Farah Naz

Associate Director, Specialist Consulting
Middle East & Africa

Education
Masters in Architecture in Sustainable Environment Design (SED)

Architectural Association, School of Architecture (AA), London, UK

BSc, Engineering, Boston, MA, USA

Wentworth Institute of Technology (WIT), Boston, MA, USA.

Years of experience
20

Language skills
English

Professional affiliations
- Chartered Engineer (CEng)
- CIBSE UAE Chair
- Verified Research Expert Dubai Future Foundation
- Emirates Green Building Council Board Member (EGBC)
- Member of the Tau Alpha Pi Honours Society, USA
- Associate member of American institute of Architects (AIA)
- Past CIBSE Council Member UK
- Past Committee Member- Association for Consulting & Engineers(ACE), UK
- Past Board Member- (WSCP),UK

Registrations/Certifications
- Fellow of Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)
- Chartered Engineer UK
- Chartered Architect (Non UK),
- UAE Society of Engineer, UAE.
- LEED AP (BD+C),
- WELL AP
- Estidama PQP Assessor (UAE)
- Code for Sustainable Home Assessor, UK
- Commonwealth Scholar
- Magna Cum Laude Scholar

Farah Naz is a multi-award-winning Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of CIBSE. She is a City Strategist, focusing on Climate Change Advisory for cities and infrastructure. Naz is the Chair of CIBSE UAE Chapter. Her work focuses on Decarbonization and Net zero Roadmaps, Urban resilience, Liveability, Health and Wellbeing and innovation framework for master planning and cities. With +20 years' experience, across USA, UK, Asia and UAE Naz, co authored MEA regions first book on Net Zero city in December 2021.

Professional history

Farah Naz is an award-winning Climate Change strategist with over 18 years' experience in the construction sector gained in the USA, UK, Southeast Asia and most recently the United Arab Emirates (UAE). She is a Chartered Engineer (UK), Fellow of CIBSE, LEED and WELL AP and Verified Research Expert for Dubai Future Foundation.

For the past six years Farah has been based in Dubai, UAE, where she has been steering sustainability and innovation in the built environment covering the entire Middle East, Saudi Arabia and wider Gulf Region. She leads Specialist Services with a focus on Sustainable Cities, ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and Urban Resilience for AECOM across the Middle East and Africa.

Farah was a prime mover in creating the energy strategy for the first zero-energy building in the UK, which subsequently won the 2015 RIBA Sustainable Buildings Award (UK). In the Middle East her name has become a synonym for implementable sustainability & energy strategy among others, linked to projects including Museum of the Future, the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi, the Bee'ah Headquarters in Sharjah, Expo 2020 Sustainability Pavilion, Masdar and Hudayriat Master planning.

In her innovating role she focusses on implementation best practice within the built environment, adopting systems related to Energy Water Food Nexus, Biomimetics, Five Capital model of Sustainability, Liveability and Innovation Frameworks, which will build the foundation of the Middle Eastern smart cities and communities of the future. She is currently authoring book on Implementing Sustainability and Innovation in Post Pandemic Gulf Cities, which is scheduled to be published in summer of 2022

Key Experience:

- Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory for Clients
- Building Energy Efficiency & Benchmarking, KPI and Assessments
- Innovation Strategy
- Livability, Health and Wellbeing Framework for citys
- Disruptive Asset Management
- Zero Energy and Carbon Road Map for Buildings and Citys

Professional History

Head of Innovation and Sustainable Solutions	2015 to 2021	Buro Happold, Middle East
Sustainability Markets Lead	2012- 2014	Ramboll, London UK & Copenhagen
Sustainability Engineer	2008- 2012	Gifford, London, UK
Lead Designer & Bid Manager	2003- 2006	Consulting Services Group Southeast Asia
Design Engineer	2001- 2003	KallMann McKinnel & Wood Consulting Services Group Rothman Partners Boston, Mass, USA

Publication

- Authoring Book Titled, Net Zero City Overcoming Climate Change by 2032, To be published 2021.
- Authoring Book Titled, PEOPLE | INNOVATION | WELLBEING -Rethinking Future Arab Cities, 2022
- Article Tittle: Wellbeing in Buildings – A Rewarding Process? Between Wishful Thinking and Reality, will be published in Corporate Real Estate Journal, in Jan 2019.

Project Experience

EXPO 2020 SUSTAINABILITY PAVILLION, DUBAI, UAE (2016 -2021)
Client: EXPO 2020 Committee Architect: Grimshaw Architects Status: Ongoing Project value: 5M USD
This project won the Sustainability Project of the year award in 2020.Farah was the Job Leader responsible for managing all aspects of delivering sustainability for this project. Running a team of sustainability consultants across, Dubai and UK office and USA office. Responsible for reviewing renewables feasibility analysis and energy strategy. Procure and Manage ecologists, landscape architects and environmental consultants. Delivery and implementation of the sustainability innovations within the project Responsible for leading team of engineers and energy modelers, LEED and Al SAFA Assessment.

Farah led the Decarbonization and Net zero Strategy and implementation plan from design to post construction. Worked with the client and procurement team to development a seamless post occupancy evaluation strategy to be adopted by the facilities management team.

MASDAR ECO VILLA, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2015)
The Masdar City Eco-Villa is regions first Net Zero Designed Villa that adopts the tradition of innovation by pioneering a new concept for design, construction and operation of sustainable family homes in the region. This project won several accolades and have been adopted by Sheikh Zayeh housing as their low carbon housing Typology. Farah lead sustainability and strategy focusing on five capital model for sustainability, energy, water and waste strategy for the project.

MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE, DUBAI, UAE (2015 – 2021)
Client: Dubai government, Prime minister's Office & Meraas Architect: Killa Design Status: Ongoing
Project Value 10 M USD
Farah led the team and responsible for the sustainability and innovation strategy for the project as well as the highest LEED Design stage Scoring for Platinum certification for the Museum of the Future.

BEEAH HEADQUARTERS IN SHARJAH, UAE (2015 – 2021)
Client: Beeah Architect: Zaha Hadid Architects Status: Ongoing Project Value: 250 M UAE

This project won Sustainability project of the year award in 2018. Farah was the team leader and was responsible for managing all aspects of delivering sustainability for this project. Delivering a net zero energy strategy and coordination of all innovation within the project.

This included project visioning, budget, commercial appraisal, Key Client Contact & Stakeholder Manager, Fee negotiations. Responsible for coordination with SEWA and other Stakeholders regarding sustainability credit interpretations requests, correspondence on credit clarifications, documentation submission and audit for Estidama Assessment, identify requirements, assess and advise on the implications of Sustainability Design Variations to the design team.

LOUVRE ABU DHABI (PQP), UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (2015 -2017)
Client: TDIC Architect: Ateliers Jean Nouvel
The Louvre Abu Dhabi is an iconic cultural museum planned for construction on Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi. Buro Happold have provided a wide range of engineering input to the project including sustainability guidance and LEED and Estidama compliance. Farah was responsible in advising on the people flow movement connecting the visitor experience with the business strategy for the museum.

KING ABDULAZIZ CENTRE FOR WORLD CULTURE, DHAHRAN, KSA (2015)
Client: Saudi Aramco Architect: Sonesta
An exemplar project for Buro Happold in terms of multi-disciplinary team working and a cultural first for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the King Abdulaziz Centre for World Culture will offer a range of specialized cultural, educational and youth leadership programmes and activities, to promote a positive impact on human development and culture within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - MIDFIELD TERMINAL SUPPORT FACILITIES, ABU DHABI, UAE (2015)
One of our main projects was the Employee Consolidation Centre, a facility that processes up to 1,150 staff members within a 10-minute window. The building is over 5,500m² and serves as the central security screening and customs clearance checkpoint for employees. Farahs involvement has helped ADAC to hit their targets for Abu Dhabi Airport, reducing waste by 80% by 2018.We designed a 1,600-space car park, providing for the long-term parking needs of passengers flying from the new Midfield Terminal. The facility includes advanced management systems linking to wider airport networks, along with integrated bus services to and from departure and arrival halls.

FIRST NET ZERO CARBON SCHOOL IN UK (2015)
This project won the 2015 RIBA Sustainable Buildings Awards. This was UKs first Net Zero Carbon School, In North London, UK. Farah worked on the decarbonization strategy, energy modelling and community district heating system connected to the school, adult learning centre and residential development.
https://www.willmottdixon.co.uk/news/willmott-dixon-to-deliver-uks-first-zero-carbon-school

MASTER PLANNING EXPERIENCE

NEOM LIVEABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK,KSA
As Team lead Farah lead the Neom Sustainability and Livability Framework for 7 key major sites. The key aspect of this work to establish a health and wellbeing framework that responds to the sensitive sites and biodiversity.

HUDAYRIAT MASTER PLANNING, ABU DHABI, UAE
Farah was the Project Lead for the Masterplan of a series of Hospitality and Residential assets on Hudayriat Island in Abu Dhabi with CBT Architects. The plan was driven by the creation of a public realm spine as a civic basis for a connected range of attractions. Designed as a series of experiential loops around which developments were planned the masterplan facilitates tourism as a collective of linked attractions.

MASDAR MASTERPLAN, ABU DHABI, UAE
The vision of Masdar City is to “Create a commercially viable sustainable city providing the highest quality of life with the lowest environmental footprint”. To achieve this vision, Masdar has established measurable goals in the area of carbon footprints, energy usage, water usage, waste generation, social impact and economic viability on all of the city developments. Farah led the Buro Happold team on phase 2 and 4 of the master planning. By undertaking sensitivity studies to inform the design on distance between buildings, massing, orientation and material properties. Design recommendations were focused on achieving balance between minimising solar radiation on the facades and outdoor spaces, whilst increasing the comfort of both the pedestrian and the occupants.

As Walkability is a key theme of the development, an outdoor thermal comfort strategy was developed by the team led by Farah in alignment with the energy strategy. The focus of the study was to increase outdoor comfortable hours throughout the year, and to encourage healthy lifestyle for the residents.

ALAKATI, NICOSIA, CYPRUS
A major regional masterplan that examined the 4000 square kilometre watershed of the coastline in an effort to prepare an entire Urban Planning Framework for the city that achieves Flood Mitigation, Sea Level Rise Adaptation, Sustainable Agriculture, Economic Development and substantial improvements in the provision of public open space. It realized over 7 million square metres of new development in 77 development sites and 17 key infrastructure projects that address the key challenges facing this rapidly expanding city.

NEW CASPIAN TOWN, DAGESTAN
This scheme to create a new major city on the Caspian Sea coast was nothing if not ambitious. The vision was to create a vibrant international destination for both business and tourism, as well as a home for 500,000 residents. Located on a greenfield site south of the capital Makhachkala, the planned new city occupies a prominent coastal location featuring a number of large lagoons. Farah played a crucial role in developing initial masterplan concepts, particularly when it came to issues of sustainability and environmental planning. The goal was to create a locally sustainable development, based on a 'zero-in, zero-out' philosophy. As part of this, we assessed the feasibility of sourcing everything - from construction materials through to water and energy - locally. Farah developed robust strategies for on-site recycling and reuse of waste materials.

MALJEVIC BAY, MONTENEGRO
Farah was helping to develop the masterplan concept design for this 30-hectare luxury resort located on a prominent headland site overlooking the Adriatic Sea in Bar Municipality, Montenegro. The development features a range of villas and apartments as well as a spa, beach club, marina facilities and retail units. Our services offering on this job is comprehensive and includes masterplanning engineering through to detailed design for both sitewide and buildings infrastructure.
The headland site is incredibly steep, posing a real challenge to the road layout design.

To achieve the client's ambitions for the number of residential units, access routes need to be judiciously designed into the slope, bearing in mind the potentially high cost of this work. Farah advised on a sustainable transport strategy that incorporates walking routes and a restriction on car access to certain areas, with electric golf carts used for travel between leisure areas.

AGRO FOOD PARK, DENMARK
Ramboll and COBE have created a master plan with approximately 100,000 m2 of office buildings. The plan aims to expose Agro Food Park as an innovative environment, and an example of sustainable development of agriculture and food industry. The master plan is based on a number of fundamental principles that form the foundation for the physical development and the vision. One of the main principles, "openness" means the park will interact with the surroundings and the buildings ground façade is transparent. With a wide range of specialist taking care of all challenges a large-scale development requires, the project is a great example of Ramboll's ability to consult and create value for the client from the very first drawings to the final approved development.