12/2014

Course: Space Place & Heritage: heritage theory with the components of history of the heritage-built environment, documentation, material science, legislative provisions, international standards, and site management.

Project Architect / Researcher

Heritage Foundation. Karachi, Pakistan | 03/2013-04/2014

Establishing Research Lab Initiative and Visual Ethnographic Research (Intangible Cultural) study on documenting Spiritual Trail of Sacred Spaces and Heritage environment of Makli, a World Heritage Necropolis in Sindh and connecting historical trails of Saints in the adjoining areas of Thatta, Sindh Pakistan.

Intern Researcher at Urban Anthropology Lab. ECCo.

Field Museum. Chicago, IL | 07/2012- 02/2013

Oral Documentation, Visual Ethnography, Analysis, Urban Survey for developing Heritage Corridor in Calumet Industrial Region.

Project Architect

Heritage Foundation. Karachi, Pakistan | 02/2010-05/2012

Established in 1980, a Pakistan-based, nonprofit, social and cultural organization engaged in research, publication, and conservation of Pakistan's cultural heritage. Focusing on Building Preservation, Rehabilitation, Community Training and Culture Revival in Post Conflicted Zones.

WORKSHOP / RESIDENCY

Knowledge Cultural and Archives Workshop | Lahore, Pakistan | 03/2018

4 Day session designed to understand the representation of archives in contemporary discourse. Archives & Libraries Department, Govt of Punjab, and Punjab Information Technology Board in collaboration with Columbia University's Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities.

Maintaining & Protecting Cultural Heritage in Germany & Around the World. Berlin, Germany | 04/2017

Introduction to the Federal system and to the roles of different actors with a view to maintaining and protecting cultural heritage German Archaeological Institute (including the Archaeological Heritage Network) and the German Commission for UNESCO.

International Forum on Cultural Management & Cultural Policy. Munich, Germany | 11/2016

'Creating international alliances, mastering challenges'. A ten-day intensive programme offered by the Goethe-Institut in cooperation with the Cultural Department of the City of Munich- platform for cultural stakeholders from many regions of the world and representatives of Munich cultural institutions from the independent scene to discuss these questions and approaches to solutions.

VASTU-SHILPA Consultants, Design Residency Ahmadabad, India | 06/2008

In house internship opportunity under the guidance of Arch. Balkrishna Doshi, as a group we researched and documented the planning of historical structures and multiethnic culture of Old Walled City of Ahmadabad.

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIP

- Research & Documentary in partnership with University of Westminster, UoL: *'Milaap; where the salt meets the sweet water'* Research and visualization grant Gender Ecologies by British Council Pakistan. Karachi. Pakistan, 01/2023
- British Council (PK) in partnership with Koel Gallery. *'Stories from the Coast'*: multidisciplinary works highlighting the impact of climate change. Karachi. Pakistan | 05/2022 to 08/2022
- British Council (UK). Gender Ecologies: integral relationship between indigenous knowledge on land, ecology & culture. Collaborative grant with Westminster University of London | 12/2022 to 09/2023

CREATIVE INITIATIVES

- (Ongoing) Screening Documentary *Milaap*; Architecture Museum Vienna AzW (04/2023), Nunnery Gallery & Café supported by Bow Arts (04/2023) London, Prince Claus Fund Seminar, Colombo, Sri Lanka (12/2023), Wolf Humanities Center-University of Pennsylvania (12/2023).
- Designing & Curating digital symposium on the politics of Heritage in South Asia 12/2022
- Co- Curation: Research & Development collaboration with Vienna Architecture Museum on Architect Yasmeen Lari's practice in South Asia region, Vienna, Austria 11/2020 to 03/2023
- Workshop: developed 2-day workshop for ICCROM and Antiquity Govt of Sindh at Necropolis Makli, Thatta as part of climate change impact on built environment 10/2022
- Workshop: developed a walk-shop on 'Public / State: Monuments to Memory' at Frere Gardens. Supported by Art South Asia Project and British Council Pakistan. Karachi 10/2022
- Art exhibition: 'Urban periphery along the coastline' Hinterland Gallery, Vienna Austria. 09/2022
- Art exhibition: *'Sahil ki Kahaniyan'* Stories from the Sea exhibited at Koel Gallery. Research and visualization grant by British Council Pakistan. Karachi. Pakistan, 08/2022
- Curator & Researcher: Making Heimat. Germany. Arrival Country (*Venice Biennale, 2017*) to local context, 06/2019
- Project Architect for layout & development: 'Quantum City' art exhibition, curated by artist Amin Gulgee. Karachi, Pakistan, 03/2019
- Design collaboration: installation on Pakistan Chowk with Zoohaus (*German-Spanish Collective*), 11/2016.
- Curatorial Project with The School of Writing, and T2F- a photography exhibition at the Commune Gallery, 10/2016
- Co-Curator & Project Architect: *DilPhaink*: From the Streets to the Heart of Pakistan's Pop Culture, Alchemy Festival, South Bank Centre, London, UK, 05/2015

- Art exhibition: Karachi City of Lights Festivals collaboration with Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP): Art Installation '12 seconds,' research on public *chowks*, landmarks, and motion of 60 seconds halt on traffic signals. FOMMA Gallery, Karachi. Pakistan. 06/2015
- Art exhibition: 'my frame from the above: court of Wazir Khan Mosque'. Chicago Cultural Alliance. Chicago Sister City International. Chicago.IL 10/2012
- Curatorial Project: initiated a cultural platform 'South Asian Cultural Dialogue' for the diaspora celebrating centennial of Poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Chicago.IL. 7/2012

CONFERENCES & SOCIAL INITIATIVES

- Workshop / Speaker: Architecture, Urban Design and Environmental Activism in Contemporary Pakistan. Workshop supported by faculty from Cornell University (Prof. Iftikhar Dadi) and University of Kansas (Prof. Farhan Karim). 05/2023
- Workshop / Speaker at Columbia University designed by Prof. Manan Ahmed (Social Sciences): Worlds at Waste: the crisis of water in the subcontinent. 04/2023
- Guest Lecturer at Harvard Graduate School of Design moderated by Prof. Rahul Mehrotra. South Asia Mittal Institute 11/2022
- Guest Panelist at Climate Change Symposium Harvard Business School 11/2022
- Panelist at Izmir University on Climate Catastrophic & Pandemic Times; the fundamental function of Architecture as Care Architects. 10/2022
- Panelist at SURGE (Southern Urbanism Research Group Ensemble), women led webinar bringing scholars, practitioners and activists working on urban issues in Global South. 06/2022
- Panelist at '100 ways to say we' #Activation 4 at Theatre Neumarkt in conversation with Yassine Rashidi, Angelo Vermeulen (Seeds), moderated by Hayat Erdogan and Lucia Salome Granicher. 05/2022
- Panelist at Unpredictable Spaces in conversation with Prof. Elke Krasny at Weiner Festwochen. Vienna, Austria 09/2021
- Creative Networking / Research & Development Transforming Narratives Dhaka-Karachi-Birmingham; 03/2019 Grant was an initiative to deliver a step-change in the cultural relationships between Birmingham, Pakistan and Bangladesh and to focus on the reciprocal exchange of contemporary cultural practices between these countries and the United Kingdom.
- Walking Heritage into Future Cities: GCRF Funded Project / Workshop with University of Exeter's Archaeology Department and Business School and Heritage Walk Calcutta / Karachi. An innovative social enterprise combining academic research excellence with ethical community development through heritage walking tours for cultural understanding. Exeter, United Kingdom 21st -26th March 2019
- Presentation on Situational Urbanism at Heritage Across Borders-Hangzhou, China, 03/09/2018
- V4AF + ARASIA Roundtable Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Structures, Budapest, Hungary 07/2017
- Presentation: "Public Space: Fights and Fictions" "Public Space as a Militarized Environment" (*Demo: Polis- The Right to Public Space: 36-hour "Factory of Thought"*). 5/2016, Berlin
- Social Awareness Program: Founded Heritage Awareness Program (HAP) under *Karkhana* for privileged and underprivileged primary and secondary schools of Karachi. 04/2015 to present
- Panelist: BAE IAP, *Connecting the Disconnects-Architectural Pedagogy*, practice, and research in Pakistan. Islamabad, Pakistan 12/2014
- Presentation: IAP & Arcasia, Social Responsibility. 'The notion of memory and built environment.' Islamabad, Pakistan 12/2014
- Presentation: Agha Khan Seminar, *Architecture Is Life* Analytical Paper on 'Revitalization of Birzeit Historic Centre, Palestine.' Karachi, Pakistan 11/2014
- Co-Founder: ADRL Architectural Design Research Lab, a research laboratory devoted to projects within the field of architecture and urban social design. (Affiliated with Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture) Karachi, Pakistan. 08/2014
- Creative Collaboration: Moving Installation 'A transition, A Displacement.' Site: Hindu Gymkhana & Frere Hall. Karachi. Pakistan. 11/2013
- Presentation: IAP 5th Roundtable on Sustainability in Architecture and Construction, *Responsible Architecture Vernacular Architecture and Traditional Methodologies*. Islamabad, Pakistan. 10/2013
- Research & Documentation: Visual and Audio Ethnography of Shrines along the River Indus. Sindh, Pakistan 03/2013 to 02/2014
- Research Paper. *Minority Heritage and Margins, Tharparkar, Sindh*. Field Museum. Chicago.IL 11/2012
- Presentation: Field work: Colonial Past- and its relevance to next generation. (Szabist, IVSAA University, NED. Architecture/Visual Department) Karachi, Pakistan 11/2011

SKILLS

- Architecture & Design, Heritage Conservation, Museum and Art Curation, Executive Management, Cultural & Artistic Leadership, Networking & Collaboration Initiator, Research & Academic Approach towards Cultural Negotiation.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

2023: Reaching for the Stars, Digging a hole <https://www.dawn.com/news/1767381/reaching-for-the-stars-digging-a-hole>

2023: Banyan Trees Future <https://www.dawn.com/news/1763085/banyan-trees-future>

2022: Ecological Care: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1710544/ecological-care>

2022: The City of Lost Heritage: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1694421>

2020: Reclaiming Karachi's Edge: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1575686>

2020: Who benefits from Karachi's Public Parks: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1534648>

ARTISTIC PRACTICE

2019-2023: Visual Practice: <https://vimeo.com/user59251773>

2023: Milaap Documentary Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1g8TdEhpQA&t=24s>