Berfin Ataman

Link to portfolio

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Master of Science in Architecture Studies, Design & Computation | 2026
MS Mechanical Engineering | 2026

University of California, Los Angeles
Master of Fine Arts, Design Media Arts | 2020

School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Post-Baccalaureate Fashion, Body, Garment | 2017

University of Southern California
BFA Costume & Scenic Design | 2013

Domus Academy
Foundation Product Design (short course) | 2016

Harvard Business School
CORe Business Fundamentals (short course) | 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

MIT, Research Assistant - Sports Lab
2025- PRESENT
Working on assembly-for-disassembly research focused on shoes.

MIT, Research Assistant - Design Intelligence Lab
2025 - PRESENT
Worked on the development of intelligent material interfaces and computational frameworks that support novel forms of interaction between humans and AI-enabled objects.

MIT, Research Assistant - Critical Matter Lab
2024
Researched materials and mechanisms for textile extrusion and built tools to prototype new soft-material fabrication methods.

UCLA p5.js Researcher - Conditional Lab
2020
Made contributions to improve approachability and find new ways to expand the p5.js community.

PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCES

Kwon, C., **Ataman, B.,** Wang, Y., Ortiz, S., Paige, C., Hoffman, J., Tibbits, S. HAVEN: Deployable Emergency Re-Entry Capsule. **IEEE Aerospace Conference, 2026.** (accepted, forthcoming)

Ataman, B., Marom, L. COWO: A Tufted Coconut–Wool Composite for High-Performance Thermal and Acoustic Insulation. **ICBMC 2026** (accepted, forthcoming)

Ataman, B., Gallardo, R., Doucatz, Q. Affective Translation: Soft Kinetic Textiles for Human–Robot Interaction. **HCI International 2026** (in peer review).

Mutis, S., Wan, W. L., **Ataman, B.**, Suk, A., Li, J., & Farahi, B. InSituWear: On-Body Fabrication of Custom-Fit Wearables Using Melt-Drawn PCL Filaments. **CHI 2026** (in peer review).

Mutis, S., **Ataman, B**. Combinatorial Assembly Optimization: A Stock-Aware Multi-Objective Method for Discrete Multi-Material Structures. **eCAADe 2026**. (in peer review).

Ataman, B., Kwon, C., Ortiz, S., & Wang, Y. *Hybrid Lattice–Inflatable Architectures for Extreme Environments*. **eCAADe 2026**. (in peer review).

TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

MIT, Teaching Assistant - Architecture Studio (Tibbits)
2026
MIT and Atelier LUMA explore design methods for extreme environments shaped by climate change, rethinking how materials, environments, and construction interact.

MIT, Teaching Assistant - Objects and Interaction
2025
An advanced studio on designing interactive objects through material exploration, electronics, and computational behavior; supported students in developing functional prototypes integrating form, electronics, and interaction.

MIT E-textiles Instructor - Lincoln Labs, Beaver Works
2025
E-Textiles Program teaching students to design interactive textile systems through knitting, weaving, and custom soft-sensor fabrication, including modules on conductive yarns, soft circuitry, and sensing.

MIT, Teaching Assistant - How to Design
2024 - 2025
Introductory studio on iterative prototyping and user-centered design; assisted with workshops in fabrication, design methodology, critique, and building functional interactions.

UCLA, Lecturer - Form (Digital Fabrication)
2022-2024
Course on digital fabrication; students learn CAD, work with wood, plastics, textiles, and use shop tools like saws, sanders, CNC, 3D printers, laser cutters, and mold making.

Pepperdine University, Lecturer - Intro to Design
2023
Students learn fundamental design techniques, how to manufacture forms using 3D printing and mold making, and how to transfer their ideas from 2D drawings to 3D forms.

UCLA, Teaching Assistant - Tangible Media
2019
Taught physical interaction and tangible interface design. Emphasizes hands-on experimentation with materials, electronics, sensors, and actuator programming, combining computational control with physical fabrication.

AWARDS + HONORS

SHASS Grant
MIT SA+P & STS & Design Intelligence Lab 2025
DesignX Grant
MIT School of Architecture and Planning 2024
A+D Design Award
Architecture and Design Museum 2021
Red Bull Art Grant
Red Bull 2020
Rios Clementi Hale Fellowship
Rios Clementi Hale Design Studios 2020
Dean's Scholarship
Harold Williams Endowed Fund, UCLA 2019
Regent's Stipend
UCLA School of Architecture 2018 & 2019

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Displaced Lazzoni/ New York /2021-22
Movement and Motivation Architecture and Design Museum / L.A./2020
Sympathetic Motion Broad Art Center / L.A. /2019
The Waiting Room ZhouB Art Center / Chicago /2018

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Haven Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism & Architecture / Shenzhen/2025
VAMO Venice Architecture Biennial / Venice /2025
Yeni Topraklar Arkas Museum/ Turkey/2024
Loop Hum Wave Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art/2024
Summertime Brand Library/ L.A./2024
İzmir Art Biennial Atlas Pavilion/ Turkey/2023
Nomad Torrance Art Museum/CA/2023
No Song Unsung Brea Gallery /CA/2023
Feelers Tetrapod Gallery & Supercollider /L.A./2022
Spring Break Art Show Culver City/CA/2022
Contemporary İstanbul Tersane Istanbul/2022
Piksel21 DesignPiksel Festival 21/ Bergen Norway/2021
Tricksters & Transformation Helms Design Center/ CA/2021
It's Time to Reduce the Backlog Latitude Gallery / N.Y.C./2021
Architecture & Design Museum- Design Awards Exhibition / 2021
Abstract Mind CICA Museum / South Korea/2021
Street Video Series Oxy Arts / L.A./2020
Future of Space Architecture and Design Museum/2020
Nearest Neighbor www.near.rest /2020
Context Collapse New Wight Gallery / L.A./2019

OUTREACH

Women's Center for Creative Work, Teacher - Digital Weaving, Physical Computing Workshop
SEPT 2019
In the first two classes, the students learned p5.js and weaving. In the third class, they were introduced to electronics and sensors. We used a Circuit Playground to have a crash course on integrating sensors with fibers.

Inci Foundation
SEPT 2019 - PRESENT
Collaborate with them to create STEM courses for underprivileged girls in Turkey, introducing them to hands-on design engineering, electronics, and prototyping, and providing mentorship to broaden access to technical education.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

COSTUME DESIGN | 2016-2018
Body, Site, Seen, End-of-Life Conversations (VR), Embodied Labs (VR)

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGN | 2010-2018
Commercial | Nike, Lexus, TWC, Mazda, Jenny Craig
Feature Film / Series | Live to Tell, The Trust, Max Steel the Movie, Who Gets the Dog, Hart of Dixie
Theatre | Beautified / Beverly Hills Playhouse, Shrek the Musical /Plummer Auditorium

SCENIC DESIGN | 2016-2018
The Mark (Theatre), *La Raimonda Ballet* (Teatro Alla Scala- scenic painter)

RESIDENCIES

Lucas Artists Residency 2023 - 2026
These cohorts will take over the entire residency for the sole purpose of embarking on an open-ended thematic investigation, an artistically driven think tank.

Supercollider SciArt Ambassador 2023 - 2024
An annual art + sci + tech fellowship for women, committed to building an inclusive and collaborative community of creative practitioners based in L.A.

Space For Humanity X Supercollider 2021
This residency brings artists together with scientists. I have collaborated with Dr. Michaela Musilova on a project.

NOTABLE COURSES

AI & ML for Engineers, Energy Systems Engineering, Micro-nano fabrication

SOFTWARE/PROGRAMMING

Rhino, Grasshopper, Fusion 360, Blender, SketchUp, Meshmixer, SolidWorks, VCarve, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere, Python, C++, HTML, Bootstrap, Processing, p5.js, Robotic Manipulation, Arduino, Generative Design, Algorithmic Modeling, Karamba, ML.

FABRICATION & ELECTRONICS

CNC milling, laser cutting, waterjet, 3D printing, woodworking, sewing, pattern making, embroidery, fabric dyeing & heat-press, and digital fabric printing, knitting, weaving, textile construction, soft circuitry, sensor integration, microcontrollers.

LANGUAGES

Turkish, Spanish, Italian, English