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

Sima Akdurak is an M.Arch candidate and fellow at MIT with a background in architectural studies, urbanism, and material research. Her work bridges design, fabrication, and public architecture, with a focus on adaptive reuse, disaster resilience, and material circularity across academic, professional, and workshop-based contexts.

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

06/01/2026 – 30/12/2026 **Architectural Intern, Ateliers Jean Nouvel, Paris, France**

Contributed to international architectural projects at Ateliers Jean Nouvel through concept development, architectural drawings, 3D modeling, visualization, presentation production, and design coordination. Worked primarily on a hotel development project in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Spring'26 **Graduate Teaching Assistant, MIT**

Conducted course support for 4.022 Design Techniques and Technologies under Assistant Professor Carrie Norman, Director of Undergraduate Major and Minor Programs. Assisted over 20 students through coordinated studio support, technical guidance, and collaborative instruction alongside a team of four teaching assistants.

IAP'25 **Offucut / Cutoff Workshop in Sitra Bahrain**

Studied Bahrain's HVAC manufacturing ecosystem and Awal Group's material waste streams, transforming metal offcuts into upcycled prototypes through rolling, bending, casting, and punching. The resulting works were exhibited at Fakhro House in Muharraq with Bahrain's Cultural Ministry.

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 7, 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.

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 – 2025 **Graduate Student Union – Cohort Representative**

Present – 2020 **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 – 2025 **Member, Harvard Club of Boston**

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 – 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 – 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.