

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Hala Alfalih

207 Trees of Kennesaw Parkway

Kennesaw, GA 30152

Dear Keshika De Saram ,

I am writing to inform you of my interest in running for AIAS South Quad Director for 2019-20. I have submitted my application with applicable documentation. I am currently in my fourth year of a bachelor's degree in architecture at Kennesaw State University, with intent to graduate in Spring of 2020. I am an active member of the AIAS chapter at my university and have been so since 2015. I have been on the board of said chapter since 2016. I have attended two Quad conferences in Miami, FL and San Juan, PR, and Thrive 2018 in New Orleans, LA. I am also a volunteer for FORUM Seattle 2018 and have been on the governance committee of AIAS National since 2017.

Attending South Quad has helped me understand that AIAS is all about empowering everyone to become a leader, helping us realize how important our voices are, and using them to do better. Seeing how involved and passionate our AIAS board is and every volunteer that helps make these conferences come to life makes me want to become more involved myself. I have had the opportunity to oversee and learn how my chapter is run and how large events are planned to support my chapter constantly. I have worked closely with every committee and learned how to manage time efficiently and effectively.

I have been on the AIAS board for two consecutive years now. My first position was AIA Liaison where I acted as the liaison between AIAS Kennesaw State University and AIA Georgia, Atlanta, and National. Another important role of mine was gathering the correct information about upcoming events, competitions and scholarships and making them readily available to not only AIAS but the entire student body. I am currently the AIAS Social Media Chair. This position means that I get to enjoy all our efforts as a chapter through the lens of a camera. Not only have I gained a new perspective for the chapter, but I have also learned how to share our content on social media correctly as to attract the right people.

Through my experience as Social Media Chair, I have learned to gain an appreciation for the marketing and advertising side of architecture, and to really grasp the importance of branding, and how an architect represents him/herself. An architect is nowadays becoming an entrepreneur. My main goal is to help young professionals realize the importance of entrepreneurship, what it really means and how we can use our critical thinking skills to navigate the market and promote ourselves. I believe there is so much we have to offer, and I want to make sure I do everything I can to help my quad realize its true potential.

Given my passion and determination, I am confident that I am a suitable candidate for South Quad director. I have goals that I am determined to succeed at and I have an agenda I am passionate about. I look forward to speaking to you more about this position and how I am qualified for it. Thank you for your time and consideration, you can find my resume available for review in the application packet. Please do not hesitate to email me with any of your concerns.

Sincerely,

Hala Alfalih

*hala alfalih*  
Kennesaw State University

**1. Describe your origin story as a student leader. What prompted you to get involved? What advice would you give others who have yet to realize their potential for leadership?**

Coming from an architecture school in Amman, Jordan has given me the opportunity to realize the potential I have to be goal oriented and to encourage others to believe in the important things I believe in as well. Upon transferring, my current school, Kennesaw State University, did not accept any of my credits which led me to repeat my first two years. Not only did I realize my true love for architecture, but I also developed a better understanding of the need to take leadership so that other students could feel this passion I had developed as well. I began by joining an AIAS mentorship program to learn through others' experiences and from there I decided to become more involved with AIAS. Along my journey, I have gained a stronger understanding of how important my voice is, and that no one can take that away from me. My advice would be to start by helping others, helping their friends, and community. Through that leadership just comes gradually, without even being aware of it, you become a leader.

**2. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to health and wellness, equity, student loan debt, studio culture, practice experience, leadership, and technology. What one issue do you personally find the most important? How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors?**

One of the biggest problems we, as architecture students, face is that we let our passion for architecture consume us. It is not a bad thing but we also tend to let it take over, reach its tentacles into our lives and completely absorb it. Architecture becomes everything and nothing else matters, including health, family, and even friends. We become so committed to our careers that we forget that to maintain our mental health we must uphold all of the other relationships in our lives. To be good architects, we must have good minds, and in order to do that we must sleep enough, eat healthy, and promote healthy relationships outside of this all-consuming world. Moreover, we must, most importantly, support each other in pursuing healthy mentalities, and making sure we succeed. I would constantly push to make mental health an important topic that we become more aware of and educated in. Not only this, but also that we start frowning upon all-nighters and learn more about managing our time efficiently enough that all-nighters disappear. We need to support each other to be more mentally healthy, and aware. This support is what AIAS means to me and what I want it to mean to everyone else.

**3. The AIAS has over 160 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size from just a few students to hundreds. How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership? What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?**

Upon receiving the position of South Quad director, I would reach out to every chapter in my quad. I want to understand how diverse AIAS really is and promote this diversity through connectivity. I would visit universities to understand their different cultures. What is different vs what brings us together? Not only universities but after understanding how everyone approaches their chapter leadership I would reach out to high schools, to communities and help, not only ourselves but everyone else as well, understand how strong our word is and how far we can reach. The German Jordanian University, at which I started architecture school helped me gain friends around the world in the field of architecture, and through those relationships I have had the chance to travel to different countries around the world like Germany and Spain to understand how different they are from, not only each other but from other countries like the United States or Dubai for example. Not only how different they are, but more importantly how similar they are. We all have a goal to reach, and the way we can do this is through promoting each other and pushing each other to do our best.

**4. Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS to engage in a new way. Either with other organizations, with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, with the international design community, or any other audience or venue.**

Entrepreneurship. I cannot stress how important this word is to a thriving architecture career. Architecture is, in all meanings of the word, an interdisciplinary major. To be a successful architect, we have to have this urge to want to learn everything. We can absorb so much information just because of the way our programs condition our minds. We are so used to having a 20-bullet point list of different things to get done by the end of the day and not sleeping until every bullet has been crossed out. We must learn how to purpose our strong drive and focus into a world that is asking for people with our critical thinking abilities. Anyone can go through design school, and come out with the ability to draw, use Rhino or CAD or whatever software, but only a true architect learns how to manage multiple things at once, and succeed at everything equally. So, to sum it up into one thought; we must understand how to use all these skills we learn in school in every single field out there. Business, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc. That is the beauty in this field. I want to institutionalize the experience, and the memory that older students can give to newer students, and I want to make it common knowledge of how they have overcome their hardships to become successful. The importance of learning from outside of school must be stressed, and that is what I want to work more on.

# HALA ALFALIH

ARCHITECTURE STUDENT

## INFO



**NAME**  
Hala Alfalih



**ADDRESS**  
207 Trees Of Kennesaw PKWY, Kennesaw, GA 30152



**TELEPHONE**  
(678)-640-1803



**EMAIL**  
hala.alfalih@live.com



**LINKEDIN**  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hala-alfalih-621969105>



**LANGUAGES**  
Trilingual (English, Arabic, German)

## SKILLS

REVIT 2 years

RHINOCEROS 5.0 4 years

AUTOCAD 6 years

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP 6 years

ADOBE INDESIGN 3 years

ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR 5 years

VRAY 2 years

GRASSHOPPER 3 years

LUMION 1 year

## PROFILE

Passionate, fourth year, architecture student, pursuing experience in the architecture field. Interested in **parametric design** and **robotics** in architecture. Pursuing a minor in **computer sciences** with the goal to take my career into the research field in architecture.

Strong grasp on new technologies in architecture and constantly finding new ways to be innovative and creative in studios.

Currently doing research in Kennesaw State University to make a "100%" efficient fluorescent bulb.

## EXPERIENCE

**RMI DESIGN**  
2018-CURRENT

- Creating physical models of large scale projects.
- Lasercutting and putting together models.
- Creating lasercut files using AutoCad.

**PATTERN R+D**  
JUNIOR ARCHITECT  
SUMMER 2018  
INTERNSHIP

- Produced renderings for clients.
- Coordinated construction documents.
- Working with the City Hall of Atlanta to get projects permitted.
- Put together sustainability reports for large scale projects.

**AIAS**  
GOVERNANCE  
COMMITTEE  
2017-2018

- Responsible for periodically evaluating governance issues of the organization and make recommendations as appropriate to the AIAS Board.

**KSU AIAS**  
SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR  
2018-2019

- Responsible for updating chapters social media including Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat.
- Keeping student body informed about current and future events.

**KSU AIA**  
LIAISON  
2017-2018

- Liaison between AIAS and AIA
- Liaison between AIAS and AIA Nationals
- Gathering info on upcoming AIAS conferences

**URBAN FRONTS**  
EXHIBITION +  
VOLUNTER TASKS  
2017

- Designed, submitted and built exhibition in Urban Fronts 2017
- Helped bring together volunteers to prep for Urban Fronts 2017

## EXTRA CURRICULARS

**AIAS SOUTH QUAD**  
MIAMI-2017V

**ARCHITOUR**  
NEW YORK-2016

**AIAS SOUTH QUAD**  
PUERTO RICO-2018

**ARCHITOUR**  
SEATTLE-2016

**AIAS THRIVE**  
NEW ORLEANS-2018

## EDUCATION

● HIGH SCHOOL

2010-2013  
Islamic Educational College  
British System

● UNIVERSITY

2013-2015  
German Jordanian University  
Major B.Arch

● UNIVERSITY

2015-CURRENT  
Kennesaw State University  
Major B.Arch  
Minor Computer Sciences



**Date:** Nov, 10, 2018  
**To:** Keshika De Saram, Assoc. AIA, Past President  
**From:** Tony Rizzuto Ph.D.

Dear Mr. Saram:

I am writing you in support of Hala Alfalih, a candidate for AIAS South Quad Director. I have known Hala since she first enrolled in the B.ARCH program here at Kennesaw State University. She has also been a student of mine in two History/Theory courses. As her resume clearly indicates she has been an active board member of our AIAS chapter for several years. These positions have afforded her a diverse background of experience in how the organization is run. She has also attended South Quad conferences and these too have provided her with a 30,000 foot perspective of the organization and insight into how other schools operate. She is a very talented student one that any faculty is honored to have in their class. These attributes along with her work experience in a highly respected local firm make her an ideal candidate for this position and implore you to take her application very seriously.

But I want to speak to something that is perhaps less objective in her application yet clear to anyone who actually knows her. In the four years that Hala Alfalih has been in this school she has been a constant figure at all of our events from lectures, exhibitions, symposiums and social events. When I say she has been a constant figure I do not mean that she just attended. Hala is always there to help with logistics, planning installations, set-up. I have never asked her to help, she just shows up. She has also participated in our summer design program for incoming students, mentoring them and welcoming them into the program. She is a model of real leadership, not the I have a title leadership that so permeates our world, but the type that demands that one roll up their sleeves and gets it done, that encourages everyone else to participate not just because it's the right thing to do but because it's fun, it's great for team building and because it's who we are. I hope that the AIAS values these qualities in our young architects.

I make this recommendation with the full confidence that Hala is the right person for the job of Director of South Quad and will do an outstanding job and with a smile on her face when she does.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Rizzuto".

Tony Rizzuto Ph.D.  
Chair and Associate Professor,  
Department of Architecture  
College of Architecture and Construction Management  
Kennesaw State University





## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS

In July 1993, the AIAS Board of Directors adopted a "Public Policy on Uncompensated Interns." The policy has been subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board and reads as follows:

The AIAS maintains that employers must properly compensate all employees. Compensation must be in compliance with the regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

In 2010, AIAS crafted a public statement on intern compensation in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, which reads as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. Because of current economic transformations, some architects have both solicited and accepted the services and labor of interns without pay. We strongly urge architectural firms and other for-profit employers to respect the law and comply with the ethical standards of our profession, and we strongly encourage interns to refuse to accept employment without pay, and to notify the Department of Labor in cases where employers propose such an arrangement. For more information on labor laws and professional ethics, please see the AIA Code of Ethics and the U.S. Labor Department standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to determine their own hours and degree of involvement. The AIA has established guidelines for service that are provided on a Pro Bono basis. They can be found under the member section of the AIA website.

### POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS AFFIRMATION

As a way of confirming that the AIAS is not promoting or being promoted by architects employing unpaid interns, we ask that each participant in an official AIAS function review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation in our event and thank you for your support of our position against unpaid internships. This position is supported as well by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Name: Hala Alfalih

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ employee interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature: 

Date: 11/15/2018



## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS

Elections are a critical step by which the American Institute of Architecture Students is governed. Annual elections, as outlined in the Bylaws and the Rules of the Board, ensure that the membership of the organization participates in the selection of the best candidates to serve on the national Board of Directors.

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors represent the membership and ensure the continued success of the organization. Therefore, participants who are involved in the elections process, including candidates, Board members and elections committee members, are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and good judgment.

Confidentiality is required of all participants in the elections process. Participants should not discuss details of the elections process to the general membership before, during or after FORUM. Elections information that is considered public knowledge, and therefore can be shared with the membership, occurs during the General Business Sessions and at the General Assemblies.

Campaigning is strictly prohibited prior to FORUM. Conversation between chapters regarding candidates should not take place. Campaigning will only begin at the first General Assembly of FORUM.

Campaigning during FORUM shall be professional. Candidates and candidate support groups should be respectful in their campaigning efforts. Disrespectful campaigning will be a violation of the Elections Code of Ethics, and will be grounds for immediate review by the Past President.

Campaigning materials should follow the Election Guidelines, and should be distributed in appropriate venues only. Appropriate venues include FORUM General Business Sessions, General Assemblies, and Quad Breakouts.


As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Past President.

### ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS AFFIRMATION

To promote the highest level of professionalism during elections, we ask that each participant in the elections process review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation and thank you for your support and dedication to the organization.

Name: Hala Alfalih \_\_\_\_\_

I do hereby affirm that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the AIAS Elections Code of Ethics and the Elections Guidelines.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

Date: 11/15/2018 \_\_\_\_\_

## **AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM**

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Past President to communicate elections-related information. If provided, social media handles will be shared when candidates are posted publicly on AIAS website and social media.

Name (as preferred): Hala Alfalih\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: Kennesaw State University\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Social Media Chair\_\_\_\_\_

Email      Address:      hala.alfalih@live.com\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone Number: 6786401803\_\_\_\_\_

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook:  
Hala Alfalih\_\_\_\_\_
- Twitter:  
@AlfalihHala\_\_\_\_\_
- Instagram:  
alfalihhala\_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_





# WHAT QUAD? SOUTH QUAD!



# HALA ALFALIH

EXPERIENCED  
COMMITTED  
PROFESSIONAL  
SQD 19-20

