

# Hila Sabouni

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## EDUCATION

**PhD Student in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)** | Iowa State University (ISU), Ames, IA

2023–2026 (Expected)

**Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)** | ISU

2022–2023

**Master of Architecture** | ISU

2020–2022

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistance – Education DCL: EAGER** | ISU

Aug 2023–Sep 2025

- Exploring new pathways into cybersecurity careers for rural English learners through XR-enabled educational tools
- Conducting interviews and focus groups with students to understand user needs, behaviors, and pain points
- Collaborating with interdisciplinary experts in cybersecurity, cybersickness, UX design, and 3D modeling
- Modeling game elements and conceptualizing the game atmosphere in Unity
- Contributing to the game's narrative development to create an immersive, inclusive experience for learners

**Graduate Student Mentor & Modeling Teacher | SPRITE-EIT 2024** | ISU

May 2024–Jul 2024

- Taught Blender to nine undergrads from diverse backgrounds across the USA
- Explored remote, high-earning career paths for rural students
- Mentored three undergrads in creating a 3D mini-game on electric circuits with practical, cross-field applications
- Designed surveys; Led focus groups; Conducted three site visits; Performed qualitative analysis to uncover user needs and behavioral patterns

**Graduate Researcher | Effect of Sensory Cues on Attentional Orientation in VR** | ISU

Aug 2022–Dec 2023

- Designed user experience mixed method research
- 3D modeled task environment in Rhino; Developed virtual interactions and task conditions in Unity
- Created and deployed in-depth survey questions along with three standard questionnaires in Qualtrics
- Recruited 71 participants; Setup the pilot test and led the full study; Collected individuals' performance data
- Quantitative analysis through ANOVA test in SPSS; Qualitative analysis- coding and theme creation- in Taguette
- Translated research findings into strategic narratives, clear understanding, and opportunities they present

**Graduate Student Mentor & Modeling Teacher | SPRITE-EIT 2023** | ISU

May 2023–Jul 2023

- Taught Blender to nine undergrad students from diverse backgrounds and various regions across the USA
- Mentored three undergrads in creating a 3D game to inspire first-gen students to pursue higher education
- Set survey and focus group questions; Tested a text-based prototype among local 8 to 12-year-old students

## PUBLICATION

- Apple's Knowledge Navigator: Why Doesn't that Conversational Agent Exist Yet?, CHI 2024
- The Correlations of Scene Complexity, Workload, Presence, and Cybersickness in a Task-Based VR Game, HCI International 2024
- Using Agent-Based Modeling to Calculate an Ease Score: Evacuation with Acceptable Simplicity in Emergencies. Annual Modeling and Simulation Conference (ANNSIM) 2024
- Shanashir: A Novel, Efficient Mashrabiya Re-design, Symposium on Simulation for Architecture + Urban Design (SimAUD) 2021

## KEY SKILLS

- **Research:** Quantitative & Qualitative Data Analysis, SPSS, User Interviews, Surveys, Focus Groups, Qualtrics
- **Design:** Blender, Rhinoceros 3D, Unity, Autodesk Revit, Autodesk AutoCAD, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite
- **Others:** Visual thinking, Mind mapping, Idea generation, Concept diagramming, Project Planning and Time Management, Cross-functional Teamwork, Presenting Research Findings into narratives, Model Making, Sketching
- **Languages:** Persian, English, Turkish

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **University Instructor | Architecture Studio Course | ISU**

Aug 2022–May 2024

- Provided course materials and lectured groups of second-year students (19/semester)
- Managed desk crits and discussion sessions; Provided and graded assignments
- Planned three review sessions and invited reviewers from various backgrounds and professions; Collaborated in third, fourth, and fifth-year students' midterm and final reviews

### **Architect Assistant | Remodeling and Design Engineering Building's Labs | ISU**

May 2022–Aug 2022

- Brainstormed comprehensive design of laboratories for upcoming furniture and construction 3D printers; Modeled laboratories and rooms with all details for department's presentations and documents

### **Teaching Assistant | Building Science Technology | ISU**

Jan 2020–May 2022

- Led groups of undergraduate students (~60/semester); Managed groups' work and discussions through in-person/virtual meetings; Developed and graded homework assignments; Provided reports for professors

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Klingner & Associates, PC | Intern | Pella, IA**

Jan 2022–Aug 2022

- Engaged in all phases of design and construction process of 4 projects (industrial)
- Assisted with technical drawings, 3D modeling, and documentation
- Participated in client meetings, actively listening to and documenting their requirements and desire

### **Risen Design | Founder and Designer | Iran**

May 2016–Nov 2018

- Participated in all phases of design and construction process of 9 projects (industrial-residential)
- Project Management
- Consistently completed projects with less than 20%-30% rework
- Delivered projects 10% below budget and to client desired specs
- Delivered multi-cultural and multi-generational building needs and preferences
- Won City Diploma of Customer Rights Protection

## LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT & AWARDS

### **HCI Student Organization, President**

May 2024–May 2025

- Expanded events from 2 to 6 per semester (3 professional, 3 social)
- Boosted participation through improved planning, promotion, timing, and engagement strategies
- Revived the Usabilathon competition after a two-year gap, managing all coordination and planning
- Enhanced the group's social media presence and visibility

### **HCI Student Organization, Vice President**

Aug 2023–May 2024

- Planned and organized professional development events; Reached out to potential guest speakers and reviewers
- Addressed leadership responsibilities in the absence of the President
- Inspired and motivated other cabinet members to actively plan and participate in online/on-campus social events

### **Iowa Women in Architecture (IAWIA), Mentor and Membership Chair**

Dec 2020–Dec 2021

- Collaborated in drafting emails and announcements
- Contributed to brainstorming sessions for event planning
- Managed and maintained the IAWIA LinkedIn account; Efficiently engaged with students to encourage their participation

### **Honorable Mention – ACM CHI Conference, 2024**

### **Customer Right Protection Award – Risen Design, 2018**