

# Rana Samara Jubayli

Profile

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Rana Samara Jubayli is an architect, founding partner and design principal of Polypod, a multi-disciplinary collaborative design studio in Beirut, Lebanon, that offers integrated design services in architecture, interior and landscape design, branding, web design, graphics and information design for local and international clients.

Rana has bridged her design practice with academic teaching as Senior Lecturer at the Department of Architecture and Design at the American University of Beirut since 1999, and from 2014 to 2016 at the School of Architecture and Interior Design at the Lebanese American University. Prior to Polypod she was a consultant on sustainable development at the United Nations, and Project Architect.

She received her master of architecture degree from McGill University in 1996 and her bachelor of architecture degree from the Université de Montreal in 1994.

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## Professional Experience

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2007–present

### **Polypod, Beirut, Lebanon**

#### *CEO, Co-founder, Partner & Design Principal*

Co-established a design collaborative studio with a focus on designing architecture, interiors, web sites, and branding that emphasizes cross-disciplinary sharing and exchange of design ideas for private and public clients.

#### **Awards and achievements**

2016 AHLAM Lands Golf Clubhouse Architectural Design Competition, Winner

2016 AHLAM Lands Equestrian Complex Architectural Design Competition, Winner

2016 Tilal Bkosta Architectural Design Competition, Winner

2015 Speaker Atelier Sud Sud : Les enjeux des espaces culturels publics

2014 Pecha Kucha Speaker

2013 FFA Country Club Design Competition, Runner up

2012 International Property Award

2009 Rebrand 100 Distinction Award

2007 Graphis Letterhead 7 Gold Medal

2008 Published in Graphis Letterhead7

2005 Rebrand 100 Merit Award

2005–7 Representative of Pritzker-laureate Rafael Moneo

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2015–present

### **Rana Samara Jubayli, Montreal, Canada**

#### *Design Architect*

Established design practice with two launch projects consisting of a residential private estate with two high-end residences, to include architectural and interior design, and supervision.

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Nov 2004-  
March 2006

### **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Beirut, Lebanon**

#### *Economic Affairs Officer*

Nov 2006-May  
2007

Contributed substantively as a member of the Water and Environment Team in the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division; planned, organized and serviced seminars and expert group meetings; contributed to the analysis and evaluation of the implementation of regional and international policies and strategies related to sustainable development, water resources and the environment; evaluated consultants' studies; researched and produced outputs related to the social, economic and environmental dimensions of issues related to water and the environment.

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1994–2007

### **Rana Samara Jubayli, Beirut, Lebanon**

#### *Architect*

Designed complete urban, architectural, and interior design files.

Coordinated with interdisciplinary design and technical teams.

Prepared project proposals, spatial programs, feasibility studies, budget estimates, preliminary time schedules, and action plans.

Represented clients in matters related to site supervision and coordination, and to permit processing with municipalities and planning agencies and on tendering procedures.

Provided consultation on material, finishes & furniture selection.

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1996–2001

**Samir Khairallah & Partners, Beirut Lebanon**

*Project Architect*

Prepared building permits, tender drawings and documents for a variety of project programs, scales and budgets.

Organized coordination meetings with all design consultants, technical controllers, and chartered surveyors.

Identified, analyzed and articulated complex design issues to integrate information and requirements from various disciplines and sources.

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**Academic Experience**

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1999–present

**American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon**

*Senior Lecturer at the Department of Architecture and Design*

Developed basic and advanced architectural design studios, theory, technical and professional courses at the undergraduate (Bachelor of Architecture) & graduate (Masters of Urban Planning & Design) levels, as well as advising on final year research and design projects. Courses include:

**Professional Practice**

Spring 2016-17  
Spring 2014-15  
Spring 2013-14  
Spring 2012-13

Developed a professional core course, which exposes students to key aspects of professional design practice with emphasis on design management and production, navigating financial, legal and regulatory requirements, marketing strategies and team building, and ethics and professional conduct.

**Design Thesis I: Final Year Project**

Fall 2017-18  
Fall 2016-17  
Fall 2008-2009

Advised in a research-oriented studio/workshop model in which students are expected to critically explore architectural issues of personal interest and of general importance to the discipline, and to present their findings in a research report and preliminary design proposal.

**Vertical Studio: ADD &/or SUBTRACT**

Spring 2015-16

Co-taught a design studio with Simone Kosremelli addressing architectural design intervention to an existing built fabric while articulating the architectural gesture as a creative endeavor, addressing the cultural dimension, programmatic consistency, technical feasibility, and urban coherence.

**Architectural Programming**

Fall 2011-2012  
Fall 2010-2011  
Spring 2007-08

Presented a seminar course that deals with architectural programming as a design process that does not precede design, but works with it. The integrated approach to architectural programming delineates a design methodology based on academic research and practical knowledge to synthesize and translate a project brief to design strategies and solutions, through the collaboration of multiple participants and decision-makers, culminating in visiting the tool of post-occupancy evaluation of spaces to focus on design quality assessment.

**Design Thesis II: Final Year Project**

Fall 2009-2010

Advised final year students in the second stage of the year-long design thesis project, to enhance their knowledge to articulate and develop their architectural position formulated during Design Thesis I and transform it into a comprehensive architectural intervention.

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| Spring 2005-06 | <p><b>Environmental impact of urban growth: a question of sustainability</b><br/>         Prepared and offered a seminar course dealing with the concept of sustainable development as pertaining specifically to the city, aiming to provide the interdisciplinary theoretical and historical framework of sustainability.</p>  |
| Spring 2004-05 | <p><b>Architecture Design III</b><br/>         Contributed as one of three main advisors on a second-year design studio which introduces projects that deal with complex architectural programs and the development of conceptualization related to developing design work.</p>  |
| Fall 2004-05   | <p><b>Urban Regeneration: The Presence and Future of the Past</b><br/>         Developed and presented an elective course at the graduate level, to examine the comprehensive, multi-disciplinary analysis of re-urbanization as the complex reflection of theoretical, philosophical, social, economic, and technological layers of the city.</p>   |
| Summer 2004-05 | <p><b>Regional Architecture and Surveying: Architectural Heritage-A Matter of Urban Longevity</b><br/>         Co-instructed the course focusing on the surveying, documentation and critical analysis of architecture in Lebanon, through the case study of residential apartment buildings in the district of Ras El Naba', Beirut. The course focused on pre-elevator apartment buildings belonging to the period between the 30s and 50s; an under-valued segment of the built heritage that represents a transitional typology beyond the traditional.</p>  |
| Spring 2003-04 | <p><b>The Sustainable South</b><br/>         The aim of this Vertical Design Studio for third and fourth year students was the investigation of sustainable development and architecture in the context of South Lebanon. Simultaneously combining two opportunities: the reconsideration of development and its placing within a holistic approach to sustainability, and the investigation of the problematic and potential of the environmentally sensitive region of the South. Design intent and intervention to focus on the town of Ibl el Saqi in the Caza of Marjeyoun.</p>   |
| Fall 2003-04   | <p><b>Cities of Discrimination</b><br/>         Introduced an elective theory course with the purpose of evoking an invaluable discourse on the understanding and development of current design and planning issues dealing with landscapes of discrimination and of marginalization, and their imprint on the built environment. The study of this urbanity of injustice focuses on the social, political and economic as generators of the physical, and aims at establishing a theoretical framework for a landscape of diversity, accessibility, and flexibility through the examination of people and places, and the complex relationships that bind them.</p> |
| Summer 2003-04 | <p><b>The Revitalization of an Old City Port-The Cases of Trani and Tripoli</b><br/>         Co-instructed a graduate urban design studio focusing on coastal historic cities; identifying their somehow dormant and latent potentials, while investigating and formulating possible physical intervention. The main intention is to address the problematic in the old city of El-Mina as a manifestation of a declining coastal historical core with various levels of ruptures in its urban texture.</p>  |
| Spring 2002-03 | <p><b>Environmental Impact of Urban Growth: A Question of Sustainability</b><br/>         Developed the core course at the graduate level that aimed at providing the theoretical and historical framework of sustainable development as pertaining specifically to the urban: its definitions, goals, and methodologies of assessment, as relating to topics of planning, policy making, management, geography, and ecology, with a focus on current policies and emerging issues in Lebanon.</p>   |

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| Fall 2002-03  | <p><i>Instructor at the Department of Architecture and Design</i><br/> <b>Urban Regeneration: The Presence and Future of the Past</b><br/> Refer to Fall 2004-5</p>  |
| Summer 2000-01  | <p><b>Regional Architecture and Surveying</b><br/> Co-instructed the course focusing on the surveying, documentation and study of traditional architecture in Lebanon, through the case study of traditional buildings in the village of Deir el Qamar, Chouf.</p>   |
| Fall 1999-2000  | <p><b>Architectural &amp; Urban Regeneration: The Presence and Future of the Past</b><br/> Introduced an elective course to study the viability and sustainability of the built heritage. A discourse revolving around the negotiation of the theories and policies of the management of architectural and urban change, and the exploration of the various corresponding schools of thought, their philosophy and ethics of intervention.</p> |
| <p><b>Lebanese American University, Byblos, Lebanon</b><br/> <i>Senior Lecturer at the School of Architecture and Interior Design</i></p> |  |
| Spring 2014-15  | <p><b>Design Studio VIII</b><br/> Led a design studio for fourth year architectural students to with a brief to submit a Design Competition managed by UN Habitat for the design of the Union of Municipalities of Sahel Al-Zahrani in South Lebanon, integrating architecture with information design.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>Workshop II</b><br/> Coordinated a workshop conceived to work in parallel with the design studios on Visualizing Architecture, with focus on Information Design and 3D modelling.</p>  |
| Fall 2014-15  | <p><b>Design Studio VII</b><br/> Led a section of fourth year design studio focusing on the elaboration of an architectural project with continuing emphasis on technical, structural and environmental parameters in design, through a complex multi-use cultural building typology in the urban context of Mdawar, Beirut.</p>   |

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### Professional Associations

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| 1995–present | <p><b>Order of Engineers and Architects, Beirut, Lebanon</b><br/> <i>Member</i></p> |
| 1994-present | <p><b>Ordre des Architectes du Quebec, Canada</b><br/> <i>Membre Stagiaire</i></p>  |

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## Institutional Leadership

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| 2015-present | <b>ASSABIL Friends of Public Libraries Association</b> , Beirut, Lebanon<br><i>Board Member</i>  |
| 2012         | <b>FFA</b> , Beirut, Lebanon<br><i>Jury Member</i><br>Amchit Architectural Design Competition  |
| 2012         | <b>Rebrand 100</b> , Providence, Rhode Island<br><i>2012 Panelist</i><br>Served on a panel of 10 international branding and design leaders to select the best of 100 entries for the 2012 international rebranding award |
| 1998–2000    | <b>McGill Society of the Middle East (MSME)</b><br><i>Co-president</i>   |
| 1993-96      | <b>Brummana High School Old Scholars' Association</b><br><i>Founding member and Chapter Head in Canada</i>   |
| 1990-91      | <b>International Student Society</b> , University of Bath, England<br><i>Founding member and elected Committee Member</i>  |

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## Education

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| 1994–96   | <b>McGill University</b> , Montreal, Canada<br><i>Master of Architecture (Housing: Domestic Environments) 1996</i><br>Thesis title: Urban Reconstruction in the 20th Century: The Postwar Deconstruction of Beirut, Lebanon. |
| 1991–94   | <b>Universite de Montreal</b> , Montreal, Canada<br><i>Bachelor of Architecture 1994</i>   |
| 1989–91   | <b>Bath University</b> , United Kingdom<br>Completed two years towards BArch   |
| 1988–89   | <b>American University of Beirut</b> , Beirut, Lebanon<br>Completed first semester towards BArch   |
| Languages | Fluent in English, Arabic and French   |

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## Contact

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