




# AAHANA BANKER

aahanabanker 

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

LINK TO PORTFOLIO: <https://www.aahanabanker.com/>

## ABOUT

Specializing in Spatial and Experiential Design, I blend storytelling, poetry, and scenographic narrations to craft spaces and experiences. Passionate about merging aesthetics with functionality, I strive to create designs that inspire visually and resonate deeply with users, whether virtual or physical. My professional journey is fueled by a deep-seated fascination with the multifaceted nature of architecture, encompassing both its tangible and intangible dimensions, as well as a profound appreciation for the visual aspects of design, exploring the dynamic interplay between form, space, and narrative. Through research, experimentation, and strategic implementation, I aim to advance inclusivity within spatial design, engaging both actors and audiences. Backed by material exploration, hands-on design-build experiences, and a focus on sustainability, I adopt a pragmatic and detail-oriented approach. My expertise in storytelling and visual communication informs a narrative-driven design ethos, integrating sensorial and social qualities with sustainable principles to enrich human experiences and the built environment.

## EDUCATION

**Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation** New York, USA  
M.S. Advanced Architectural Design | Grade: High Pass (2021 - 2022)

**CEPT University** Ahmedabad, IND  
Bachelor of Architecture | GPA: 3.83/4.0 (2016 - 2021)

NATA STATE LEVEL TOPPER, RANK 2

FACULTY LEVEL AWARD (2017- 18)

CEPT EXCELLENCE AWARD (2019, 2021)

BEST OUTGOING: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (2022)

GICEA (Gujarat Institute of Engineering and Architects) GOLD MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE (2022)

**ETH Zurich** Zurich, CH  
Exchange Semester | GPA: 5.75/6.0 2020

## LICENSES

**Registered Architect**  
Council of Architecture, India (2022 - present)  
Credential ID CA/2022/141517

## SKILLS

Visual Design  
Experiential Design  
Architectural Design  
Graphic Design  
Digital Photography  
Storytelling  
Creative | Art Direction  
Furniture Design  
Interior Design  
Technical Drawing  
Fabrication  
Poetry

**3D Modeling**  
Autodesk 3DS MAX  
Rhino 3D  
Blender  
Unreal Engine  
Unity  
SketchUp  
Autodesk AutoCAD

**Miscellaneous**  
Microsoft Office  
HTML | C++

**Creative Design**  
Adobe Creative Suite  
DaVinciResolve  
Procreate  
Sketch  
Figma

**Visualization**  
V-Ray  
TwinMotion  
Quixel Mixer  
Lumion

## PUBLICATIONS

**Significance of Architecture in Space Opera Storytelling: The Architecture of Star Wars.**

Undergraduate Architectural Research Thesis

01/21 - 06/21

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ls0lkVWPe0B5hUNUHtHrxnxjDU5npj7r/view?usp=sharing>

**The Vernacular of Sustainability**

Independent Research Thesis

08/21 - present

## EXPERIENCE

### **Obsess VR, New York City, USA | <https://obsessar.com/>**

New York, USA  
08/22 - present

Lead Designer | Environment Artist

- Spearheaded the end-to-end creative journey, assuming sole stewardship from conceptualization to realization, ensuring each project surpassed industry standards, client expectations and set new benchmarks.
- Directed and orchestrated creative and innovative design initiatives, to craft cutting-edge, immersive virtual experiential ecommerce-backed spatial experiences.
- Revolutionized brand identities through strategic creative direction, integrating ecommerce elements into immersive spatial designs to drive unprecedented engagement and conversion rates.
- Conceptualized and executed comprehensive design strategies, harnessing a blend of artistry and technical prowess to deliver captivating, user-centric experiences that captivated and converted target audiences.
- Demonstrated mastery in 3D modeling, texturing, and rendering with precision to achieve realism, pushing the boundaries of innovation to create immersive environments that redefined the ecommerce landscape.
- Exemplified unwavering reliability and work ethic, consistently delivering exceptional results on time and within budget, earning the trust and respect of colleagues and clients alike.
- Excelled in high-pressure environments, effortlessly juggling multiple projects with grace and efficiency, prioritizing tasks with strategic foresight to ensure seamless project workflows and timely deliverables.
- Infused designs with compelling narratives and emotive depth, employing advanced storytelling techniques and dynamic visual compositions to elevate brand storytelling and enrich user experiences.
- Forged strong, collaborative partnerships through clear and concise communication, adeptly articulating ideas and concepts to diverse stakeholders to ensure alignment and surpass project objectives.
- Orchestrated the development of pipelines for 3d modeling, texturing and post-processing and strategic marketing endeavors, optimizing project impact and delivering unparalleled ROI for esteemed clientele.

### **dtls. Architecture, New York City, USA | <https://www.dtlsarc.com/>**

New York, USA  
02/22 - 06/22

Architecture Photographer

- Precision-Crafted visually captivating compositions utilizing advanced DSLR, iPhone technology, tailored for optimal presentation on web platforms, fostering elevated engagement and retention rates.
- Elevated architectural imagery through post-processing techniques, enriching spatial narratives while upholding the integrity of materiality, texture, and ambiance.
- Orchestrated seamless client interactions focused on professional communication strategies, navigating all facets of media production, culminating in heightened satisfaction and fortified partnerships.

### **The Somerset House, New York City, USA | <https://thesomersethouse.com/>**

New York, USA  
02/22 - 05/22

Multimedia and Graphic Designer

- Significantly boosted ecommerce sales by rethinking visual communication, editorial, graphic layouts.
- Polished product appeal through creative direction of photography, lighting and stage set up.
- Increased product sales by polishing product content, descriptions and specifications, touch up post production images and visual content to highlight product details, workmanship and timeline.
- Enhanced presentations for interior design through stage design by 3D modelling digital environments and furniture layouts using means of virtual reality to ensure an improvement to user interactivity.
- Boosted digital communication through social media content, web launches, invitations, websites using editorial and typographic design.

### **End of Year Exhibition, GSAPP, USA | <https://www.arch.columbia.edu/eoys-2021>**

New York, USA  
08/21 - 09/21

Exhibition Designer, Editorial Assistant

- Increased viewer interaction by designing the exhibition layouts synonymous to the social media presence while ensuring ease of navigation - taking into consideration the ADA requirements.
- Enhanced projects by carefully curating exhibition content, ensuring clear visibility, visual appeal.
- Boosted the viewer presence through graphics and poster designs to draw in various audiences.

### **Menis Arquitectos, Tenerife, Spain | <http://menis.es/>**

Tenerife, ES  
06/19 - 11/19

Architectural Intern | June 2019 - November 2019

#### **Auditorio Teobaldo Power (Reconstruction):**

- Refined reconstruction drawings by documenting and introducing climate/site responsive construction details, while ensuring enhancements and visual/material continuation of the existing auditorium.
- Increased client interactivity and engagement by design modelling interactive 3D and physical models.
- Worked closely with the Principal architect on the core development and led a design team from the conceptual design to the developmental phase.

#### **Cape Verde | World Bank (Urban Planning):**

- Worked closely with the Project architect on the core urban planning and design development.
- Enhanced the client proposal by introducing experiential representation through virtual reality.
- Refined presentation and oversaw construction drawings, ensuring climate responsive details.
- Significantly improved user interactivity and visual communication by designing the project website.

#### **Music Hall, Katowice (Competition):**

- Brainstormed and developed design ideas for the initial conceptual stage.

## WORKSHOPS

### Textile and Furniture Design

Button Masala, Anuj Sharma, CEPT	01/17
Textile in Interiors, CEPT	01/18
Weaving Workshop, CEPT	02/18
Furniture Workshop, NID	03/18

### Building Construction

Earth Construction, Hunnarshala	01/17
Feather Pavilion, CEPT	04/17
Architecture in Motion, CEPT	07/17
Poetics of Bamboo, AURO University	12/17
Handmade 1.0, Badalpara	12/17
Handmade 2.0, Ghughukham	06/18

### Academics and Research

Mapping Relationships, Tatjana Schneider, CEPT	01/18
Bonsai Making, Ahmedabad Bonsai Club	11/18
Hatching, Menis Arquitectos, Tenerife	06/19
Spanish Vocabulary, UC Davis, California	06/20

## COMPETITIONS

<b>Switch: What is a Hotel?  </b> (Honorable Mention)	01/19
<b>Bubble: Eliminating Loneliness  </b> (Top 50)	04/19
<b>Archasm: Milan Fashion Pavilion  </b>	11/19
<b>Archasm: Play - interactive Kids Furniture  </b> (Honorable Mention)	02/21
<b>GSAPP AAD TShirt Design  </b> (Winner)	11/21

## INITIATIVES

**Samvedana Foundation | <https://www.samvedana.org.in/>** 2013 - 2015  
(NGO for underprivileged children)  
Education Volunteer, 2013, 2014, 2015  
Photographer, 2015  
To support the social growth of the less privileged slum children by providing good educational opportunities.

**Polio Foundation | <https://poliofoundation.org/>** 2012 - present  
(NGO for children with Cerebral Palsy)  
Education Volunteer  
With an aim to provide overall development of children through cognitive learning activities and educational games.

**Kurula Varkey Design Forum | <https://www.kvdforum.in/>** 2016 - 2021  
(International Architecture Forum, CEPT University)  
Journalism, 2016  
Documentation, 2018  
Core Organizing Committee, 2021  
A platform to understand and to reflect upon the varied streams of thought emerging in architectural practice.

**Traveling Without Moving | [https://www.instagram.com/twm\\_cept/](https://www.instagram.com/twm_cept/)** 2017 - 2018  
(Architecture Club, CEPT University)  
Deputy, 2017  
Head, 2018

**Tatvamasi Magazine | <https://cept.ac.in/news/tatvamasi-magazine-by-students-of-architecture>** 2016 - 2018  
(Architecture Magazine, CEPT University)  
Article, 2016  
Editor, 2018

**GSAAP rAADio | <https://www.arch.columbia.edu/raadio>** 2021 - 2022  
(Architectural Podcast)  
Visual Director, Producer, Researcher, 2021  
A conversational platform to understand and identify, through dialogue, the diverse directions emerging in the architectural profession.