

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP | ARCHITECTURE | URBAN HERITAGE

SABEEH LAFTA FARHAN

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[ORCID](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [University Profile](#)



Executive Profile

Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning and Vice-President for Scientific Affairs at Wasit University, Iraq, with more than 30 years of academic, professional, municipal, and public-sector leadership experience. His research focuses on the sustainable transformation and conservation of historic and religious cities, with particular emphasis on Iraqi urban heritage, place identity, and community participation. He integrates conventional urban analysis with digital heritage methods, including HBIM, LiDAR, GIS, 3D modelling, virtual and augmented reality, Metaverse platforms, and responsible AI applications in architecture. He was an Academic Visitor at Nottingham Trent University's Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Global Heritage (2017-2018) and has served as Co-Investigator on UK-funded research networks and projects addressing cultural heritage, post-conflict recovery, and youth participation in Iraq.

Research Expertise

1. Urban heritage conservation and sustainable revitalisation
2. Historic and religious cities; pilgrimage urbanism and temporary architecture
3. Urban morphology, spatial identity, and place attachment
4. Digital heritage: HBIM, LiDAR, GIS, photogrammetry, and 3D documentation
5. Virtual reality, augmented reality, Metaverse environments, and user experience
6. Artificial intelligence and responsible architectural computing
7. Sustainable architecture, energy efficiency, and climate-responsive design
8. Participatory planning, community engagement, and post-conflict urban recovery

Research Profile Snapshot

53 SCOPUS DOCUMENTS	416 SCOPUS CITATIONS	14 SCOPUS H-INDEX
94 GOOGLE SCHOLAR DOCUMENTS	930 GOOGLE SCHOLAR CITATIONS	19 GOOGLE SCHOLAR H-INDEX

Profile-reported metrics as of July 2026; citation counts are dynamic.

Academic and Institutional Leadership

Period	Position and Institution
Current	Vice-President for Scientific Affairs Wasit University, Al-Kut, Iraq
Current	Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning Department of Architecture, College of Engineering, Wasit University
2017-2018	Academic Visitor and Postdoctoral Researcher Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Global Heritage, Nottingham Trent University, UK
2014-2017	Head of the Department of Architecture College of Engineering, Wasit University, Iraq
2005-2013	Deputy Governor for Technical Affairs Wasit Governorate, Iraq
2002-2005	Municipality Manager Wasit Governorate, Iraq

Education

1. **2017-2018 | Postdoctoral Research Certificate (Academic Visitor in Architecture and Urban Heritage)** - Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Global Heritage (CAUGH), School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment, Nottingham Trent University, UK
Research focus: preservation of high-profile historic cities and sites, and revitalisation of Iraq's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
2. **2012 | PhD in Architecture and Urban Planning** - Institute of Urban and Regional Planning for Postgraduate Studies, University of Baghdad, Iraq
Dissertation: The Progress of Spatial Development Performance through a Good-Governance Management System.
3. **2009 | MSc in Architecture and Urban Planning** - Institute of Urban and Regional Planning for Postgraduate Studies, University of Baghdad, Iraq
Dissertation: Assessment of Selected Environmental Criteria in Residential Urban Areas of Al-Kut City.
4. **1993 | BSc in Architectural Engineering** - Department of Architecture, University of Technology, Baghdad, Iraq

International Research and Capacity-Building Projects

1. **Current | Project Team Member / Iraq Research Partner.** *Heritage and Displacement: Intersections of Exile, Culture and Conflict.* Funder/lead: Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellowship / Deakin University. [Project link](#)
2. **Current | Project Collaborator / Iraq Research Partner.** *Documenting Iraq's Endangered Shanashel Wooden Houses (EWAP).* Funder/lead: Arcadia / Oxford Brookes University; project led by the University of Leeds. [Project link](#)
3. **2019-2023 | Local Training Team Member and Lead Trainer, Wasit University.** *INSPIRE: Innovative Governance Practices for Higher Education Institutions in Iraq.* Funder/lead: European Union Erasmus+ Programme; coordinated by the University of Siena. [Project link](#)
4. **2020 | Co-Investigator.** *Preserving Post-War Mosul's Disappearing Cultural Heritage.* Funder/lead: British Academy. [Project link](#)
5. **2019 | Co-Investigator.** *Heritage Borders of Engagement Network (ENGAGE).* Funder/lead: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). [Project link](#)
6. **2019 | Co-Investigator / Iraq Partner.** *(Re)Contextualising Contested Heritage: Youth-Led Cultural Heritage Preservation.* Funder/lead: University of Leeds. [Project link](#)

Postgraduate Teaching and Supervision

Teaching and supervision span architectural and urban design, urban planning, heritage conservation, sustainable design, digital documentation, and emerging technologies in architecture. Postgraduate work emphasises rigorous research design, context-sensitive inquiry, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the translation of research into planning and conservation practice.

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

Selected peer-reviewed outputs spanning digital heritage, urban conservation, and sustainable planning. A complete, continuously updated record is available through [ORCID](#), [Google Scholar](#), and the [Wasit University Researcher Profile](#).

1. **Selim, G., Bachagha, N., Alobaydi, D., Farhan, S. L., & Tarabeih, A.** (2025). Integrated surveying for architectural heritage documentation in Iraq: From LiDAR scanner to GIS applications. *Remote Sensing*, 17(21), 3632. [doi:10.3390/rs17213632](https://doi.org/10.3390/rs17213632)
2. **Selim, G., & Farhan, S. L.** (2024). Reactivating voices of the youth in safeguarding cultural heritage in Iraq: The challenges and tools. *Journal of Social Archaeology*, 24(1), 58-78. [doi:10.1177/14696053231224037](https://doi.org/10.1177/14696053231224037)
3. **Majeed, M. H., Alwan, N. T., Shcheklein, S. E., Aljashaami, B. A., Farhan, S. L., & Yaqoob, S. J.** (2026). Enhancing tilted solar still performance by improving evaporation with a cotton wick and condensation with thermoelectric cooling through experimental and economic analysis. *Clean Energy*, 10(2), 32-45. [doi:10.1093/ce/zkag001](https://doi.org/10.1093/ce/zkag001)
4. **Farhan, S. L., Akef, V. S., & Nasar, Z.** (2020). The transformation of the inherited historical urban and architectural characteristics of Al-Najaf's Old City and possible preservation insights. *Frontiers of Architectural Research*, 9(4), 820-836.
5. **Farhan, S. L.** (2026). Re-enacting heritage spaces using Metaverse techniques: An interactive digital model for user experience in the historic center of Karbala. *Digital Applications in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage*, 42, e00566. [doi:10.1016/j.daach.2026.e00566](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.daach.2026.e00566)
6. **Younus, I., Al-Hinkawi, W., & Farhan, S. L.** (2023). The role of historic building information modelling in the cultural resistance of the liberated city. *Ain Shams Engineering Journal*, 14(10), 102191. [doi:10.1016/j.asej.2023.102191](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asej.2023.102191)
7. **Farhan, S. L., Abdelmonem, M. G., & Nasar, Z. A.** (2018). The urban transformation of traditional city centres: Holy Karbala as a case study. *Archnet-IJAR: International Journal of Architectural Research*, 12(3), 53-67.
8. **Farhan, S. L., Attia, H. N., Rahim, L. A. L., & Alobaydi, D.** (2025). The role of temporary architecture in preserving intangible heritage during the Arbaeen Pilgrimage in Holy Karbala: A case study. *Buildings*, 15(11), 1787. [doi:10.3390/buildings15111787](https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings15111787)

9. **Farhan, S. L.**, Merie, U. A. A. K., & Nasar, Z. (2026). Revitalizing historic city center: A comparative methodology of current approaches and alternatives. *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*, 16(4), 849-863. [doi:10.1108/JCHMSD-08-2022-0148](https://doi.org/10.1108/JCHMSD-08-2022-0148)
10. **Farhan, S. L.**, Alobaydi, D., Anton, D., & Nasar, Z. (2025). Analysing the master plan development and urban heritage of Najaf City in Iraq. *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*, 15(2), 254-273. [doi:10.1108/JCHMSD-07-2020-0101](https://doi.org/10.1108/JCHMSD-07-2020-0101)
11. **Farhan, S. L.**, Akef, V. S., & Nasar, Z. (2022). Revitalizing the historical center of Al-Najaf city in Iraq: Learning from British conservation experiences. *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development*, 12(4), 513-532. [doi:10.1108/JCHMSD-01-2020-0002](https://doi.org/10.1108/JCHMSD-01-2020-0002)
12. **Al-Maliki, L. A., Farhan, S. L.**, Jasim, I. A., Al-Mamoori, S. K., & Al-Ansari, N. (2021). Perceptions about water pollution among university students: A case study from Iraq. *Cogent Engineering*, 8(1), 1895473. [doi:10.1080/23311916.2021.1895473](https://doi.org/10.1080/23311916.2021.1895473)
13. **Ebraheem, A. K., Farhan, S. L.**, Shok, M. E., & Al-Rawe, M. K. (2025). Preserving and enhancing cultural identity through virtual and augmented reality: The case of Karbala. *International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning*, 20(4), 1457-1468. [doi:10.18280/ijstdp.200409](https://doi.org/10.18280/ijstdp.200409)
14. **Farhan, S. L.**, Jasim, I. A., Hasan, H. M., Al-Maliki, L. A., & Al-Mamoori, S. K. (2026). AIDA-based planning for the sustainable restructuring of Najaf's traditional holy city centre. *AIP Conference Proceedings*, 3408(1), 050014. [doi:10.1063/5.0329631](https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0329631)
15. **Farhan, S. L., & Nasar, Z. A.** (2022). The social transformation of the historical city centre of Karbala, Iraq. *Journal of Urban Regeneration & Renewal*, 15(3), 293-307.
16. **Farhan, S. L., & Nasar, Z. A.** (2020). Urban identity in the holy cities of Iraq: Analysis of architectural design trends in the city of Karbala. *Journal of Urban Regeneration & Renewal*, 14(2), 210-222.

Editorial and Peer-Review Service

Editorial Boards

1. The Iraqi Journal of Architecture and Planning
2. Wasit Journal of Engineering Sciences
3. Al-Nahrain Journal for Engineering Sciences

Selected Reviewing Activity

Peer reviewer for journals and publishers including Buildings, Sustainability, Heritage, Alexandria Engineering Journal, Heliyon, Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering, Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development, Journal of Engineering Science and Technology, International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning, and other architecture, planning, heritage, and sustainability outlets.

Selected Conferences and Invited Contributions

1. **2026 | FAIR 3D Heritage, Mainz, Germany.** Accepted poster on fair and responsible 3D heritage documentation (forthcoming, 14-16 September 2026).
2. **2025 | INFORMATIK 2025, Berlin, Germany.** Digital Technologies and Their Role in Cultural Heritage Preservation: The Case of Jassan Hill.
3. **2022 | Capturing Memories - Rebuilding Identities, London, UK.** The steps and challenges of the Iraq-UK project on Mosul heritage.
4. **2021 | Heritage Borders of Engagement Network (ENGAGE), Baghdad, Iraq.** Research and public-engagement contributions on humanitarian heritage.
5. **2018 | Nottingham Trent University, UK.** Holy Cities in Iraq: Najaf City Problems and Solutions.
6. **2018 | International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE).** Navigating the Socio-Spatial and Planning Conditions of Traditional Public Spaces in Iraq's Holy Cities.
7. **2018 | Al-Rasheed Street Virtual Heritage Conference, Baghdad, Iraq.** Digital Architectural Documentation of Al-Rasheed Street.

Books, Awards and Recognition

Distinguished Book Award - Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Science Day recognition). Awarded for *Art and Architecture*, co-authored with Hawraa Nazim Mohammed (ISBN 978-9922-612-36-2).

Academic Links

1. **ORCID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4460-1268>
2. **Google Scholar:** <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=0vVf5C8AAAAJ>
3. **Wasit University Researcher Profile:** <https://staff.uowasit.edu.iq/en/Researcher/profile/sabeeh-lafta-farhan>
4. **Wasit University Leadership Profile:** https://www.uowasit.edu.iq/about_the_college/details/83