

Mahnām Najafi

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Websites: [Academia](#) Profile, [LinkedIn](#) Profile

Date of Birth: March 4, 1981 | **Place of Birth:** Iran | Female

Education

Ph. D. in Architecture

Yazd-Iran, 2014- 2020
Yazd University, Faculty of Art and Architecture
Thesis: “Maidan: Understanding Its Meaning in Qajar Iran”

Sabbatical for PhD in Architecture

Vienna-Austria, 2017
University of Vienna, Department of Art History

M.S. in Iranian Architectural Studies

Tehran-Iran, 2006- 2009
Shahid Beheshti University, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning,
Department of Architectural History & Conservation
Dissertation: “Analysis and Recognition of Toopkhaneh Square of Tehran in Naseri Era”;
This was published as a book in Persian: *Cannon Square of Tehran in Naseri Era*

B.A. in Architecture

Esfahan-Iran, 1999-2005
The University of Art, Faculty of Art and Architecture

Diploma in Mathematics and Physics

Qaemshahr-Iran, 1995-1999
National Organization for the Development of Exceptional Talents

Professional Experience

[Nowruzgan](#) Laboratory for the Study of Persianate World 2021-2024
Board member

Isfahan Municipality 2024-2025
Developing Design Guidelines for Future domes and Existing Inadequate ones in Isfahan
Supervisor

<i>Simurghnameh</i> online platform for the arts and Culture of Iran A member of the content committee	2023-2024
<i>Pirraz Consulting Planners, Architects, and Engineers (Iran)</i> Two projects: Restoration and extending the holy shrine of Samera Architectural design competition of Zandiyeh historical urban texture in Shiraz (Pirraz won the competition)	2014-2017
<i>Encyclopedia of the Iranian Architectural History (Iranshahrpedia) (Iran)</i>	2012-2014
<i>Icomos (Iran),</i> "Charter for conservation of historical monuments and sites"; for Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO); responsible as co-author of the charter	2010-2012
<i>Shahid Beheshti University,</i> <i>Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning,</i> <i>Department of Architectural History & Conservation</i> "Recognition of Structure of Tahmasebi Tehran"; under the supervision of Dr. Zahra Ahari, to identify the characteristics of urban spaces in Tehran before the expansion of the city in the Naseri era	2009-2010
<i>Hidalo Hezare-ye Hashtom Consultant (Iran),</i> Project:"Registration of Iranian Immovable Cultural Heritage"; For Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), responsible as co-author of the plan	2008-2009

Teaching Experience

Lecturer

<i>Shahid Beheshti University (Tehran-Iran)</i> <i>Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning</i>	2020-2024
<i>Higher Education Center for Cultural Heritage (Tehran-Iran)</i> <i>Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Historical Works and Buildings</i>	2013-2014
<i>The University of Art (Tehran-Iran)</i> <i>Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning</i>	2012-2014
<i>Islamic Azad University, Firoozkuh Branch (Firuzkuh-Iran)</i>	2010

Publications & Presentations

Books

- *Toopkhaneh Square of Naseri Darolkhelafeh* (Cannon Square of Tehran in the Naseri Era). Tehran: Rozaneh, 2014 (In Persian).
- Persian translation of *Louis Kahn: Essential Texts*. Tehran: Elmi, 2019.

Papers

- “Nazri (votive) food.” Catalog entry in *The Emamzadeh Yahya at Varamin: An Online Exhibition of an Iranian Shrine*, directed and edited by Keelan Overton. 33 Arches Productions, September 9, 2025. Host: *Khamseen: Islamic Art History Online* (https://khamseen-emamzadeh-yahya-varamin.hart.lsa.umich.edu/fa_food.php).
- “The Concept of Maidan in Qajar Iran: Transformation to an Embodiment of the Public Sphere,” in *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, Volume 79, Number 2 (April 2022), pp. 320-336. DOI: [10.1080/00207233.2022.2033490](https://doi.org/10.1080/00207233.2022.2033490) (<https://doi.org/10.1080/00207233.2022.2033490>).
- “The Understanding of the ‘Maidan’ Based on Its Semantic Gestures,” in *Soffeh*, Volume 30, Number 3 (September 2020), 113-125. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.29252/sofeh.30.3.113>
- “Maidan: Understanding its Conceptual domain and the range of its instances in Qajar period, Based on Historical Maps,” in *Journal of Architecture in Hot and Dry Climate*, Volume 7, Number 10 (May 2020), pp. 95-118. DOI: [10.29252/AHDC.2020.13179.1307](https://doi.org/10.29252/AHDC.2020.13179.1307)
- “Yahya Zoka and the manifestation of a new view on the historiography of Qajar art and architecture” In *Proceedings of the Iranology Conference in France: Past Experience and Future Perspective*. Tehran: Negarestan-e Andisheh, 2015, pp. 567-579.
- “Sultan Hasan, Complex” in *Encyclopedia of the World of Islam*.
- “The Formation of Toopkhaneh Square, as a Model in the Iranian City of the Qajar Period” In *Soffeh* (The Journal of Shahid Beheshti University, The School of Architecture and Urban Planning). No. 56 (Spring 2012), pp. 121-133.
- “The Significance of Understanding Substantial Values of Historical Work in its Revitalization Process,” In *Proceedings of the First Congress on Studying and Presenting the Privileges and Potentialities of Adaptation and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Places, Tehran, Iran, 2009*. Tehran: Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization, 2010, pp. 241-272.

- “The Role of Doost-Ali-Khan Mo'ayyerol-Mamalek in the Architecture of Qajar Period”, in *Golestân-e-Honar: Quarterly on the History of Iranian Art and Architecture*. No. 13 (Autumn 2008), pp. 97-104.

Presentations

- “Mapping the Past: Discovering the Persianate World through Travelogues,” in 10th Biennial Convention of [ASPS](#) (the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies), in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, August 12-16, 2025.
- “The Evolution of Squares in Qajar Tehran: A Study of Urban and Social Changes,” in [VIAHSS 2024](#) (The Visual Islamic Art Histories Seminar Series), 1 November (See the recorded lecture [here](#)).
- “Collective Mentality and Architectural Space: The Narrative of Cannon and Square in the Development of the ‘Cannon Square’ in Qajar Iran,” in [DocTalks 2024](#), 30 April.

Awards & Honors

- Summer 2025 conference travel grant recipient, [Haamee Institute for Advancement of Humanities and Social Sciences](#)
- Recipient of the educational program grant (on behalf of Nowruzgan Laboratory for the Study of Persianate World), [Haamee Institute for Advancement of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) (2024)
- Top Researcher, Faculty of Arts and Architecture, Yazd University (2020)

Professional Affiliation

- The Iranian Academy of Persian Language and Literature __ the Committee for architectural and urban planning terminology