

AISHA CHEEMA

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) – Cambridge, MA

Master of Architecture Candidate, School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P)

Expected Graduation 2027 | Cross-registered at Harvard University

The Ohio State University (OSU) – Columbus, OH

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Knowlton School of Architecture

Graduated in 2020 | Honors Research Distinction

PROFESSIONAL

Heritage Foundation of Pakistan – Karachi, Pakistan

Researcher | 2025

Working with Yasmeen Lari on climate-resilient housing in flood and heat affected communities. Assisted with mapping, heat monitoring, and community participatory design for communal gardens, shared infrastructure, and cooling spaces.

The Next Earth. Computation, Crisis, Cosmology – Venice, Italy

Curatorial + Exhibition Assistant | 2025

Working as curation assistant for Professor Leslie Norford and Dr. Eduardo Gascón Alvarez of the Building Technologies Group. Leading the fabrication and production of exhibition materials and installing the display at the Palazzo Diedo in Venice.

LOT-EK : WORK-IN-PROGRESS – Cambridge, MA

Exhibition Assistant | 2024

Installing LOTEK's exhibition in MIT SA+P's Keller Gallery. Fabricating custom display shelves for LOT-EK and coordinating installation as they are based in NY.

stock-a-studio : club kits – Cambridge, MA

Exhibition Assistant | 2024

Assisting stock-a-studio with their exhibition in MIT SA+P's Keller Gallery. Using entirely existing material stock from previous exhibitions, designing and installing bespoke structures. Performing a live DJ set for opening night as celebration.

Astra Studios – Columbus, OH

Designer | 2021-2023

Led the design and build of a pop-up installation for a non-profit organization, coordinating design development through fabrication and installation. Managed studio outreach through graphic design, web development, and social media. Supported conceptual & technical design phases for residential and commercial projects.

Dean Wenz Architects – Columbus, OH

Architectural Designer | 2021

Produced as-built models and drafted construction document sets for a 250-unit residential complex. Developed detailed construction drawings including foundation plans, wall sections, and roof framing plans and coordinating with engineering.

OSU Knowlton School and Department of Anthropology – Columbus, OH

Research + Fabrication Assistant | 2020

Assisted with interdisciplinary research in collaboration with Columbus Wastewater Treatment. Assisted with design and build of a free standing information pavillion made of recycled PET in a cornfield fertilized by composted biosolids.

TEACHING

MIT SA+P 4.021 How to Design — Cambridge, MA

Teaching Assistant | Fall 2025

Worked with Paul Pettigrew and Simon Lesina-Debiasi to instruct first-year undergraduate students in design fundamentals and critique.

MIT SA+P 4.462 / 4.440 / 1.056 Structural Design — Cambridge, MA

Teaching Assistant | Spring 2025

Collaborated with John Ochsendorf on lab coordination and instruction in structural design and material experimentation for graduates and undergraduates.

MIT SA+P 4.314 Advanced Workshop in Artistic Practice — Cambridge, MA

Teaching Assistant | Fall 2024

Worked with Matej Vakula to support teaching on fabrication, ethics, and automation in transdisciplinary design practices for graduates and undergraduates..

EXHIBITIONS

Shaping Thermal Performance for The Next Earth. at the Palazzo Diedo

Palazzo Diedo, Venice, Italy | 2025

OFFCUT/CUTOFF for House of Heritage at the Pearling Path

Muharraq, Bahrain | 2024

Artist Spotlight for Greater Columbus Arts Council Gallery

Columbus, Ohio | 2023

LEADERSHIP

MIT National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS)

Co-President | 2024 - Present

MIT Graduate Student Union (GSU)

Department Union Steward 2024 - Present

AWARDS

Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Travel Grant Awardee — Pakistan

Council for the Arts at MIT Seed Grant Awardee — Sonic Spectra

OSU Honors Research Distinction Graduate

OSU Study Abroad Grant Awardee — Chile

SKILLS

Software

Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Revit, FARO Scene, BIM 360, Rhino, VRAY, Enscape, Grasshopper, Processing / p5.js, Unity, KARAMBA, Pachyderm, Cargo

Fabrication

CNC milling, 3D printing, TIG welding, pen plotting, laser cutting, woodworking, metal casting, clay block casting, concrete casting

Languages

Native in English and Urdu

Advanced proficiency in Hindi and Punjabi

Intermediate proficiency in Spanish