

POLINA STEPANOVA

realpolya.com

Polina is a software engineer and an architectural designer who lives in New York City.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Edelweiss London (*August 2023 – currently*)

- Project Manager & Interior Designer
- Managing construction, design, and property of one of the private residences at Aman New York
- Member of the Board of Managers at Aman New York as of summer 2025

Leslie Gill Architect (*March 2024 – March 2025*)

- Architectural Designer
- Leading and designing a landmark residential project in Brooklyn Heights

Vima Design (*October 2023 – January 2025*)

- Architectural Designer
- Designing residential projects in Los Angeles area

Gensler (*June 2022 – August 2022*)

- Research Fellow
- Researched the future of the architecture of the healthcare industry and provided innovative data-driven design solutions

Next Generation Builders (*October 2020 – April 2021*)

- Lead Architectural Designer
- Led over thirty residential and commercial projects (primarily Accessory Dwelling Units), created architectural designs, and worked on construction documents

Sacatelle (*August 2020 – February 2021, May 2019 – July 2019*)

- Graphic Designer
- Designed sustainable merchandise for various brands

Buroe Design and Architecture (*July 2020 – October 2020*)

- Interior Designer
- Worked on the winning proposal for the remodeling of the interiors of the hallmark of Soviet constructivism – Izvestiya building in Moscow, Russia

EDUCATION

Columbia University

(September 2021 – May 2023)

- Master of Architecture
- Advanced Standing
- Software Engineering coursework

University of Southern California

(August 2015 – May 2020)

- B.S. in Architecture
- B.A. in Psychology
- Cum Laude Honors

CERTIFICATIONS

Software Engineering Bootcamp (*2024*)

- General Assembly
- Full stack development

CS50 (*issued in 2024*)

- Harvard University
- Computer science

LEED AP BD+C (*issued in 2023*)

WELL AP (*issued in 2023*)

CONTACTS

realpolya.com

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realpolya@gmail.com

Linked-in: [realpolya](#)

Web portfolio:

realpolya.github.io/portfolio/

SCEC (May 2019 – December 2019)

- Graphic Design / Communications Intern
- Produced and worked on graphics for the signature ShakeOut campaign which attracts over 60 million people annually

University of Southern California (August 2017 – May 2018)

- Structures Teacher Assistant
- Produced and worked on graphics for the signature ShakeOut campaign which attracts over 60 million people annually

UNK Project (May 2017 – December 2017)

- Interior Designer
- Worked on interior design and documentation of a large office building in Moscow

KB Strelka (May 2016 – June 2016)

- Architectural Intern
- Focused on urban planning and reconstruction of Moscow neighborhoods

Blank Architects (June 2015 – July 2015)

- Architectural Intern
- Worked on Mega Khimki and Mega LavkaLavka projects

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING PROJECTS

mapStep platform (February 2025 - currently)

- Developing software for redlining architecture sets, decoding land laws and streamlining permit acquisition
- Deployed at mapstep.io

Project Euler (2024 - currently)

- Solved 75+ algorithmic and mathematical programming problems from projecteuler.net

Portfolio (February 2022 - currently)

- Web portfolio: realpolya.github.io/portfolio/
- “Homi” (React + Tailwind CSS + Python/Django/SQL)
- “Savor the Seasons” (MERN stack)
- “Battleship” (HTML/CSS/vanilla JS)
- “Refugees in Buffalo” (Python/pandas/geopandas/altair)

SKILLS

software engineering

- full stack development
- front end development
- back end development
- React + Vite framework
- Restful APIs
- MERN stack (MongoDB, Express.js, React, Node.js)
- Javascript
- Python
- Django framework
- SQL (PostgreSQL, SQLite)
- PostGIS, GeoDjango
- authentication
- Flask
- Jinja
- HTML / CSS / vanilla JS
- Figma UX/UI
- algorithmic modeling
- data visualization
- git

computational design

- Grasshopper

architectural design

- 3D-modeling
- Rhinoceros 3D
- Adobe Ps, Ai, Id, Pr
- AutoCAD
- Maya
- rendering (Enscape)
- interior design
- project management
- sustainability expertise
- hand-drawing / sketching

miscellaneous

- team work
- graphic design
- video editing

LANGUAGES

- fluent English
- fluent Russian
- intermediate Spanish

PUBLICATIONS

- "[Story & Lesson Highlights with Polina Stepanova of Manhattan](#)" by Bold Journey, Sep 9th, 2025;
- "[Rising Stars: Meet Polina Stepanova](#)" by Canvas Rebel, Nov 26th, 2024;
- "[Meet Polina Stepanova: Architectural and Computational Designer](#)" by Shoutout LA, Apr 1st, 2024;
- "[Unlocking Optimism: Meet Polina Stepanova](#)" by Bold Journey, Feb 13th, 2024;
- "[The Light Station in the Arctic](#)" by Zodchiy Magazine, Jan 29th, 2024;
- "[How to Increase the Odds of Success – Meet Polina Stepanova](#)" by Canvas Rebel Magazine, Nov 22nd, 2023;
- "[Conversations with Polina Stepanova](#)" by VoyageLA magazine, Oct 9th, 2023;
- "[Domestic Destruction: Violent Acts towards Self-Built Homes in Cairo and Los Angeles](#)" by Alexandrine Press, Jul 24th, 2023;
- "[Biophilia and Architecture: Just a Current Trend or Reality?](#)" by Hightech Plus, Jun 16th, 2023 (reposted here);
- "[Rhythm, Interrupted](#)" by PEEL Journal, Jun 8th, 2023;
- "[Mental Health City: the Concept of an Ultimate Human-Oriented Urban Environment](#)" by Vedomosti, Apr 10th, 2023;
- *Abstract 2022*, published annually by Columbia University, pages 153, 173;
- "10 Fantasies About the Urban Future that Are Becoming a Reality" by Platform Plus-One, Sep 12th, 2022;
- "[Let the Walls Help: How Interior Design Affects Mental Health](#)" by Theory and Practice, Aug 29th, 2022;
- "[The Pursuit of Sustainable Infrastructure](#)" by Groundwork Hudson Valley, Jul 7th, 2022;
- "[The Recent Refugee Renaissance in Buffalo Has Totally Changed the City's Streetscape. Here is How](#)" by Points Unknown, May 5th, 2022.

ADDITIONAL PRESS

- "[In Moscow, the Laureates of the Zodchestvo International Festival Competition Were Awarded](#)" by Union of Architects of Russia, Nov 2nd, 2023;
- "[In Moscow, the Laureates of the Zodchestvo International Festival Competition Were Awarded](#)" by Zodchestvo.com, Nov 1st, 2023;
- "[The Results of the Zodchestvo Festival Competition Program](#)" by TotalArch, Nov 2023;
- "[Interiors for the Betterment of Human. The Moscow Week of Interiors and Design](#)" by ArchReview, Oct 31st, 2023;
- "[Brands From India and China Will Partake in the Moscow Week of Interiors and Design](#)" by Gazeta.ru, Oct 17th, 2023;
- "[The Third Moscow Week of Interiors and Design Will Take Place in the Capital](#)" by Rambler, Oct 17th, 2023;
- "[Brands From India and China Will Partake in the Moscow Week of Interiors and Design](#)" by Head Topics, Oct 17th, 2023;
- "[Jury of Urban 2023 Award Are Beginning the Assessment](#)" by Stroygaz.ru, Sep 20th, 2023;
- "[Jury of Urban 2023 Award Are Beginning the Assessment](#)" by My Seldon News, Sep 19th, 2023;

- "Jury of Urban 2023 Award: the Application Cycle for the Main Nominations of the Urban Award Is Over" by Mir Kvartir, Sep 19th, 2023;
- "Jury of Urban 2023 Award: the Application Cycle for the Main Nominations of the Urban Award Is Over" by Rambler, Sep 19th, 2023.

AWARDS

- 2nd Place in Suffolk County Homes to Opportunity ADU Contest (issued in November 2023);
- Zodchestvo 2023 Award "Diploma of the Union of Architects of Russia" for the Arctic Light & Human Psyche project;
- NonArchitecture Award 2022 Honorable Mention for the Cell Mutation project;
- NonArchitecture Award 2022 Honorable Mention for the Atlantis project;
- NonArchitecture Award 2022 Finalist recognition for the Urban Wave project;
- NonArchitecture Award 2022 Finalist recognition for the Arctic Light and Human Psyche project;
- Recipient of Advanced Standing into M.Arch program from Columbia University, 2021;
- Cum Laude Honors from University of Southern California, 2020;
- Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society, 2020;
- Psi Chi Honor Society in Psychology, 2020.

HONORS

- Invited Speaker at Moscow Week of Interiors and Design, 2023;
- Invited Member of the Expert Panel at Moscow Week of Interiors and Design, 2023;
- Member of Jury at Urban Awards 2023.

ORGANIZATIONS

- AIA Associate (American Institute of Architects);
- Union of Moscow Architects (Союз Московских Архитекторов);
- International Association of Designers (Союз Дизайнеров);
- Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society in Architecture and Allied Arts;
- Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology.

EXHIBITIONS

- MOASD Polina Stepanova's Personal Exhibition "Humanism at the Heart of Architecture" 2024;
- Suffolk County ADU Contest Winning Designs Exhibition 2023;
- Zodchestvo XXXI festival, November 2023;
- Moscow Week of Interiors and Design, October 2023;
- AWA+D Symposium Isegoria 2023 (Association of Women in Architecture + Design)
- Columbia University GSAPP End of the Year Show 2023;
- Columbia University GSAPP End of the Year Show 2022.

