Aisha Cheema

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of Architecture and Planning — Cambridge, MA
Master of Architecture Candidate, Expected Graduation in January 2027

The Ohio State University, Knowlton School of Architecture — Columbus, OH
Bachelor of Science in Architecture, with Honors Research Distinction in 2020

TEACHING

MIT 4.024 Architecture Design Studio II — Teaching Assistant for Rosalyne Shieh | Spring 2026
Coordinated weekly fabrication + representation workshops, desk crits, and key reviews; 5 students.

MIT 4.02A How to Design Intensive — Teaching Assistant for Simon Lesina-Debiasi | Winter 2026
Taught fabrication for rapid prototyping, from concept to full-scale final build; 21 students.

MIT 4.021 How to Design — Teaching Assistant for Paul Pettigrew + Simon Lesina-Debiasi | Fall 2025
Taught metal fabrication for final projects and held weekly crit office hours; 22 students.

MIT 1.056 4.440 / 4.462 Structural Design — Teaching Assistant for John Ochsendorf | Spring 2025
Organized lab sessions where students built and load-tested structural models; 45 students.

MIT 4.314 / 4.315 Topics in Biological Arts — Teaching Assistant for Matej Vakula | Fall 2024
Taught parametric modeling for sculptures grown and cast from biomaterials; 13 students.

WORKSHOPS

Network Ikebana — MIT SA+P IAP and Harvard GSD J-Term Workshop with Zachary Slonsky | Winter 2026
Students collaboratively transformed photographs through software and recorded workflows; 5 students.

Portfolio Workshop — MIT NOMAS | Spring 2026
Led peer review feedbck session and reviewed individual portfolios; 18 students.

REVIEWS

Syracuse Architectural Design II UG Studio, Final Review — Zachary Slonsky | Projected Fall 2026
MIT Architectural Design I UG Studio, Penultimate Review — Cristina Parreño Alonso | Fall 2025
MIT Architectural Design III Grad Studio, Structural Design Review — Adam Modesitt | Fall 2025
OSU Architectural Design UG2 Studio, Final Review — Nour Al-Qarra | Spring 2023
OSU Architectural Design UG3 Studio, Midterm Review — Sandhya Kochar | Fall 2022

TALKS

Panelist on student arts practice — Council for the Arts at MIT Annual Meeting | Fall 2026
Artist talk and MIT 4.041 course gallery tour — Wiesner Student Art Gallery | Spring 2026
Careers in architecture lecture — Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities | Spring 2024
Algorithmic drawing demonstration and open studio — Olde Towne East Arts Gallery | Spring 2023

RESEARCH

MIT Office of Sustainability — Student Sustainability Project Lead | 2026-present
Directing a campus heat study for urban microclimates by deploying sensors, analyzing data, and building a user dashboard; supervising 5 undergraduate research assistants.

Digital Structures Lab, MIT — Researcher | 2026-present
Earthen 3D printing research with Alexander Curth and Caitlin Mueller: soil sourcing, soil analysis, and thermal conductivity testing; supervising an undergraduate research assistant.

Heritage Foundation of Pakistan — Researcher, Karachi | 2025
Worked with Yasmeen Lari on resilient housing in flood- and heat-affected communities: site mapping, thermal monitoring, and community-led design of shared cooling spaces.

The Next Earth: Computation, Crisis, Cosmology — Curatorial Assistant, Venice | 2025
Designed and produced physical/digital media for Shaping Thermal Performance display at Palazzo Diedo in Venice Architecture Biennale; installation for Leslie Norford and Eduardo Gascón Alvarez.

OSU Knowlton School and Department of Anthropology — Research Assistant | 2019-2020
Interdisciplinary research with Columbus wastewater treatment; helped design and build Privy2, a recycled-PET pavilion in a cornfield fertilized with composted biosolids.

PRACTICE

stock-a-studio — Designer, Cambridge, MA | 2024-2026
Design, fabrication, and installation of furniture and exhibition elements; show deconstruction and inventory of salvaged materials for reuse on future projects.

Astra Studios — Designer, Columbus, OH | 2021-2023
Led design of a pop-up installation for Columbus Fashion Alliance; coordinated design and construction for residential and commercial projects, including Kitty Bubble Cafe & Bar and THRIVE Coworking.

Dean Wenz Architects — Architectural Designer, Columbus, OH | 2021
Construction documents for a 250-unit residential complex, including wall sections, foundation plans and roof framing; site visits and as builts for single family home renovations in Ohio and Michigan.

LEADERSHIP

MIT National Organization of Minority Architecture Students [NOMAS]
Co-President of Executive Board | 2024-2026
Ran programming including a portfolio workshop, community dinners, and cordinated lecture series.

MIT Graduate Student Union [GSU]
Architecture Department Steward | 2024-2026
Represented MArch students in organizing and advocacy efforts within the school wide GSU.

EXHIBITIONS

FEEDBACK — Wiesner Student Art Gallery, MIT, Cambridge, MA | 2026
Co-creator with Zachary Slonsky: an installation of 6 server towers translating media.

Animal by Ash Fure + stock-a-studio — Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY | 2026
Designed and fabricated seating and platforms for the performance installation.

Shaping Thermal Performance, The Next Earth — Palazzo Diedo, Venice Architecture Biennale | 2025
Exhibitor: 3D-printed ceramic thermal vessel from MIT 4.S43 with Thomas King and Yanyi Liu.

club kits, stock-a-studio — Keller Gallery, MIT, Cambridge, MA | 2024
Designed and fabricated furniture entirely from salvaged exhibition stock; DJ'd the opening night.

OFFCUT/CUTOFF — Pearling Path, Muharraq, Bahrain | 2024
Exhibitor: flat-pack lounge chair and table from aluminum offcuts found at Awal Group Factory.

Generated. — Olde Towne East Arts Gallery, Columbus, OH | 2023
Solo exhibition of algorithmic pen-plotted drawings generated with custom code.

AWARDS

Pearl Willmer-Shiles Award, MIT | 2026
Funding to prototype an MIT campus passive cooling structure with Professor Caitlin Mueller.

Marvin E. Goody Award, MIT | 2026
Research travel to Barcelona, Sevilla, and Granada to study passive cooling.

Council for the Arts at MIT Grant | 2025
Funding for FEEDBACK, an installation at the Wiesner Student Art Gallery.

Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Travel Grant, MIT | 2025
Fieldwork on heat resilience in informal settlements in Karachi, Pakistan.

Council for the Arts at MIT Seed Grant | 2024
Funding for Sonic Spectra, an interactive audiovisual performance.

Olde Towne East Arts Gallery Exhibition Award | 2023
Gallery space for a solo exhibition of algorithmic drawings.

Mary Ann Trapp Scholarship Fund in Architecture | 2020
Merit scholarship, The Ohio State University.

Knowlton School Studio Book Prize | 2019
Selected by Justin Diles for studio work, The Ohio State University.

Knowlton School Study Abroad Grant | 2019
Travel to study architecture in Santiago and Valparaíso, Chile.