

## Curriculum Vitae

### Name

Asseel Al-Ragam  
P.O. Box 5676  
P.C. 13057 Safat Kuwait.  
Office: +965 2 4987595  
Email: asseel.alraqam@ku.edu.kw  
Alternative email: alragam@gmail.com

### Educational Credentials

1. University of Pennsylvania, **Ph.D. in Architecture**, 2003-2008. Dissertation Title: Al-Ragam, A. (2008), "Towards a Critique of an Architectural Nahdha: A Kuwaiti Example," PhD diss, University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania.
2. University of Pennsylvania, **Master of Science in Architecture**, 2007
3. University of Pennsylvania, **Master of Architecture**, 2003.
4. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), **Bachelor of Architecture**, 2000.

### Professional Experience

1. **Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Research and Graduate Studies**, College of Architecture, 2 September 2018, Present
2. **Director**, Master Program in Architecture, February 2019 – Present
3. **Vice Dean for Academic Affairs**, College of Architecture, 19 September 2017-2018
4. **Associate Professor**, College of Architecture, 15 February 2018
5. **Assistant Professor** at the College of Architecture at Kuwait University, 2008 – 2018
6. **Architecture and urban planning consultant** for Shadadiya Industrial Project Master Plan Review, OCCD, Kuwait University, February 2010
7. **Architecture and urban planning consultant** at Private University Council Committee for Kuwait's Ministry of Higher Education 2013– present
8. **Architecture and urban planning consultant** at Kuwait Master Plan Review Committee at Supreme Council for Planning and Development 2013- 2014
9. **Scholarship Student** at the Department of Architecture at College of Engineering and Petroleum, 2002-2008
10. **Teaching Assistant** at the Department of Architecture at College of Engineering and Petroleum, 2001-2002
11. **Architect** for restoration project of Amricani Cultural Centre, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, Kuwait 2007
12. **Architect** at Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Kuwait 2001-2002
13. **Architect** at Interior design firm Office 48, Alexandria, Virginia, USA, 2000
14. **Architect** at Najeeb Al-Humaidhi Engineering Consultant, Kuwait, 1998

### Published Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Al-Ragam, A. (2019). "Kuwaiti Modernity: An Unfinished Project. *The Journal of Architecture* 24(3), 366-84.

2. Al-Ragam, A. (2017). "Denial of Coevalness": Discursive Practices in the Representation of Kuwaiti Urban Modernity. *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review* 28, no. 2, 7-20.
3. Al-Ragam, A. (2017). Negotiating the Politics of Exclusion: Georges Candilis, Housing and the Kuwaiti Welfare State. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 41, no. 2 (2017): 235-250.
4. Al-Ragam, A. (2015). Critical Nostalgia: Kuwait Urban Modernity and Alison and Peter Smithson's Kuwait Urban Study and Mat-Building. *The Journal of Architecture*. 20 (1): 1-205.
5. Al-Ragam, A. (2014). The Politics of Representation: The Kuwait National Museum and Processes of Cultural Production. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*. 20 (6): 663-674.
6. Al-Ragam, A. (2013). The Destruction of Modernist Heritage: The Myth of Al-Sawaber. *Journal of Architectural Education*, 67 (2): 243-252.
7. Al-Ragam, A. (2011). Representation and Ideology in Postcolonial Urban Development: the Arabian Gulf. *The Journal of Architecture*, 16 (4): 455-469.

#### **Papers and Abstracts in Peer-Reviewed Conferences**

1. Al-Ragam, A. (2019), "Kuwaiti Cultural Modernity: An Unfinished Project, Gulf Research Meeting, University of Cambridge, 15-18 June 2019.
2. Al-Ragam, A. (2019), "Public Space in Kuwait: from User Behavior to Policymaking," Gulf Conference on Sustainable Built Environment, KFAS, 10-13 March 2019.
3. Al-Ragam, A. (2018), "Other forms of Housing: A critique of the everyday practices in Kuwaiti residential neighborhoods" at IASTE Conference: The Politics of Tradition, October 4-7, 2018
4. Al-Ragam, A. (2017), The Challenges of Modern Architecture Conservation in Kuwait, at UAE Modern Conference, Dubai 14-15 November 2017.
5. Al-Ragam, A. (2017), "Intersections in the Public and Private Spheres of Culture: Kuwaiti Heritage Building Practices" at Museum in Arabia Conference, Bahrain, October 11-13.
6. Al-Ragam, A. (2016), "Framing Cultural Narratives: Visual Representations of Kuwaiti Urban Modernity" at IASTE Conference: Legitimizing Tradition, December 17-20, 2016
7. Al-Ragam, A. (2016), "Strategies for Adaptive Reuse: High Density State Housing in Kuwait", 14th DOCOMOMO International Conference, September 6-9.
8. Al-Ragam, A. and Al-Saleh S. (2013), "Dislocated Expressions of Nature: Kuwait and its Public Parks" Gulf Cities: Space, Society, and Culture, Gulf Studies Symposium March 23
9. Al-Ragam, A. (2010), "Architecture and Historic Shifts in the Collective Consciousness" The Cultural Role of Architecture June 23 -25 2010, Lincoln, United Kingdom
10. Al-Ragam, A. (2009), "Explorations in Mat-Building" Structuralism in

Architecture and Urban Planning: Reloaded in November 19-21, Munich, Germany.

11. Al-Ragam, A. (2009), "Contested Identities in the Built Environment" published abstract ADGD conference: Multiple Faces of Identity in the Designed Environment September 18, Nottingham, United Kingdom.

### **Scientific Research**

1. **Funded Research** LSE Kuwait Programme | KFAS "Public space in Kuwait: from user behavior to policy-making", January 2019 - January 2020
2. **Research Initiation Grant**, Re-interpretation of Form, Function and a Traditional Vernacular: Saba George Shiber, Research Initiation Grant ZE04/10, Kuwait University, March 31, 2011
3. **Participant** in the Kuwait University Scientific Poster Day 2013-2014
4. **Sabbatical Leave** at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Malaquais-Paris, France 2011-2012
5. **Fellowship** KFAS/Science Po, 2012
6. **Book Chapter** Al-Ragam, A. (2011), Explorations in Mat-Building: Kuwait Urban Critique. in Avermaete, T and Valena (ed.), Structuralism Reloaded: Rule-Based Design in Architecture and Urbanism, (Edition Axel Menges, Stuttgart), 150-156
7. **Book Chapter** Al-Ragam, A. (2018), Towards a Critique of Kuwaiti *Nahdha*: *Al-`Imara al-Haditha* and the Competing Narratives on Architecture and Urban Modernity, in Camacho R., Soares S and Fabbri R, (ed.), *Essays, Arguments & Interviews on Modern Architecture Kuwait* (Salenstein, Niggli), 47-65.

### **Lectures/Workshops/Discussant**

1. **Panel Moderator**, "Romanticizing History", State of the Elastic Mind, 2019 Regional Nuqat Conference, Kuwait, 20-29 November 2019.
2. **Organizer and speaker**, Promoting Research and Knowledge Exchange, Workshop 16 October 2019.
3. **Organizer and keynote speaker**, "Happiness and Wellbeing in Kuwait: Re-imagining the Design Process", Happiness and the City: Redesigning Urban Living. Symposium, 14 October 2019
4. **Speaker**, "Public Spaces in Kuwait and Beyond, Forms, Functions & Representations", Workshop, CEFAS, Kuwait 15 September 2019.
5. **Organizer and speaker**, RIBA President's Medals Student Awards Exhibition in Kuwait, DAI, 3 April 2019
6. **Organizer and speaker**, Defining Roles for Knowledge Transfer, Office of the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Research and Graduate Studies, Workshop, 18 February 2019
7. **Speaker**, "Rights of Future Generations: Housing and Domesticity", Sharjah Architecture Triennial, Sharjah 22 December 2018.
8. **Organizer and speaker**, Architecture Research at Kuwait University, Office of the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Research and Graduate Studies, Workshop, 7 November 2018.
9. **Organizer and speaker**, RIBA President's Medals Student Awards Exhibition in Kuwait, DAI, 24 April 2018
10. **Keynote speaker** at IASTE Conference: Legitimizing Tradition, Kuwait, December 20, 2016
11. **Scientific Coordinator** and **Plenary Discussant** at IASTE Conference:

- Legitimizing Tradition, Kuwait, December 20, 2016.
12. **Selection Committee Member** for the 2015 Graduate Paper and PhD Prize for The Association for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Journal 2015
  13. **Invited speaker**, “Kuwait Urban Modernity and the Politics of Preservation” Dar al-Athar al- Islamiyyah, Kuwait, May 2, 2016.
  14. **Debate Participant**. Modern Architecture Kuwait Debates, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, Kuwait May 1, 2016
  15. **Member** of the Selection Committee for the 2015 Graduate Paper and PhD Prize for The Association for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies
  16. **Coordinator** for the Annual Progress Report for the U.S. National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB) 2016
  17. **Coordinator** joint Kuwait University/ British Council lecture with Dr. David Rayson titled “The Romance, Mythology and Necessity of Studio” April 25, 2013.
  18. **Committee Chair** and coordinator of the Green Campus Workshop April 30, 2013, collaboration between Harvard University GSD and Kuwait University College of Architecture and the Vice President for Planning at Kuwait University.
  19. **Jury member** for 20<sup>th</sup> Engineering Design Competition sponsored by KFAS 15-16 June 2011
  20. **Invited speaker**, “Shifting Urban Narratives: Kuwait City between Representations of Progress and Nostalgic Practices” in UNESCO international conference on “Urban Conservation: Role of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in Safeguarding Modern Heritage in the Arab States”, Kuwait, December 1-3, 2015.
  21. **Invited speaker** “Architecture and Nation Building in the Kuwaiti Welfare State: Mapping Urban Narratives” Department of Architecture & Urban Planning, Qatar University, November 30, 2015.
  22. **Invited speaker**, “The Destruction of Modernist Heritage” Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah 19th Culture Season, Kuwait, November 25, 2013.
  23. **Organizer**, Conference “The Arab World in the Age of Revolutions: A Global Assessment” at Sciences Po, Paris, June 24-27, 2012
  24. **Lecturer**, “The Myth of Al-Sawaber” Lecture at Conference Housing Sessions: Challenges & Potentials, Kuwait, November 7, 2012
  25. **Invited speaker**, “The Aesthetic of Social Conduct: A Project of Hegemony”, Lecture at ENSAPM, Paris, December 1, 2011.
  26. **Invited speaker**, “The Politics of Representation: Processes of Cultural Production”, Lecture at ENSAPM, Paris, May 31, 2012.
  27. **Participant**, Ajman Urban Planning Conference March 24, 2011
  28. **Plenary Discussant** in Kuwait University Workshop “Dwelling Kuwait: Area/Block/Street/ House. Kuwait April 24, 2011
  29. **Coordinator** joint Kuwait University/ British Council lecture with Dr. David Rayson titled “The Romance, Mythology and Necessity of Studio” April 25, 2013
  30. **Seminar Moderator** for Heritage Day a collaboration between the College of Architecture and Institute Français Koweït, 2015
  31. **Committee chair** and **coordinator** of the Green Campus Workshop April 30, 2013, collaboration between Harvard University GSD and Kuwait University

- College of Architecture and the Vice President for Planning at Kuwait University.
32. **Architect** for Restoration project of Amricani Cultural Centre, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, Kuwait 2007
  33. **Architect** and Urban Designer at Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Kuwait 2001-2002
  34. **Architect** at Interior design firm Office 48, Alexandria, Virginia, USA, 2000
  35. **Architect** at Najeeb Al-Humaidhi Engineering Consultant, Kuwait, 1998

### **Funded Research and Reports**

1. LSE | KFAS grant "Public Space in Kuwait: from User Behavior to Policy-Making" 2019 | 2020
2. Re-interpretation of Form, Function and a Traditional Vernacular: Saba George Shiber, Research Initiation Grant ZE04/10, Kuwait University, March 31, 2011

### **Certificates of Merit and Awards**

1. Certificate of Attendance "Meeting the National Board of Academic Accreditation Challenge" 2017
2. Unfunded Research Award Kuwait University Research Sector 2017
3. Recipient of the Jeffrey Cook Award for best paper by a scholar at the 2016 International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE) conference.
4. Unfunded Research Award Kuwait University Research Sector 2015
5. Certificate of Completion: Managing Heat and Light Through Exterior Shading Systems AIACES Course Number K1406F; Earning 1 HSW Learning Unit (LU) Hours on September 29, 2014.
6. Certificate of Completion: Cool Roofs in Perspective: Not Just Black and White AIACES Course Number K1312T; Earning 1.25 HSW Learning Unit (LU) Hours on September 30, 2014.
7. Certificate of Completion: Strategies for Placemaking Downtown AIACES Course Number K1408B; Earning 1 HSW Learning Unit (LU) Hours on October 1, 2014.
8. Certificate of Completion: Façade Retrofits: Wrap it Up AIACES Course Number K1310A; Earning 1 HSW Learning Unit (LU) Hours on October 2, 2014.
9. Certificate of Completion: AIACES Course Number K1312T; Earning 1.25 HSW Learning Unit (LU) Hours on September 30, 2014.
10. Certificate of Merit, Diwan Al-Amiri, 3, June 2013
11. Will Mehlhorn Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania, 2005.
12. Kuwait Ministry of Higher Education Scholarship, 1995 – 2000.
13. Will Mehlhorn Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania, 2004.
14. Kuwait University Masters and Ph.D. Scholarship, 2002.
15. Virginia Tech Deans List, 1995 – 1998.
16. Virginia Tech Professional Promise Award, 1999.
17. Kuwait Ministry of Higher Education Certificate of Academic Merit, 1995 – 2000.

### **Teaching Experience**

1. **Assistant Professor**, Design Studio, History, and Criticism, Architecture Department, Kuwait University 2008-Present

2. **Visiting Researcher** at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Malaquais-Paris, France (ENSAPM) September 2011-September 2012
3. **Visiting Fellow** at Sciences Po, Paris, France May 2012-July 2012
4. **Teaching Assistant**, History and Theory III, Architecture Department, University of Pennsylvania, 2006
5. **Teaching Assistant**, Design III, Architecture Department, Kuwait University, 2001

### **Courses Taught Undergraduate Course Taught**

1. ARCH 1610105 - Design Basics in Architecture
2. ARCH 1610105 - Design Basics in Architecture
3. ARCH 1610205 - Architectural Design I
4. ARCH 1610306 - Architectural Design IV
5. ARCH 1610224 - Architecture Criticism
6. ARCH 1610284 - Ceramics I
7. ARCH 1610282 - Photography I
8. ARCH 1610283 - Photography II
9. ARCH 1610321 - History of Architecture III
10. ARCH 1610491 - Architecture Graduation Project I
11. ARCH 1610501 - Research Methods in Architecture
12. ARCH 1610511 - Research Methods in Architecture Design and Theory

### **Masters Courses Taught**

13. ARCH 1610-513 - Special Topics in Architectural Theory and Design
14. ARCH 1610-501 - Research Methods in Architecture A
15. ARCH 1610-511 - Research Methods in Architectural Design and Theory

### **Master of Science in Architecture Theses Supervised**

1. Sally Khanafer, Reconsidering Reflective Practice in the Architecture Studio: An ethnographic observation of Kuwait University's College of Architecture, May 2016
2. Maha Al-Shimmery, Community Life in Post - "new Town" Kuwait: A Social Analysis of Public Spaces in Kuwait's Residential Areas, October 2015
3. Roa Al Shaheen, The Death of the Plan: Sensory Spatial Communication an Ethnographic Study, May 2015

### **Community Service**

1. **Member** at Kuwait Master Plan Review Committee at Supreme Council for Planning and Development 2013- 2014
2. **Member** at Private University Council Committee 2013- present
3. **Member** of the College Master Program 2015/2016
4. **Coordinator** of the Department Undergraduate Program and U.S. National Architectural Accreditation Board. 2016/2017
5. **Member** for the Scholarship Program at the College of Architecture
6. **Member** for the Schedule and Student Affairs 2016/2017
7. **Member** for Design Courses at the Department of Architecture 2012/2013-present.
8. **Member** for Research and Scientific Affairs 2012/2013-present
9. **Member** the Graduate Studies and Master Program at the College of

Architecture 2015/2016 - present

10. **Member** Consultations/OCCD 2010/2011
11. **Organizer** Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights, 2009- Present
  1. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#11 February 18, 2015
  2. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#10 October 23, 2013
  3. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#9 June 26, 2013
  4. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#8 February 20, 2013
  5. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#7 February 16, 2011
  6. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#6 September 29, 2010
  7. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#5 May 5, 2010
  8. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#4 January 14, 2010
  9. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#3 November 11, 2009
  10. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#2 June 24, 2009
  11. Organizer Lecture Series: PechaKucha Nights: Vol#1 March 11, 2009
12. **Chair** and **coordinator** of the Green Campus Workshop April 30, 2013, collaboration between Harvard University GSD and Kuwait University College of Architecture and the Vice President for Planning at Kuwait University, 2013
13. **Coordinator** for the approval of Scopus Scimago Journal Ranking for the College of Architecture 2013
14. **Architectural and Urban consultant** for Kuwait Industrial Area in collaboration with Kuwait University OCCD, 2009
15. **Participant** in an Engineering Workshop 2009
16. **Participant** in the Ajman Urban Planning Conference 2011
17. **Juror** for the 20th Engineering Design Exhibition, 2011
18. **Participant** in the National Youth Project 2012-2013
19. **Member** for Sabah Al Ahmed College of Architecture Buildings, 2016 - present
20. **Member** for the 2016/2017 Architecture, Housing and Urban Design Award for the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs.

### **Kuwait University Committees**

1. University Scientific Awards Committee 2017/2018
2. Undergraduate Program Coordinator: Coordinator 2016/2017
3. U.S. National Architecture Accreditation Board Committee (NAAB) Coordinator 2013/2014 - Present
4. Research and Scientific Affairs 2012/2013-Present
5. Design Committee Coordinator 2012/2013 - Present
6. Schedule and Student Affairs 2016/2017
7. Consultation/ OCCD: Member 2010/2011
8. Studio Labs: Coordinator: 2010/2011
9. Graduate Studies and Master Program Committee: Member 2015/2016, 2016/2017
10. Research Committee: Coordinator 2013/2014, 2016/2017
11. Scholarship Committee: 2016/2017

### **Professional Membership**

1. Kuwait Society of Engineers
2. Society of Architectural Historians
3. Middle East Studies Association
4. Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture
5. Royal Institute of British Architects Affiliate Membership

6. The American Institute of Architects Associate Membership
7. International Committee for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement (DOCOMOMO), Founding Member Kuwait Chapter