

Masooma Shakir is an architect, urban researcher and academic. Her work explores interdisciplinary interactions on urban and spatial issues in relation to socio-cultural and environmental parameters. She has explored cultural heritage and its contextual associations within particular case studies. She has been involved in urban research projects within the Architecture department of NED University, as well as outside it on the documentation / analysis of multiple urban issues of the mega city of Karachi. She has been faculty at the Architecture and Planning Department at the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi as Assistant Professor since 2007 and has taught design and theory courses in undergraduate and postgraduate programs. She is Editor of the Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning at the Department. She has presented research papers in several national and international Conferences, webinars and seminars and has published in newspapers and research journals.

Academic Background:

2013 - 2018 Doctorate in Urban Heritage, Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany.

Graduated as Magna Cum Laude

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.

Honors List: Semester 9 (Jan-June 2000); Semester 8 (Aug.-Dec. 1999)

Affiliation:

Member Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP)

Associate Member Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP)

Executive Council Member - Treasurer, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Pakistan

Member, Board of Studies, DAP-NED

Member, Board of Faculty, NED-UET

HEC Approved Phd Supervisor

Honours:

Editor, Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning, NED University (since 2024)

Convenor, Conference on Urban and Regional Planning 2026

Co-Convenor, International Conference of Architecture, 2023 and 2025 at DAP-NED.

ORIC Representative at Architecture Department, NED

Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Representative at Architecture Department, NED

Phd Supervisor for Phd Candidate Fariha Tehseen, topic, "Socio-Cultural Production of Urban Housing in Karachi, Pakistan: The Case Study of Ethnically Diverse Migrants".

Phd Supervisor for Phd Candidate Safia Shahzad, topic, "Examining the Relationship between Sustainable Building Practices and Occupant Well-Being".

PUBLICATIONS:

BOOKS

E-Licensed Publication of Phd Thesis: **Reconstructing the Sufi Shrine as a Living Cultural Heritage – Case of the Shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, Bhitshah (Sindh) Pakistan**, January 2019. Available at <https://e-pub.uni-weimar.de/opus4/frontdoor/index/index/year/2018/docId/3770>

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 PAPERS:

Shakir, M.M., Ahmed, N., Khan, S.A. 2025. **Factors Affecting Critique in Architecture Design Studio: Evidences from regional and urban institutes of Pakistan**. *Orient Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 10(2), 41–51. Retrieved from <https://ojs-orjss.gcwus.edu.pk/journal/article/view/73>

Shakir, M.M. 2025. **Comprehensive Methodological approach for Documenting a Living Cultural Heritage: Using Case example of Mazar of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai**. *Annals of Human and Social Sciences*, 6(4), 57–71. [https://doi.org/10.35484/ahss.2025\(6-IV\)05](https://doi.org/10.35484/ahss.2025(6-IV)05)

Shakir, M. M. 2024. 'Context Integration and inclusivity in contemporary public spaces of major city from Global South– case of Karachi, Pakistan', Journal of Asian and African Studies, Volume 60, Issue 5, Pgs 3183-3208. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00219096241228778>

Shakir, M. M. 2024. 'Morphology and landuse characteristics as key context parameters maintaining authenticity of living cultural heritage – Case of Sufi Shrine (Mazar) of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai Sindh', Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage, Volume 11, Issue 1, pgs 34-52. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20518196.2024.2336415>

Ahmed, S., Shakir, M.M., Ahmed, N., Ahmed, S. 2023. **Conflicting binaries and urban spaces: Case of Merewether Tower Precinct in Karachi (Pakistan)**, Journal of Architecture and Planning - King Saud University (Volume-35, Issue-2), June 2023. Available at https://jap.ksu.edu.sa/sites/jap.ksu.edu.sa/files/users/user450/Vol-35-2_2023-June/En01.pdf

Shakir, M.M., Ahmed, S., Shaikh, F., Boivin, M. 2022. 'Indus River and Cultural Heritage: Commemoration of three sites in Sindh,' Book Chapter in: Rehman, MM (ed), *Handbook of Waterfront Cities and Urbanism*, July 2022. Available at <https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.1201/9781003204565-5>

Ahmed, S., Shakir, M.M. **Migrating Indigenous Communities and Cultural Shifts: the Case of the Mohanas of Manchar Lake, Sindh, 2026**, accepted for publishing in *Historical Archaeology of South Asia*, Springer Publication, Riggs and Varma (eds).

Shakir, M.M., **Manchar Lake – A Historic Cultural Landscape**, 2026, accepted for publication in *Journal of Sindh Studies*, Boivin and Cook (eds), Routledge.

Shakir, M.M., Ahmed, S. 2014. 'Economic functioning of Secondary cities of Pakistan and its integration with the physical landuse – Case of Larkana and Mansehra', in: Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning, Volume 16, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED UET. [https://jrap.neduet.edu.pk/arch-journal/JRAP_2014\(FirstIssue\)/04.pdf](https://jrap.neduet.edu.pk/arch-journal/JRAP_2014(FirstIssue)/04.pdf)

Shakir, M.M. 2010. 'Towards achieving a balance between real estate development potentials and issues of heritage conservation in the city center, with the backdrop of Karachi', Seminar Proceedings Publication: 5th Seminar on Urban and Regional Planning, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED UET.

Shakir, M.M., Sadiq, A., Ahmed, S. 2010. **Gated Living in the context of Karachi**, in: "Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning", Volume 9, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. https://jrap.neduet.edu.pk/arch-journal/JRAP_2010/5-Asiya-Masooma-Saeed.pdf

Sadiq, A., Shakir, M.M. 2007. **Trends in Urban Housing and Development Practices in Karachi: An interface with the Informal Sector**, in: "Emerging South Asian Urban Design Practices and Paradigms", AsiaLink-AsiaUrbs Conference Proceedings, Center for Housing Planning and Building, Battaramulla, Colombo, Srilanka.

Sadiq, A., Shakir, M.M. 2006. **Khuda ki Basti (KKB) – Urban housing and future implications to urban design**, in: "Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning", Volume 5, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi.

Compiled 20 prominent building litigation cases for publication, **Profile of a Lawless City**, for Shehri-CBE, with Economist Kaiser Bengali, Unpublished work

RESEARCH PROJECTS

HEC- NRPU – National Research Program for Universities 2023-2026, titled '**Increasing population densities, the Pandemic and Low Income Settlement Planning**' as PI.

Urban Regeneration Proposal for FC Area for **PIDE** as Co-PI along with Dr. Noman Ahmed and Dr. Saeeduddin Ahmed, 2024.

Interdisciplinary Research on historical religious sites: **Pak-France Peridot Research Project - Interdisciplinary Survey of the Legacy related to Uderolal/Zindapir in Sindh – Uderolal Research Project (ULRP)**. Engaged as Principal Investigator / Coordinator. This was joint collaboration receiving funding of Rs. 1,750,000 and 17,000 Euros, scheduled from 2019-2022. It involved field work documentation, analysis and scholarly exchange between two universities EHESS-CEIAS and DAP-NED.

Merewether Tower Precinct Urban Research and Design Project: For Architecture firm – ARCOP and Silk Bank Pvt Ltd. 2017-2019. The project was aimed at documentation, analysis and design proposal for

urban revitalization of the historic precinct of Merewether Tower, establishing contemporary place and connection to new development.

Urban Research Project: UNHabitat-NED Collaboration Project: **Sustainable Urbanization** – Case of 8 secondary cities of Pakistan; Larkana, Sialkot, Mansehra, Mingora, Turbat, Landikotal, Gilgit and Muzaffarabad. This involved physical and socio economic survey of selected areas of city, analysis, formulation of key proposals based on identification of key issues.

Density Study – 04 Cases of Housing, 2008/09

Prepared for the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), under the Urban Design and Research Cell (URDC) in collaboration with Architect and Planner Arif Hasan, 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.

PRESENTATIONS – SYMPOSIA AND CONFERENCES:

Coordinated and Organized Seminar and Roundtable Discussion on **High Density Housing: Issues and Solutions** on **6th August 2025**, as part of NRPU Project activities, in collaboration with Eastern, Regional Organization for Human Settlements (EAROPH) and Punjab Affordable Housing Program (PAHP) at City Campus, NED University, hosting stakeholders including Government representatives, developers, community representatives, architects, planners, faculty and students.

Presentation at Webinar organized by +921 Heritage Talks, Pakistan Chowk Community Center on HighRise Invasion into Historic Quarters of Karachi, titled, '**Real Estate and Heritage Development Potentials and Issues, Karachi**' on **12th January 2023**.

Presentations at Center of South Asian and Indian Studies (CEAIS) Paris, Workshop titled, 'The Uderolal Research Project (ULRP) – At the CrossRoads of Architecture, Urban Studies, History and Anthropology: An Overview of a French Pakistani Project, '**Indus River and Cultural Heritage: Commemoration of Jhulelal in Sindh**' and '**Altered social structures and fluid identities: Case of Mohanas of Manchar Lake**', 14 December 2022.

Presentation at the Winter School, IBA Institute, Karachi, '**Documenting the components and the context of Living Cultural Heritage, Case of the Mazar of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai**', 24th Nov 2022.

Presented a paper at the 4th International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning at the Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University on, '**Traditional socio-cultural mechanisms supporting a living cultural heritage: Surviving indigenous modernity of the small town of Bhitshah, Sindh**', 18-19 December 2020.

Presented Student design works, supervised as 3rd yr Architecture Design Faculty, at the **Symposium on Bauhaus Centennial** organized at the DAP-NED, November 2019.

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

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.

Research 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 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>

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

The urban squeeze: How unregulated housing densification is destroying Karachi's neighbourhoods, published in Dawn Newspaper, July 04, 2025. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1910757/the-urban-squeeze-how-unregulated-housing-densification-is-destroying-karachis-neighbourhoods>

Preservation of Regional History, published in Express Tribune Newspaper, 02 January 2025. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2519497/preservation-of-regional-history>

Creative Architectural Solutions to the 'issue' of the Public Toilet, published in Architimes Newspaper, Monthly Issue of August 2023. <https://www.architimesonline.com/site/creative-architectural-solutions-to-the-issue-of-the-public-toilet/>

Exploring the Region's Largest Freshwater Lake Manchar, published in Architimes Newspaper, Monthly Issue of December 2022.

Restoring Life of a Lake, published in The News International, daily newspaper, 05 June 2022. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/tns/detail/963101-life-of-a-lake>

The Question of People Centric Conservation – Retaining City Histories, published in Architimes Newspaper, Monthly issue of January 2021.

Cartographic Turn: An Insight into World's Changing Trends – Prof. Jacques Levy (Rheims University, Paris), published in Architimes Newspaper, Monthly issue of January 2020, coauthored with Fariha Tehseen

Non-Fiction: More than Figures (Book Review) for 'Hasan, Shaikh Khurshid. 2019. Muslim Architecture in Pakistan - Aspects of Figural Representation' Dawn Newspaper, 24 May 2020

Sufi Towns, published in The News Sunday on April 9, 2017

The Caravansarai of Oderolal, Architimes Newspaper, Monthly issue of May 2017

Interview of Jonathan Calame, Architimes Newspaper, Monthly issue of July 2017

Experience:

September 2007 – Present **Assistant Professor**, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi

Undergraduate Courses taught: Architecture Design Studio VI, History and Theory V (Muslim Architecture), Research Methodologies, Final Year Architecture Design Thesis.

Masters Courses in Evening Programme of Urban and Regional Planning, DAP-NED University:

Advanced Studies in Urban Design, Urbanism: Theory and Practice

Phd Course: Interface of Cultural Parameters with the Built Environment.

Supervising two Phd students, several masters thesis, and undergraduate thesis.

Member, Board of Studies, Architecture and Planning Department (2018-onwards)

Member, Scientific Committee for Conference in Urban and Regional Planning CURP held annually,

Co-Convenor, Conference on Architecture (2023 and 2025)

Editor, Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning, NED University (2024 onwards)

2010-2013 Part of the Editorial team of the Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning, Department of Architecture and Planning

Advisor / Senior Coordinator Design Studio Group, at the Department: A design faculty group for uplifting the design studio teaching, bringing and sharing new ideas and practices.

May 2006 – Sept. 2007 **Research Assistant / Architect**, NED University
Responsibilities

- Editing and proof reading of Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning
- Field work for the Asia Link project, documentation and descriptive research writing

May 2002 – July 2004 **Architect / Research Assistant**, Arif Hasan Associates, Karachi
Responsibilities

- Report writing, producing analytical matrices from census data

- Physical documentation of a heritage building in the city and producing design strategies for adaptive reuse for a client.

Feb 2001- April 2002

Assistant Architect, Arshad Shahid Abdullah, Karachi

Responsibilities:

- Preliminary design works entailing:
 - Architectural Design Philosophy and Strategy
 - Concept design
- Design Development
- Project coordination within the team.
- Onsite Project Management.

Academic Works Undertaken at the Architecture and Planning Department, NED UET

Assistant Editor: Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning, 2002, 2006

Editorial Associate: Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning, Volume Six, 2007, 2010

Conference Proceedings Publication for Third Seminar on Urban and Regional Planning, September 2007, DAP-NED

Organised and Participated in the seminar series with Shehri CBE on

1. Karachi: As a World City; 2. Karachi: Revisioning for an Urban Revolution; 3. Conclusions: Vision for Karachi and Masterplanning

Published an article in Architimes newspaper, 'Karachi As a World City'.

Organized and assisted in the design workshop by Malaysian Architect, Kevin Low, 'Small Projects – The relationship of architecture with details' at DAP-NED (2005)

Compiling and assembling research reports with Arif Hasan (2002/03)

"Understanding slums: The Case of Karachi, Pakistan" for: UN-Habitat (2003) *Global Report on Human Settlements 2003, The Challenge of Slums*, Earthscan, London

"Urban Change: Scale and underlying causes, the case of Pakistan", (2002) author: Arif Hasan, published, prepared for IIED, UK.

Participated in numerous seminars, conferences and was guest lecture at various universities.

Participated in various exhibitions including Pursukoon Karachi, IAP Design Competitions, Advising Faculty to Student Competitions

Advisor to numerous undergraduate architecture thesis projects at NED University and other architecture institutes.

Published several newarticles in Dawn newspaper, The News and monthly Architimes.

DESIGN PROJECTS

Coordinated a hands-on **Bamboo Workshop** with students of Third year Architecture – Design, Build and Construct 2023. The construction was funded by TGA – The Green Ark and involved architects Archlore to supervise and guide the students through lecture and hands-on demonstration.

Beach hut design at French Beach, 2022

Participated in Urban Design Competition announced by the Pakistan Railways, on '**Redevelopment of the Cantt Station, Karachi**', 2021 with architects Mohammad Ahmed Khan and Dr. Suneela Ahmed.

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 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.

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.

- Commercial Refurbishment:

Milkoo Outlet Interior, Amir Khusro Road, 2019

Office Interior – Conversion from Residence to Office Space – **ECHO Digital Marketing** Company, 2017

- **Interior Design for house** no. G-18 for Mr. Abul Hasan at Society for Scientists, SUPARCO Road. 2017-18

- Home improvement works

- Mr. Ashiq Ali - 299 – B Shabbirabad, Karachi
- Mr. Zoaib Fakhrudin - 120- B Shabbirabad, Karachi
- Mrs. Ghulam Husain Mala, Shabbirabad, Karachi

Tourist Motel Design in Gwadar, 2006

Sindh Zamindar Heritage conservation project, M.A. Jinnah Road (with Architects Arif Hasan and Christophe Polack in 2002)

Habib Public School, Extension and Renovation, Queens Road (with Architect Christophe Polack in 2002)