

## MASOOMA M SHAKIR

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Masooma Shakir is an architect and an urban researcher. She is particularly interested in interdisciplinary research focusing on urban and spatial issues in relation to historic environments. She has keen interest in cultural heritage and its contextual associations. Her doctoral research looks at the local religious and cultural heritage of Sufi shrines in the region of Sindh. Her work is analytical, aiming to decipher the vocabulary / components of the regional tangible and intangible culture of a particular place as a system / language.

Apart from this, she has been involved in urban research projects within the department as well as outside on the documentation / analysis of multiple urban issues of the mega city of Karachi. Her masters thesis was an urban design proposal for the futuristic development of CBD in a direction that protects the heritage areas of the city. Urban research and documentation activities have not been limited to the city of Karachi and Masooma has ventured into the research activities exploring the smaller towns and secondary cities in Sindh in particular.

She has been part of the faculty at the Architecture and Planning Department at the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi as Assistant Professor since 2007. She has been involved in design teaching, theory courses including Urban Planning and Design, Research Methodology and Environment Studies. She has been a dynamic participant in various research projects and academic activities within the department. She has been a part of the Editorial team of the Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning at the Department previously and has also acted as Advisor / Senior Coordinator of Design Studio Group (DSG). The Design Studio Group is a design faculty group that was formed as a forum to discuss and develop design studio teaching, bringing and sharing new ideas and practices.

She also carried out several small and big scale, residential and commercial, interior design and architecture projects as well as heritage adaptive reuse projects.

### Academic Background:

2013 - 2017

**Doctorate study (ongoing)**- Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany

2004 – 2005

**Masters in Architecture for Human Settlements**,  
University of Leuven, Belgium (Graduated as Cum Laude - 72%)

1995 – 2000

**Bachelor of Architecture**,  
Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi

### Research papers presented in International Conferences

Presented a paper at the Centre d'études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud - CEIAS (Center for South Asian Studies) Paris on '**Rituals, Social Hierarchies and their relationship to Place: Case of Shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, Bhitshah**', as part of the ongoing Phd study, for the Conference on 'How to Study Shared Sacred Spaces in South Asia and Beyond', December 2016

Presented a paper at the Centre d'études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud - CEIAS (Center for South Asian Studies) Paris on '**Mapping Shared Sacred Spaces in Uderolal**', as part of the UderoLal Research Project (ULRP), for the Conference on 'How to Study Shared Sacred Spaces in South Asia and Beyond', December 2016

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Presented a paper on: '**From Sufi Learning Center to Popular Place – Living History and Cultural Place at the Shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai in the Town of Bhitshah, Sindh (Pakistan)**', at ARCASIA Conference, Ayutthaya, Thailand, November 2015.

### **Publications:**

#### **Books:**

**Karachi From the Prism of Urban Design**, Co-authored with Dr. Noman Ahmed, Asiya Sadiq Polack and Suneela Ahmed, Published by Department of Architecture and Planning, NED UET, Karachi, 2016.

#### **Research Projects and Reports:**

Documentation and Analysis of the Secondary City of Larkana (Sindh) as part of the **Sustainable Urbanization Project**– Research Study of 8 secondary cities of Pakistan; A UNHabitat-NED Collaboration Project including Sialkot, Mansehra, Mingora, Turbat, Landikotal, Gilgit and Muzaffarabad as other secondary cities in Pakistan. This involved physical and socio economic survey of selected areas of city, analysis, formulation of key proposals based on identification of key issues.

This was carried out between 2010-2012

Mapping of density of four low income housing areas in Karachi, **Density Study – 04 Cases of Housing**, 2008/09, Prepared for the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), co-researchers and authors including Asiya Sadiq Polack and Suneela Ahmed in collaboration with Architect and Planner Arif Hasan, published and available at <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/G02709.pdf>

**Asia Link Programme** (2006/07), NED University: as research assistant; A collaborative program between Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, the Netherlands; CEPT University (CEPT), Ahmedabad, India; University of Moratuwa, Colombo, Sri Lanka; and the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, Pakistan for curriculum development in urban and city design.

#### **Research Papers:**

'**Economic functioning of Secondary cities of Pakistan and its integration with the physical landuse – Case of Larkana and Mansehra**', presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Seminar on Urban and Regional Planning, NED UET, 31 March 2012, published in the Conference proceedings.

'**Towards achieving a balance between real estate development potentials and issues of heritage conservation in the city center, with the backdrop of Karachi**', presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Seminar on Urban and Regional Planning, NED UET, May 2010. This was also published in the Seminar Proceedings Publication 2010.

**Gated Living in the context of Karachi**, published in: "Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning", Volume Nine, 2010, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi

**Trends in Urban Housing and Development Practices in Karachi: An interface with the Informal Sector**, presented at the AsiaLink-AsiaUrbs Conference, 07-09 June 2007, Center for Housing Planning and Building, Battaramulla, Colombo, Sri Lanka. published in: "Emerging South Asian Urban Design Practices and Paradigms". This paper was a result of my work as a research assistant for Asia

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Link Programme (2006/07). This was a collaborative program between Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, the Netherlands; CEPT University (CEPT), Ahmedabad, India; University of Moratuwa, Colombo, Sri Lanka; and the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, Pakistan for curriculum development in urban and city design.

**International Urban Design Competition Entry**

Participated in International Competition on Urban Regeneration of Aurificia Block in Porto, Portugal as the main coordinator.

The entry was the only one from Asia. Taking on a multidisciplinary approach sought to revitalize a degenerated area through an economic activity addition of urban agriculture, supported by community and cultural activities along with creation of an authentic tourism.

**Participation in Cultural Events and Exhibitions**

Participated in art event 'Pursukoon Karachi', with the art project 'Rang De', that aimed to create and spread messages of peace through graffiti and mobile messages on rikshaws (local transport mode).

Along with a handful of dedicated fourth year design students from NED, ticket booths for rikshaws were designed using bamboos and scaffolding as basic local materials and technology put together at very low cost, detailed with rikshaw art.

Participated in IAP Design Competition '21 cubic feet', a storage box design of the stated volume, exhibited at the Indus Valley Art Gallery for two weeks. The design storage box was a multipurpose, semi outdoor studio space for any kind of creative work. It was called 'Pandora Box'. A couple of old wooden window structures were revamped to become openable table and storage space for creative minds.