

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## OVERVIEW



Samir Pandya is an architect and Assistant Head of the School of Architecture and Cities, University of Westminster (London), where he is also Director of International and Strategic Lead for Equity Projects. He has designed a wide range of award-winning buildings in practice, and has been a Visiting Professor at APIED School of Architecture, Anand (India), an External Examiner at the University of Johannesburg (South Africa), and a PhD Co-Supervisor at the Università Iuav di Venezia, (Italy). His committee memberships and chairships have included the Society of Black Architects (Executive Committee), RIBA Education Committee (Member) and Architects for Change (Chair). He is currently an External Examiner at the University of Dundee (Scotland). He has served on numerous juries and awards, including for the National Association of Students of Architecture in India, the 2018 RIBA Annie Spink Award for Excellence in Architectural Education, and the 2022 RIBA President's Medals. In addition to being Co-Editor of *National Identities: Critical Inquiry into Nationhood, Politics & Culture* (Taylor & Francis), he is an Editorial Board member for *FOLIO* (Journal of Contemporary African Architecture) and *Veranda*, the peer-reviewed journal of Sushant School of Art & Architecture, Delhi (India). He is also on the Academic Advisory Board for the pioneering African Futures Institute, Accra (Ghana). He is the current Chair of the RIBA President's Dissertation Medal, and is one of 14 tutors invited to teach at the Biennale College Architettura at the 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale. His new book, *After Belonging: Architecture, Nation, Difference* (Routledge, 2023) examines the complex bond between architecture, spatial politics, and complex forms of collective (non-) belonging.

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## PERSONAL

<i>Name:</i>	Samir Pandya (SFHEA, ARB, RIBA, MA Arch, Dip Arch, BSc Arch)
<i>Place of Birth:</i>	Baroda, Gujarat, India
<i>Nationality:</i>	British
<i>Languages:</i>	English, Gujarati, Hindi (basic)
<i>Memberships:</i>	Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (since 2017) Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA, Member, since 2002) Architects Registration Board (Member, since 2002) Society of Black Architects (SOBA) Trustee (Executive Committee Member 1998 – 2001, Communications Director 2001 – 2003) RIBA Education Committee (2005 – 2009) RIBA 'Architects for Change' Committee (Chair 2005 – 2008, Executive Committee Member 2003 – 2005).
<i>References</i>	<p><b>Professor Harry Charrington</b> Head of School of Architecture + Cities University of Westminster 35 Marylebone Road London LW1 5LS E: h.charrington@westminster.ac.uk</p> <p><b>Professor Murray Fraser</b> Professor of Architecture and Global Culture Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL Wates House, 22 Gordon Street London WC1H 0QB E: murray.fraser@ucl.ac.uk</p> <p><b>Professor Lesley Lokko</b> Founder and Director, African Futures Institute AFI Buro Second Osu Close, Plot # 7 Nyaniba Estates, Osu, Accra, Ghana E: lesley@africanfuturesinstitute.com</p>

## EDUCATION + QUALIFICATIONS

### TERTIARY / PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

2017	Senior Fellow, Higher Education Academy (Portfolio Route)
2002	South Bank University, London, UK, <i>Professional Practice (RIBA III)</i>
1997-98	University of Brighton, Brighton, UK, <i>MA Architecture</i>
1995-97	University of Brighton, Brighton, UK, <i>Diploma in Architecture (RIBA II)</i>
1991-94	Dundee University, Dundee, UK, <i>BSc Architecture (RIBA I)</i>

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2004 –	<b>UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER</b> Assistant Head of School School strategic roles: International Director, Strategic Lead for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (Previous responsibilities / roles included: Course Leader for MA Arch. and M.Arch, Senior Research Fellow, School Rep on Teaching & Learning Committee, Director of Employability).
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### CURRENT TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

	<u>Module leader</u> , Critical Practice (Master of Architecture) <u>Module Leader</u> , Ethnographic Ways of Knowing (Master of Arts in Architecture)
2006 –	<u>PhD Supervisor (Internal)</u>  Current candidates 2022– Iman Keaik ( <i>'Paradoxical Living in Contradictory Terrains &amp; Contested Grounds'</i> ). 2019– Hala Alnaji ( <i>'Social phenomena and spaces of encounter: Re-imagining spatial justice through counter-mapping'</i> )  Completions 2018–2022 Angeliki Sakellariou (PhD by Design – <i>'Performative Interventions in Public Space: moments of urban transformation in Athens'</i> ). 2014– May Al-Jamea ( <i>'Towards meeting socio-cultural needs in the design of the contemporary Saudi house'</i> ). 2006–2014 JunHa Jang (PhD by Design: <i>'A cross-cultural study of architectural production in Korea and the West'</i> ). 2007–2013: Yara Sharif (PhD by Design - <i>'Searching for spaces of possibility in between the fragmented map: Healing fractures through the dialogue of everyday behaviour'</i> ). Commendation: 'RIBA President's Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis'. 2007–2012: Abeer Al-Saud ( <i>'The implications of culture on architectural form in London's immigrant communities'</i> ). 2007– 2011: Tania Sengupta ( <i>'Architecture and Urban Space of Governmental and Civic Domains: Colonial encounter in district towns in Bengal, British India'</i> ). Shortlisted for the 'RIBA President's Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis'.  PhD Co-Supervisor (External) 2014–2018 Paolo Piticelli ( <i>'Mobile Urbanism in Southern Africa'</i> ) - Università Iuav di Venezia, (Italy)  <u>Examiner (Internal)</u> 2021: Mai Sairafi ( <i>'Providing unity where there is division: Rethinking public space in the twin cities of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Palestine'</i> ) 2020: Abdullah Almuraieqeb ( <i>'Shopping malls as ideological battlegrounds: discipline and power in Riyadh's pseudo-public spaces'</i> ) 2011: Burin Tharavichitkun (PhD By Design: <i>'Rethinking Thai architecture and cultural identity'</i> ) 2011: Sanaz Shobeiri ( <i>'The Relationship between Human Beings and Nature in an Urban Context: Tehran and the Natural structures of Seven River-Valleys - A design and Planning case study'</i> )  <u>Examiner (External)</u> 2017: Mohammed Jasim ( <i>'The Role of Local Participation in Decision-making Processes of Built Heritage Conservation'</i> ) – The University of Nottingham

## PREVIOUS TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

2005 –2015 Course Leader, MA Architecture, Cultural Identity & Globalisation (design-led)  
Includes Module Leadership of 'Theories of Identity, Architecture and Globalisation', 'Representations of Race, Diaspora & Difference', 'Ethnographic Ways of Knowing', 'Thesis Development', and 'Major Thesis Design Project'. Field trip destinations include Cairo, Marrakesh, Berlin, Dubai, Tehran, Amsterdam, Nicosia, and Palestine, and involved collaborations with local architects, artists, theorists, urban planners, architecture schools, and international organisations (including the UN Development Programme and UN Habitat).

## VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

2008 – 2012 Visiting Professor, APIED School of Architecture and Urban Design, Gujarat, India. Appointment scope included delivering lectures and seminars across the school, curriculum development in the areas of history and theory, design studio teaching and learning methods, and developing research ethos, environment, and infrastructure. The aforementioned developmental activity contributed towards the success of a major re-validation visit from the Indian Council of Architecture.

## BOOK / PAPER REVIEWER

2022 Invited reviewer for RIBA Publishing  
*Architect: The Evolving story of a Profession*

2012 Invited Reviewer for Routledge  
*'Space Unveiled: Invisible Cultures in the Design Studio'*, Carla Jackson Bell

2010 Invited referee (blind) for *The Journal of Architecture* (Routledge)  
*'The Expression of Movement in Architecture'*.

2009 Invited referee (blind) for *The Journal of Architecture* (Routledge)  
*'Family Architecture: Self-build houses in Dhaka'*.

## RESEARCH/CHAPTERS/CONSULTANCY/PAPERS

2022 Edited book – Pandya, S. (2022) *After Belonging: Architecture, Nation, Difference* (New York, Routledge)  
<https://www.routledge.com/After-Belonging-Architecture-Nation-Difference/Pandya/p/book/9781032329093>

2020 Pandya, S. 2020. Affective disorder: architectural design for complex national identities. *National Identities*. 22 (4), pp. 441-462. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14608944.2020.1812826>

2020 Pandya, S. 2020. Architecture in National Identities: a critical review. *National Identities*. 22 (4), pp. 381-393.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14608944.2020.1812825>

2009 – 2011 Architecture Representative, RIBA Building Futures Interdisciplinary Research Group (Phase 1), 'The Future of Identity in Architecture & Urbanism'. The project explores issues of globalisation, mass immigration, social tension, and networked sociality, and how these are transforming the morphology of British towns and cities. The study provides the foundation for further research on how the design of buildings and cities might be contributing, resisting or mediating the aforementioned issues. The project seeks to discover both the *significance* and *nature* of architecture and urban form as a part of the identity of city cultures.

2009 Research Adviser to the Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC), 'Race Discrimination in the Construction Industry: A Thematic Review'. The report reviewed literature on racial discrimination and racial equality in the construction industry in Great Britain. This informed the EHRC's related inquiry, and considered literature published on all aspects of the construction industry workforce, focusing on non-white ethnic minority workers.

2007– 2008 Research Fellow, 'Practice Dialogues': Department for Innovation, Universities, and Skills funded research with the RIBA, SCHOSA, and the University of Westminster as Project Partners. The project explored alternative educational pathways for those who have successfully completed RIBA Part I of the architecture professional entry qualification. Utilising the concept of 'reflective practice', the research focused on developing a model to enable strategic and creative collaborations between practice and academia.

2007 Adviser: RIBA Equality Task Force. Task force comprised of RIBA staff and co-opted external specialist advisers, and is designed to support the RIBA in implementing equality and diversity related policy.

- 2005 – 2006 Chair of Research Group, Supporting Student Diversity in UK Schools of Architecture, leading to a 'Supporting Student Diversity Guide'. Funded by the Centre for Education in the Built Environment (CEBE). The research team consisted of academics, heads of schools of architecture, the RIBA and CABE. The recommended practices were informed by an emerging body of new teaching and learning methodologies in UK schools of architecture designed to facilitate the creativity, intellectual endeavor, progression, and achievement of diverse student cohorts engaging with issues of 'difference'.
- 2005 Specialist Adviser, Minority Ethnic Representation in the Built Environment Professions. Royal Holloway, University of London research project for CABE. Appointment scope covered strategic advice, formative assessment at key milestones, and chairing of focus group meetings.
- 2004 Symposium Chair, Redesigning the Studio: A Debate on Studio Culture. Conceived, directed, and secured funding for this national student symposium, co-hosted with national architectural student body ARCHAOS and held at the University of Westminster. Participants included representatives from all UK schools of architecture, the RIBA, CIC, CABE, SCHOSA, and SOBA. The symposium facilitated critical debate regarding design studio culture myths, relevance, recent trends, as well as speculation on future directions. Findings and papers presented formed the basis for a successful funding application for further related research.
- 2003 Key Informant: Middlesex University, for Greater London Authority sponsored research study assessing the Contribution of Asians to the Creative Industries in the UK.
- 2002 Specialist Adviser: Royal Holloway, University of London, 'Race and Architecture': Tender Submission for CABE sponsored research.
- Interviewee: 'Retention and Progression in the Construction Industry', Research Study, Royal Holloway College, University of London, for the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).
- 2000 'Building 2 Worlds: The Hindu Temple & Post-Colonial Theory in Architecture', in Site Seeing: Crossing Architectural Cultures, Dwyer, J., (ed.), University of Brighton, 2000, pp. 63-71
- 1997-1998 MA Thesis, In Search of Authenticity: The Architecture of Balkrishna Doshi and the Search for Indian Identity. Winner of the RIBA Lovell Memorial Trust Award and nominated for the RIBA President's Medals (shortlisted and exhibited). Dissertation submitted and entered into the British Architectural Library. Involved research at the Vastu Shilpa Foundation, Ahmedabad, India. Fieldwork included interviews with residents of Doshi designed housing, site visits to all major works in India, and interviewing Doshi at the Netherlands Architecture Institute as part of the 'Tradition & Change' programme of events (a retrospective of 50 years of post-independence architecture in India).

## EVENTS/ROLES

- 2017 Invited speaker: Institute of Contemporary Arts: 'The Social in Architecture: Designing Risk and Opportunity through Housing'. Topics included the role of architects in creating new social forms and solutions to housing problems, past and future models of local collaboration, and the problems and opportunities of utopian concepts.
- 2014 Invited Speaker: Construction Industry Council 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event: 'DiverseCities'. Event conceived to debate the World Bank description of projected rates of global urbanisation as *"the defining phenomenon of the 21st century"*.
- 2013 Symposium Chair: Serpentine Gallery's 'Centre for Possible Studies' symposium: 'What is the sound of a critical arts education today?' Symposium conceived as a critical response to a climate of economic austerity and cuts to the arts. Artists, architects, educators, and radical pedagogues participated in talks and roundtable discussions related to how art, design and architectural education might be reoriented towards critical spatial analysis and action.
- 2012 Indian Observer 'Non-Resident Indian Award' for Contribution to Higher Education in India (Gujarat).
- Invited Juror: National Association of Students of Architecture in India (NASA) inaugural International Design Competition 2012. Competition brief called for local responses (from SAARC member nations) to rapid urbanisation and 'urban stress'.

- 2008 Symposium Chair: *'PhD by Design: The Unwritten Rules'*, University of Westminster. Conceived and organised symposium at the University of Westminster to debate the definition and potential of 'PhD by Design' mode in architectural education. Talks and panel discussion, with contributions from Professor Jonathan Hill, Professor Murray Fraser, Dr Marcos Cruz, Dr Victoria Watson.
- Invited facilitator: *'The Oxford Conference: 50 Years On – Resetting the Agenda for Architectural Education'*, The University of Oxford, Examination Schools. *'Design Research in Practice'* workshop (workshop Chair: Professor Murray Fraser).
- 2007 Invited Panelist: *'Waypoints Like Sharon's Stone'*, WUK Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna, Symposium on the African Presence in Vienna.
- 2006 Nominated to attend a reception with H.R.H Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace, London, UK. Nomination by the RIBA Education Department to recognise contributions to architectural education.
- 2004 Interviewee, career profiled: *'Moving'* LWT/Granada Television (film).
- Trigger-talk and workshop Chair: *'Diverse Excellences'*, for *'Studio Culture: Who Needs It?'* St Catherine's College, The University of Oxford. Two-day conference for teachers of architecture and landscape architecture.
- Co-Curator (London show) and funding bid lead: *RIBA 'DiverseCity' Exhibition*. £10,000 (match-funded) grant application to CABE. Exhibition launched at the RIBA, London. Exhibition previewed in Luxembourg and traveled to Boston, New York, Chicago, Istanbul, Beijing, Sydney, Auckland, Belgium, and Belfast.
- 2002 Lecture: *'Diasporic Dreams'*, Inaugural Lecture, Third Space Events, Cowcross Galleries, London, UK
- Invited Panelist: *'Can Diversity Make a Difference?'* RIBA panel discussion on issues of diversity in education, practice and research, RIBA, Portland Place, London.
- Interviewee / career profiled: *'Building Vision'* (film). Wild Iris Productions UK Ltd. Sponsored by the Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment (CABE) and ARUP
- 2001 Chair: *'Soft Space-Fluid Space'*, SOBA Cultural Forum Roundtable. Cowcross Galleries, London, UK
- 2000 Speaker: *'A Global Society'*, Co-speaker with Lord Richard Rogers, SOBA Annual Members Address and audience with Asantehene (King of the Ashanti), House of Lords, London, UK.
- Co-chair: *'What is non-native British architecture?'* SOBA Cultural Forum Roundtable, Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL), London, UK
- 1998 Mentor: *SOBA Mentoring Scheme*, in collaboration with the Windsor Fellowship
- 1996 Interviewee: *'Old into New'*, The Line, television interview (discussing radical approaches to regeneration). Regional Arts Review, East Sussex, UK

## PRACTICE EMPLOYMENT

- 1994-95 Kenzie Lovell Architects, London, UK, *Architectural Technician*
- 1998 Corstorphine & Wright, London, UK, *Architectural Assistant*
- 1998-1999 John Thompson & Partners, London, UK, *Architectural Assistant*
- 1999-2007 Shephard Epstein Hunter, London, UK, *Architect & Associate*

Concise summary of selected projects follow below (all at Shephard Epstein Hunter). Details of additional projects available upon request:

- 1999 – 2007 Project Architect for the award-winning *Wilberforce Institute: National Archive: Transatlantic Slavery, Abolition and the Black Diaspora*. Client: University of Hull (£8m). Conceived to centralise all archival material related to the transatlantic slave trade from across Europe and in addition provide exhibition, theatre, and lecture space for the dissemination of research, critical debate, and creative engagement with the subject area. Scheme design awarded the 2001 Royal Society of Arts 'Art for Architecture' Award.

Project Architect for competition-winning Institute of Advanced Legal Studies extension of mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century brutalist mega-structure in Bloomsbury, London (original building designed by Sir Denys Lasdun). Client: University of London (£11m). Led design team and consultation with English Heritage, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Society, The Georgian Group, and The Bloomsbury Group.

Project Architect (assisting Project Director) for the commended University of Hull Development Plan. Client: University of Hull. Development of a strategic framework for the University to restore unity in planning and enable expansion to accommodate an additional 10,000 students. Original masterplan designed by International Style advocate, Sir Leslie Martin. Received a commendation with planning approval from the City of Hull.

Project Architect for the exemplar St Mary and St Pancras, Church of England Primary School, Camden, London. Client: The London Diocesan Board for Schools (£12m). New school comprised of innovative hybrid modular and traditional construction and awarded CABE Exemplar Project status.

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