

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.