



Behnaz Assadi is a Landscape designer and a founding partner at JA Architecture Studio. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design at the University of Toronto.

Behnaz's interest is in the unpredictability and open-ended-ness of landscape processes, large-scale interconnected ecological systems, and multi-scalar resilient design approaches that aim to mitigate the effect of climate change. Her work explores the agency of landscape architecture beyond disciplinary confines. Her current multi-disciplinary practice, professional experience at offices such as OMA, and her educational background provide her with a level of versatility and comfort in crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries to teach and practice in both landscape architecture and architecture.

At JA, Behnaz situates the studio's architectural interest in iconography, geometry, form, and tectonic pursuits within the broader context of landscape, ecology, and climate change. The studio has achieved a repertoire of built works, research projects, and award-winning competition entries. The latter includes Bauhaus Museum in Dessau (2015); Guggenheim in Helsinki (2015), Kaunas Concert Center (2017); four Canadian Architects Awards (2015, 2018, 2020 & 2021) and two Progressive Architecture Awards (2021 & 2022). Most recently, JA was named an Emerging Voice by The Architectural League of New York and a 2022 Design Vanguard by Architectural Record. JA's work has been published widely and exhibited both nationally and internationally.

Behnaz holds a Master's of Landscape Architecture from the University of Toronto and a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Tehran.

Academic Positions

- 2023-** *Assistant Professor*, John H. Daniels faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design
 Instructor, Graduate Architecture Design Studio 2 - Site, Matter, Ecology, and Indigenous Storywork
 Graduate Thesis Advisor (2022)
 Instructor, LAN 3017, Thesis advisor
- 2022-** *Visiting Professor*, Option Studio (Thick Seams), Cornell AAP, New York (2022)
Assistant Professor, John H. Daniels faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design
 Coordinator, Graduate Landscape Design Studio 1 - The Language of Landscape (2022)
 Undergraduate Architecture Design Studio III - Landscape Architecture Studio 3 (2022)
- 2021-** *Assistant Professor*, John H. Daniels faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design
 Instructor, Graduate Architecture Design Studio 2 - Site, Matter, Ecology, and Indigenous Storywork
 Graduate Thesis Advisor (2022)
 Coordinator, Graduate Landscape Design Studio 1 - The Language of Landscape (2021)
 Coordinator, Graduate Landscape Studio 4 - Comprehensive studio (2021)
- 2017-2020** *Lecturer*, Core Faculty, John H. Daniels faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design
 Coordinator, Graduate Landscape Studio 4 - Comprehensive studio (2020)
 Graduate Thesis Advisor(2020)
 Coordinator, Graduate Landscape Design Studio 1 - The Language of Landscape (2020)
 Undergraduate Architecture Design Studio III - Landscape Architecture Studio (2020)
 Coordinator, Graduate Landscape Design Studio 1 - The Language of Landscape (2019)
 Instructor, Graduate Architecture Design Studio 2 - Kindergartens (2018, 2019)
 Instructor, Graduate Landscape Design Studio 3 - Superstudio (2017, 2018)
 Undergraduate Architecture Design Studio III - Landscape Architecture Studio 3 (2018)
 Instructor, Graduate Architecture Design Studio 2 - Toronto Food Terminals (2017)

Work experience

- 2010-** JA Architecture Studio, Founding Partner, Toronto, ON
2008 Centre for Landscape Research at Faculty of AL&D, University of Toronto. *Design Assistant*
2007 OMA, Office for Metropolitan Architecture, Rotterdam, *Intern*

Education

- 2008** *Master of Landscape Architecture*
 Faculty of Architecture Landscape and Design, University of Toronto
2001 *Bachelor of Fine Arts*, Faculty of Fine Arts, Tehran University, Tehran, Iran

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 Landscape and Design
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JA Architecture Studio Selected Professional Honors, Awards and Public Lectures

- 2023** 70th Annual Progressive Architecture (P/A) Award for ‘Light Grain’, ARCHITECT Magazine, March 2023.
- 2022** Wallpaper* Architects Directory, London, UK. *[forthcoming]*.
Design Vanguard, RECORD’s selection of top emerging design firms, The Architecture Record, New York.
Emerging Voices, Annual invited competition, The Architectural League of New York
 Public Lecture, *JA Architecture Studio and Tsz Yan Ng*, The Architectural League of New York, Online, March 17th, 2022.
 Exhibition, *Organic Sway*, Organic, The School of Architecture, The Visitors Center Building, Arcosanti, Arizona.
 69th Annual Progressive Architecture (P/A) Award for ‘One and a Half’, ARCHITECT Magazine, March 2022.
- 2021** Canadian Architect Magazine award of Merit for ‘Markham’
 68th Annual Progressive Architecture (P/A) Award for ‘Wardell’, ARCHITECT Magazine, March 2022.
- 2020** Canadian Architect Magazine award of Excellence for ‘Wardell’, December 2021.
 Exhibition, 1:1 | One to One, Foundation Building, The Cooper Union, New York.
 Public Lecture, 1:1, The Cooper Union, New York, February 24th 2020.
- 2019** Shortlisted Finalist, Canadian Pavilion, Venice Biennale in Architecture 2020 for the project ‘Bore-ing Lightness’.
- 2018** Canadian Architect Magazine award of Excellence for project ‘The Octagon’, December 2018.
- 2017** Invited Competition, Emerging Practice, Architecture League of New York.
 Invited Competition, PS1 Young Architects Program (YAP).
 Finalists, Canadian Pavilion, Venice Biennale in Architecture 2018 for the project ‘Lightness’.
 Honorable mention for *River Sonata*, Kaunas Concert Centre Competition, Kaunas, Lithuania.
 Keynote Lecture, The Plan Magazine’s Perspective Series, New York, June 27, 2017.
- 2016** One of the eight Finalists for Lord Stanley’s gift Competition, Ottawa, Canada. A joint venture project with Sebastian Errazuriz Studio, Brooklyn, NY.
- 2015** Canadian Architect Magazine award of Merit for project ‘111’, December 2018.
 Exhibition, Bauhaus Dessau, Winning Entries Competition Exhibition, Dessau Germany.
 Fourth Prize for *6 Rooms*, Bauhaus Museum Dessau Competition (Two-Stage), Germany, 1 of 30 shortlisted teams, 831 international entries.
 Exhibition, Guggenheim Helsinki Now, Kunsthalle Helsinki, Presentation of top submissions to the Guggenheim Helsinki Competition, April 25–May 16 at the Kunsthalle Helsinki.
 Honorable mention for *Driftwood*, Guggenheim Helsinki Competition 1,715 International entries were received and 15 Honorable Mentions awarded
- 2014** Third prize winner, Iran’s Pavilion At Milan Expo 2015 Competition, Italy, Joint Venture with Maher and Co. Consulting Engineer