

Jakiat Jitu

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Passionate and skilled professional with a robust background in architecture, urban design, and community engagement, dedicated to advancing equitable and inclusive justice. Proven ability to coordinate multi-stakeholder initiatives, conduct policy research, and support knowledge dissemination. Proficient in program coordination, procurement processes, and data analysis, with technical expertise in GIS, Autocad, and visualisation.

EDUCATION

University College London (UCL), UK

Expected Graduation: September 2025

MSc Building and Urban Design in Development, Bartlett Development Planning Unit

Awards: DPU Dissertation Fellowship (2025) on climate change adaptation, UCL Global Master's Scholarship (2024)

Modules include: Climate Change Adaptation in Cities, Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), Bangladesh

February 2016- May 2022

Bachelor of Architecture, minor in Urban Design, 1st Class Honours

Awards: Dean's List (Top 5% of Class- 2019), University Merit Scholarship (2019, 2020, and 2021)

Dissertation: Future with Waste: A new perspective of integrating the value of waste into the urban fabric

WORK EXPERIENCE

F.A.C.E. (Foundation of Architecture and Community Equity)

January 2023- January 2024

Architect & Project Manager

Bangladesh

- Provided technical support for operation, reporting and monitoring with multilevel communication with the local council, community members and NGO partners- World Food Programme (WFP), Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)
- Coordinated 20 co-production workshops on nature-based solutions with 300 Rohingya refugee host artisans.
- Designed a pavilion with vernacular materials, conducted site assessments and supervised construction.
- Led the procurement monitoring and evaluation team and managed the project database and communication materials.

Just Space

October 2024- Present

Volunteer Researcher

UK

- Coordinated feasibility assessment of urban mobility projects for HS2 development in North Acton.
- Planned and coordinated participatory workshops with stakeholders to support development consent processes.
- Conceptual designs for cycle lanes and footbridges to enhance urban mobility and reduce carbon emissions.

OXFAM

November 2024- Present

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Research Fellow

UK / Bangladesh (remote)

- Conducted research on indigenous coping strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Designed research methodology and managed logistics for field surveys. Collaborated with local government and NGO partners (CODEC, OXFAM) to ensure effective field survey execution and data collection.
- Prepared assessment reports and developed an indigenous knowledge directory.

WaterAid

April 2024- June 2024

Technical Design Officer

Bangladesh

- Designed an inclusive urban toolkit for female-friendly public toilets in Dhaka.
- Developed design guidelines for architectural expression and branding for just sanitation interventions.
- Designed and monitored WASH structures, assisted in inclusive WASH policymaking with the Lalmonirhat Council

Detour Habitats - Jono-aronyo

May 2022 – December 2022

Architect & Project Manager

Bangladesh

- Surveyed a 34-acre land and facilitated field visits, prepared a master plan for a nature and rural conservation centre.
- Designed concepts for the first walkable manmade forest in Bangladesh and housing prototypes.
- Coordinated monthly meetings and prepared assessment reports.

PAAR

February 2020- Present

Co-founder and Team Lead

Bangladesh

- Established a fair-trade social enterprise, working with marginalised groups on nature-based product fabrication.
- Planned and organised a 'Sudin Sotta 2.0 x PAAR' fashion show with the Sajida Foundation in Dhaka in 2024.
- Responsible for technical design, finances, marketing, pursuits, project management and partnerships.
- PAAR focuses on ethical clothing and craft products with a commitment to sustainability and social equity

AWARDS

- **Commendation at DRIA (Designing Resilience in Asia)**
International Symposium & Design Competition, National University of Singapore, 2021.
- **Champion at architectural design competition 'A Spiritual Space'**
Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (CUET), Bangladesh, 2019.
- **Commendation at 'BARRY WILL AWARD' for architecture**
Arcasia, Philippines, 2023.
- **Award Holder (4th position) at 'Homage to Togetherness'**
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia, 2020.
- **Commendation at 'Sundar Bari' SEARCH International Student Competition**
Trust for Search, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, 2020.
- **Gold mention at architectural design competition 'Accentuating Rain'**
Archtwist, Bangladesh, 2019.

LEADERSHIP & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Co-facilitator, Community Networks for Social Impact and Sustainability

November 2023

- Facilitated a seminar with four partner countries on 'Designing Social Enterprise Models of Community Networks for Social Impact and Sustainability' by the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) in the Philippines.

Co-facilitator, Social Architecture Workshop 1 and 2

September 2022 and March 2023

- Facilitated the 'Social Architecture Workshop' focused on nature-based solutions and co-creation with communities for NGO Forum & OXFAM at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Organiser, Hatirghona Women's Craft Exhibition

October 2023

- Organised and curated a nature-based product exhibition crafted by Rohingya refugee host women.
- Facilitated field visits for Yale University students, partner NGOs and local council members at Ukhiya, Bangladesh.

Trainee, Urban Rainwater Harvesting System.

February 2024

- Completed certification training on International Urban Rainwater Harvesting Systems by WaterAid, ITN-BUET, and IWA.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Indigenous Coping Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction: The case of Kutubdia, Bangladesh**
Research article for 'People for People' project of CODEC and Oxfam Bangladesh, Role: Author
- **'Story of Shoronkhola' - Indigenous Coping Strategies for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction** Illustrated
Book Publication for CODEC and Oxfam Bangladesh, Role: Co-Author
- **Manufacturing Guidelines for Products Using Recycled Plastic and Areca Palm Leaves**
Booklet Publication for iDE & F.A.C.E. Bangladesh, Bangladesh, 2023, Role: Co-Author and illustrator
- **Social Architecture approach in WASH projects with Communities in Teknaf**
Booklet Publication for Australian Aid, OXFAM & NGO FORUM, Bangladesh, 2022, Role: Co-Author
- **To-gatherness**
Article for interview for USAID Civic Engagement Project, Macedonia, 2019, Role: Co-Author
- **Better the Balance, Better the World**
Article for a Women's Day workshop on 'Balance for Better' by UNHCR & BRAC, 2019, Role: Co-Author

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Software: Google Suite, Microsoft Suite, Adobe Suite, Rhino, Grasshopper, Sketchup, AutoCAD, ArchiCAD, Revit, ArcGIS, Lumion, Vray, Twinmotion, Enscape, Data Visualisation

Languages: Bengali (native speaker), English (fluent), Hindi (conversational), Urdu (conversational), Rohingya (basic)