

## education

09/2012 - 08/2018 **Bachelor of Architectural Studies**  
University of Waterloo, School of Architecture  
Honours, Cooperative Program, Excellent Academic Standing

## awards & honours

01/2021 **Caseworker of the Month**  
Muslim Food Bank & Community Services

2017 **International Experience Award**  
University of Waterloo, School of Architecture

2013 **1B Outstanding Studio Design Award**  
University of Waterloo, School of Architecture

## fellowships

2021 **Muslim Community Fellowship**  
Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies, Simon Fraser University

2019 **RADIUS Fellowship**  
Beedie School of Business, Simon Fraser University

## professional

12/2020 - Present **Architectural Designer / Montgomery Wood Architect**  
**Project(s):** Net-zero, a-frame summer home.  
**Stakeholder(s):** Private Client.  
**Roles:** building design and layout, working & presentation drawings, 3-D modelling, client consultations.

08/2019 - 07/2020 **Architectural Technologist / IBI Group**  
**Project(s):** SOCO Towers/SOCO Amenity.  
**Stakeholder(s):** Housing developers.  
**Roles:** transforming DD sets to BP & working drawings, consultant drawing co-ordination.

09/2018 - 07/2019 **Architectural Designer / Studio Senbel**  
**Project(s):** 100th Ave. Mosque/Al-Iman Mosque/ Iqra Daycare/ West 8th Mosque Feasibility Study.  
**Stakeholder(s):** Black & POC faith community members.  
**Roles:** transforming DD sets to BP, building design, consultant co-ordination and feasibility studies.

- 01/2018 - 04/2018 **Student Designer / Studio Senbel**  
**Project(s):** Qualicum Beach Inn, Chicago Mosque Screen Design.  
**Stakeholder(s):** Hoteliers, Black & POC faith community members.  
**Roles:** design development drawings, working drawings, screen design.
- 01/2017 - 08/2017 **Student Designer / Urban Arts Architecture**  
**Project(s):** University of the Fraser Valley Library Reno/ North Vancouver Museum & Archives/ FNHA Clinic.  
**Stakeholder(s):** Institutional (librarians, students) municipal governments, First Nations Health Authority.  
**Roles:** project design, working drawings (SD to IFC), project diagrams.
- 06/2016 - 08/2016 **Student Designer / ZAS Architects & Interiors**  
**Projects:** Renovations for various banking institutions & an arts social real estate proposal  
**Stakeholders:** Banks, arts groups.  
**Roles:** schematic design and working drawings (tender, IFC, contract administration), feasibility studies.
- 09/2014 - 12/2014 **Student Intern / Proscenium Architecture & Interiors**  
**Projects:** RBC Theatre at 1st Avenue and other smaller renovation projects.  
**Stakeholders:** Arts Club Theatre, Bard on the Beach, small businesses.  
**Roles:** tender and addendum drawings.
- 01/2014 - 04/2014 **Student Intern / Hughes Condon Marler Architects**  
**Projects:** HCMA Book, Ponderosa Commons, City of Vancouver Projected Community Pool Network.  
**Stakeholders:** City of Vancouver, UBC, HCMA  
**Roles:** various Request for Proposals, sustainability drawings (LEED), mapping community pool networks.

## community & volunteer

- 07/2020 - Present **Operations & Communications / B.C. Community Alliance**  
**Organization:** Black-led group tackling anti-Black racism in education & building empowerment for Black students and educators.  
**Role:** operations, strategy, communications, graphic design, and kickstarted a project between BCCA and Solid State Co-ops (a group that fosters Black youth co-operatives).
- 03/2020 - Present **Community Organizer / COVID-19 Coming Together Vancouver**  
**Organization:** mutual aid group (~33,000 members) supporting vulnerable community members during the pandemic. We fundraised and distributed over \$60,000.00 in three months.  
**Role:** one of the original community organizers for COVID-19 Coming Together Vancouver, built accessibility and inclusivity into our process for determining who got funding, and how we distributed said funds.
- 01/2018 - Present **Caseworker, Project Coordinator / Muslim Food Bank & Community Services**  
**Organization:** local food bank incorporating community services building empowerment for BIPOC folks.  
**Role:** registered caseworker, currently assisting two refugee claimant families, in accessing services and preparing for their trials. Project coordinator on the renovation of the new headquarters & warehouse.
- 05/2017 - 08/2017 **Graphic Designer / Think Upstream**  
**Organization:** Think Upstream (a CCPA project) is a network focused on the social, ecological, and economic conditions shape people's health and community wellbeing.  
**Role:** developed concept graphics for a campaign on taxation and social/ health services outcomes; done in conjunction with Upstream's Policy Co-ordinator).
- 04/2017 - 02/2018 **Action Team Member / B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition**  
**Role:** hosted podcasts about the intersection of poverty and disabilities and poverty and healthcare. Redesigned branding for podcast.

05/2016 - 06/2016 **Graphic Designer / Local Economic Development (LEDLab)**

**Organization:** platform supporting community-driven projects for a more vibrant and inclusive local economy in Vancouver's DTES. LEDLab was a RADIUS SFU & Ecotrust Canada project.

**Role:** developed concept graphics for LEDLab's annual research publication.

## publications etc.

### A. guides and reports

Merchant, Suzanne. (2020). 0% Interest Loan Guidebook. Self-published.

### B. podcasts

Clifford, B. and Merchant, S (Hosts). (2017, May 10). "Talking Disability Assistance with Heather McCain." [Talking Poverty]. <https://soundcloud.com/talkingpoverty/talking-disability-assistance-with-heather-mccain>.

Merchant, S. and Diniz, E. (Hosts). (2017, 18 July). "Talking Health with Terrie Hendrickson, Dr. Amy Lubik & Dr. Charissa Patricelli." [Talking Poverty]. <https://soundcloud.com/talkingpoverty/talking-health>.

## skills

CAD ( AutoCAD, REVIT, Vectorworks), 3D modelling (Rhino 3D, SketchUp), Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign), hand drawing, manual model making, casting, weaving, project management, facilitation, visioning & strategy.