

born in Albania on June 1st, 1991

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EU residence permit holder



WORK EXPERIENCE

- nov 2020 - present **lecturer**
Polytechnic University of Tirana (UPT) | Faculty of Civil Engineering
course of "Technical Architecture"
- jul 2017 - present **freelance architect**
registered architect in Florence
private commitments and collaborations with other professionals in
design new construction/renovation of residential/commercial buildings
interior design | product design
technical drawings | MEP system design | construction details
site supervisor
- nov-dec 2019 **post earthquake building inspector**
Municipality of Tirana
invited by the technical offices of the Municipality of Tirana to assess the damages and usability of a series of buildings after
the two deadly earthquakes that hit Albania in the autumn of 2019
- apr 2016 - apr 2020 **teaching assistant**
University of Florence | School of Architecture | Master Degree Course in Architecture
course of "Materials and Building Elements"
course of "Architectural Technologies Lab"
Catholic University of 'Our Lady of Good Counsel'_Tirana | Faculty of Applied Sciences | Architecture
course of "Materials and Building Elements"
- apr 2017 - dec 2019 **visiting lecturer**
Department of Architecture_Florence
bioclimatic buildings, sustainable architecture
Architectural Association School of Architecture_London
design strategies for autism-friendly environments
- oct 2015 - dec 2015 **internship architect**
Centro Studi Progettazione Edilizia | CSPE design studio_Florence
drafting of the final project for the competition of the University Hospital of Sassari, Sardinia
preparation of the dossier for participating in the competition for the design of the University Hospital of Tirana
- apr 2013 - jun 2018 **tutor in the academic guidance**
University of Florence | School of Architecture | Administrative Offices
assistance and orientation of students in the academic program | school official website maintenance

EDUCATION

- nov 2016 - apr 2020 **phd in architecture**
University of Florence | School of Architecture | curriculum 'Architectural Technologies'
graduated with honours and certified as Doctor Europeus with the theme:
"Day Centre for preschool age children with autism.
Planning and Design Strategy for Autism-Friendly Interventions"
- jan 2019 - jun 2019 **visiting phd**
Royal College of Art | The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design_London
Kingston University | Kingston School of Art_London
- jun 2015 - jul 2015 **eco-friendly city and sustainable development**
Tongji University, Shanghai | Shanghai Summer School 2015 (european program)
competition winner for the topic: "Ecological Vitality"
- sept 2010 - jul 2016 **master degree in architecture**
University of Florence | School of Architecture | quinquennial master degree in architecture
graduated with honours & recommendation for publication with the theme:
"Autism-Friendly Design - Center for autistic adults in Tirana"
- sept 2005 - jul 2010 **technician in electronic & programming**
Technical Institute "Harry T. Fultz", Tirana
graduated cum laude & selected 'student of the year'

RESEARCHES

- nov 2018 - jun 2019 **collaborator at Florence Accessibility Lab - FAL**
Interdepartmental Research Unit of the University of Florence
100 Villages
The Diaspora as a Resource for the Knowledge, Preservation and Enhancement of the Lesser Known Cultural Sites in Albania
- jun 2017 - jun 2018 **ADA Project**
Home Adaption for the Autonomy of People with Severe Disabilities and their Caregivers
- nov 2016 - jul 2017 **Pocket Parks for All**
The evaluation of residual spaces abandoned as opportunities for the inclusive city

SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

- oct 2016 - jul 2017 **collaborator at the seminar/workshop 'pocket parks for all'**
The seminar is part of the research 'Pocket Parks for All: The enhancement of the residual spaces as opportunities for the inclusive city' financed by the University of Florence.
- 27-30th sept 2016 **collaborator at the workshop 'accessible tourism in Mondovì'**
Multidisciplinary Workshop, organized by the Department of Architecture of the Turin Polytechnic as part of the Accessibility Lab Network of several Italian universities, on the issue of accessibility applied to the Integrated Urban System of the historic center of Mondovì.

AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS

- 30th mar 2019 **1st place_future leader award**
European Symposium "Salutogenic Hospital Design and Urban Health"_International Academy Design & Health
- 21st sept 2018 **best practice 2017**
ADA research project has been awarded by the International Design for All Foundation
- nov 2016 - dec 2019 **doctoral scholarship**
University of Florence
- 1st sept 2016 **certificate of honor**
awarded for the research output on "Autism-Friendly Design" from the "Albanian Children" Foundation, which in particular takes care for the autistic children in albanian territory.
- 25th jul 2015 **certificate of honor**
awarded the honor of Excellent Investigation Group in recognition of his group's outstanding presentation for the topic "Ecological Vitality" during Shanghai Summer School 2015.
- sept 2010 - jul 2016 **merit scholarship**
Regional Agency for the Right of University Education in Tuscany

PUBLICATIONS

Balisha J. (2017), *Autism-Friendly Design – Centro per adulti autistici a Tirana*, Firenze, DIDApres.
available online <https://didapress.it/autism-friendly-design>

Balisha J. (2017), §12.2.1 Descrizione dell'esperienza, in Lauria A. (edited by), *Piccoli Spazi Urbani. Valorizzazione degli spazi residuali in contesti storici e qualità sociale*, Naples, Liguori Editore.

Balisha J. (2017), §2.3.5. Il diritto alla Vita Indipendente nella legislazione e nelle politiche nazionali e §2.3.6. Il progetto "Vita Indipendente" in Toscana, in Lauria A., Benesperi B., Costa P., Valli P., *Il Progetto ADA. Un modello di intervento per l'autonomia domestica delle persone disabili*, Milan, Franco Angeli.

Balisha J. (2019), §2.5. Design solutions, in Lauria A., Benesperi B., Costa P., Valli P., *Designing the Autonomy at Home. The ADA Project, a multidisciplinary strategy for adaptation of disabled people's homes*, Firenze, FUP.

LANGUAGES

albanian | native
english | full proficiency
italian | full proficiency

SOFTWARES

2D/3D/4D modelling

revit
autocad
3ds max design
rhinoceros
archicad

visualisation & image processing

photoshop
indesign_illustrator
after effects
premiere

office suite

word
excel
powerpoint