

SIMA AKDURAK

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EDUCATION

- Present** **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT):** Master in Architecture, MArch
Studying on 80% Scholarship- Fellowship
Expected Graduation: December 2027
- 2024-2020** **Tufts University:** *B.A. in Architectural Studies and History of Art, minoring in Urban Studies*, 3.81/4.0 GPA

PROFILE

I am a fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in my Core I semester. Before MIT, I was a Teaching Assistant at Tufts University, where I led office hour sessions for Introduction to Architecture, overseeing 20 students per session. Additionally, I was a steward at Tufts' makerspace, Nolop. My Senior Honors Thesis in my undergrad aimed to redesign earthquake-relief shelters by transforming temporary response structures into permanent residences, in my hometown Izmir, Turkey. At my time at MIT, I am keen on further exploring those interests, finding intersections between material, design and public architecture.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

- Spring'24** **Madeline Harrison Caviness Prize** - for my thesis titled "Foundations for the Future: An Earthquake Relief Design for Izmir, Turkey." This prize was established by the Department of the History of Art and Architecture to be awarded annually to the undergraduate major whose Senior Honors Thesis merits recognition for its intellectual rigour, creativity, and scholarly promise
- 2020 – 2024** Awarded “**Dean’s List**” for Fall '20, Spring '21, Fall '21, Spring '22, Fall '22, Spring'22, Fall'23, Spring'24

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES & WORKSHOPS

01/11/2024 – Present **Applicant Mentorship Program (AMP) Mentor, MIT**

AMP is designed to help increase the diversity of the student body of MIT, with a focus on underrepresented diversity applicants. Through this program current Masters students have the opportunity to provide feedback and advice to applicants.

06/01/2024 – 08/05/2024 **Architectural Intern, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM), NYC**

Throughout the summer, I was part of the New York office of SOM, working on projects ranging from small installations to education / campus integration projects. I was assisting a team of seven, taking part in client and advisory meetings, constructing physical models and contributing to the graphic design of client decks.

01/01/2024 – 05/30/2024 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Tufts University**

Conducting archival research for FAH-008 Introduction to Architecture course taught by History of Art and Architecture Department Chair Prof. Diana Martinez. Assisting over 100 students in collaboration with 4 other TA's for a collaborating learning environment.

09/01/2023 – 05/30/2024 **Makerspace Stewardship, Tufts Nolop**

A makerspace is a dynamic hub for students and faculty members to experiment with new materials and equipment to bring their ideas to life. Responsible for fostering an environment of collaboration, equipment care, workshop organization and training.

Summer'23 **Design Discovery at Harvard Graduate School of Design (DDGSD)**

Had the opportunity to work with GSD faculty and recent graduates to work on a community project located in East Boston. Site visits were conducted to understand the urban texture, opportunities for development and neighborhood needs. Throughout the intensive three weeks, an architectural project was realized from scratch

06/01/2022 - 08/01/2022 **Architectural Intern at Hakan Demirel, Istanbul**

For 2 months, collaborated with a staff of 10 in the preparation of 2 client proposals, which included meetings with

clients and selection of lighting and appliances. Worked on a hotel project with 40+ rooms regarding the modeling of the interiors through Sketchup, and rendering views in relation with the cityscape.

06/01/2021 - 08/01/2021 Architectural Intern at Makomim Architecture, Izmir

Executed archival research for completion of their furniture database and ensured a composite archive for future purchases of appliances. Collaborated with staff in preparation for client proposals. Visited 5 sites with the head architect to observe progress.

Summer 2019 Internship at Crawford and Gray Architects, London

In charge of the redesign of the company website, content creation in alignment with company values and projects. Responsible for archiving meeting notes with clients, managing ongoing projects' liaisons.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Turkish – Native; English – Advanced; Italian - Conversational

CAD SKILLS

AutoCAD - Advanced; **Rhino 8**- Advanced; **Sketchup** – Advanced; **Adobe Creative Cloud** - Advanced; **3ds Max** – Intermediate, **Revit** – Novice

OTHER INTERESTS AND EXTRACURRICULARS

Present - 2018 Creative Director, Own Jewelry brand “SimSim”

Designed and produced own pieces of jewelry, marketed, and sold products at corner stores in various department stores and shopping events.

2024 - Sophomore Year Design Team, Tufts Steel Bridge Design

Under the School of Engineering, Steel Bridge Design Club targets to solve tough problems requiring innovative solutions for a competition sponsored by American Society of Civil Engineers. Responsible for the “Aesthetics” Department, assisting engineers regarding the visual completion of the bridge.

2024 - 2020 President (Senior Year), Tufts Students of Turkey Association

Builds community among Turkish people and rest of the Tufts Campus by providing an inclusive social space, promotes the multifaceted culture and history of Turkey through social and educational events. Created a sense of community by organizing 4 events per semester with Tufts' faculty, alumni & scholars.

Present – 2020 Year Member, YPO Next Generation (Young Presidents Organization), European Chapter

Inclusive community of young adult children of YPO members. Brings together with peers to build lasting professional connections and rich personal friendships through local and international networking events.

Present – 2016 Kitesurfing An extreme sport that uses wind power through a large kite attached to a surfer used to glide over the sea with a board. It uses aspects from windsurfing and wakeboarding. Has been a hobby for the past six years, preparing to get my teaching certificate.