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 Reneissance 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);
- Zodshestvo 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.