

# LAURA NICA

Statement  
ARB, MArch, BA (Hons)

I am a prize-winning Architect, Digital Designer and Lecturer,  
with specialisms in computational design and digital fabrication, based in London.

## + Academia.

Since 2019, I have been a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Westminster (London), co-tutoring Design Studio 18 (a Master Degree in Architecture). As a design tutor, I develop briefs, presentations and guide each individual student (with design & technical advice) to develop unique, cohesive and rich project narratives & architectural proposals. The studio's ethos is focused on climate change, data/computational design, and advanced design representation techniques. My specialisms lie in experimental computational fluid dynamic simulation software (Autodesk CFD) & other visual computational tools (such as 3D scanning/Photogrammetry, Grasshopper & Rhino) to help visualize and understand the principles of flux, performance, and scale of various ruptures of matter, energies & thermal systems.

Over the years I have been invited to multiple panels to comment & critique, at both Undergraduate & Postgraduate levels at the University of Westminster, the University of Tennessee & TU Eindhoven. I am an active member of *Fieldworks - Anthropocene Teaching Practices*, a digital platform curated by Lidia Gasperoni, in cooperation with Chair of Architectural Theory (TU Berlin). My work has been published in *Monsoon Assemblages*, a research project lead by Professor Lindsay Bremner; My dissertation has been presented & published as part of '*Architectures, Natures & Data: The Politics of Environments*' conference held at the Tallinn Faculty of Architecture.

## + Architect.

I am fully qualified, UK Registered Architect (ARB - 094629J) with over 6 years of experience having previously worked in various architectural practices in the United Kingdom, Mauritius and Bahrain. My experience covers a wide range of projects, mainly focused on residential schemes (high-end private homes, medium to large housing schemes), mixed-use developments (changes of use, commercial and hospitality properties), infrastructure projects (bridges) and large-scale regenerative masterplans. Some past offices I have worked at include: Foster + Partners, Wilkinson Eyre, dRMM & Marek Wojciechowski Architects. I currently freelance as an Architect with Fathom Architects.

As founder of Laura Nica Studio, I work as a sole-trader, focusing on bespoke private residential projects, new buildings and small commercial developments across the UK. From conversions and extensions, to restorations and new installations, I craft closely with my clients to produce unique, efficient and desirable spaces. I offer a full range of design & architectural services from feasibility to completion on projects ranging in size, location and program, as well as material testing and prototyping.

## + Digital Designer & Fabricator.

As designer, I am in an ongoing pursuit of creative & technical originality. Using various parametric softwares, I enjoy testing, creating artistically focussed surfaces, architecture, sculptures and images. The resulting complexity of arranged components creates richness, tactility, depth and allure. In 2022, I have won the Maths Imagery offered by the American Mathematical Society for my work on Scherk Minimal Surfaces. Over 3 years, I worked as a Fabrication Lab Assistant, part of the University of Westminster, getting involved in many fabrication projects using 3D printing, laser cutting, CNC milling machine and robotic prototyping models. Over the past years, I helped build temporary wooden structures and gain valuable construction skills and detailing abilities.

# LAURA NICA

## Curriculum Vitae

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sept. 2019 - present

#### University of Westminster

##### - Lecturer of Master in Architecture -

- Part - time (1 day a week) Design Studio Tutor at Master level (Design Studio 18);
- Preparation of briefs, feedback, presentations, personal tutorials, external talks; (specialising in Grasshopper ,CFD & digital fabrication)

- (B) • Studio Ethos: Climate & Ecological Crisis, Data & Computational Design, Design & representation; ([www.designstudio18.com](http://www.designstudio18.com))

April 2021 - present

#### Laura Nica Studio

##### - Founder & Director, Sole-Trader Architect -

- Pandora Rd, West Hampstead, London; (residential extension & refurbishment);
- Replingham Rd, Southfields, London; (residential extension & refurbishment);
- St George's Drive, Pimlico, London; (Grade II Listed Building refurbishment);
- London Rd, St. Leonards-on-Sea; (commercial, change of use from office to 3 flats, conservation area);
- Alexandra St, Southend; (large commercial, change of use from office/ club to 7 flats);
- Rutland Gate Mews, Knightsbridge, London; (Grade II Listed Building refurbishment);
- Hunters, Hadleigh; (large house, Grade II Listed Building in CA; refurbishment);
- Hackney Rd, London (commercial, refurbishment, conservation area);
- Hall Cottages, Bramfield (conservation area, AirBnB renovation);

August 2021 - present

#### Fathom Architects

##### - Part-time Architect -

- Qualified Architect working part-time on a variety of commercial projects, ranging from bespoke pavillions, residential development & office.

Dec. 2020 - present

#### Gilles Miller Studio

##### - Part-time Architect & Digital Designer -

- (A) • Designer collaboration & Project architect for private residential (house extension + refurb);

Oct. 2019 - Dec. 2020

#### dRMM

##### - Architect -

- (C) • Better Queensway (mixed-use masterplan), Southend; (RIBA Stage 1-2)  
(D) • Better Queensway Phase 1A (300 modular residential scheme), London; (RIBA Stage 0-2);  
In charge of facade development , Block B full coordination (GAs, SE meetings and modular design).

May 2018 - Sept. 2019

#### Marek Wojciechowski Architects

##### - Part II Architectural Assistant

- (E) • Bartholomew Place (12 flats, conversion B1 to C3), London; (RIBA Stage 3-4)  
(E) • 9-12 Bell Yard (9 high-end residential units), London; (RIBA Stage 5)  
(F) • Diorama (Grade I, mixed-use), London; (RIBA Stage 0-2)  
(F) • Brentford (new build,mixed-use, 150 residential units), London; (RIBA Stage 0-2)  
(F) • Eastcastle Street (office), London; (RIBA Stage 1-3)  
(F) • Palmer Street (office), London; (RIBA Stage 0-2)  
(F) • Carlton Hill (private residential), London; (RIBA Stage 0-2)  
(F) • Springfield Rd (private residential), London; (RIBA Stage 0-2)

Aug. 2017- May 2018

#### Foster + Partners

##### - Part II Architectural Assistant -

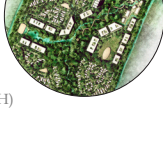
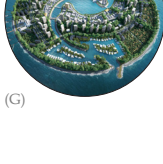
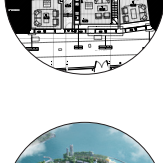
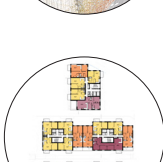
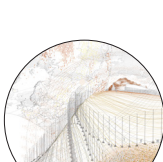
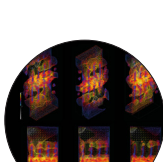
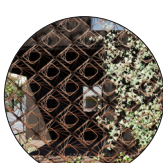
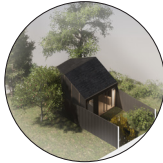
- (H) • Shenzhen Mixed-Use (mixed-use masterplan), China; (RIBA Stage 0-2)  
(H) • Bangna Masterplan (mixed-use masterplan), Bangkok, Thailand; (RIBA Stage 1-2)  
(C) • 'Double Happiness' (artificial island, masterplan), Xiamen, China; (RIBA Stage 1-3)

Aug. 2014 - July 2015

#### Wilkinson Eyre Architects

##### - Part I Architectural Assistant -

- Copenhagen Cycle Bridge (successful competition entry), Denmark; (RIBA Stage 0-2)
- Tappan Zee Hudson River Crossing, New York, USA; (RIBA Stage 2-5)
- City Walk Bridge, Sydney, Australia; (RIBA Stage 4-5)



### OTHER EXPERIENCE (BUILDING/ FABRICATION)

Aug 2013 - June 2017

#### Digital Fabrication Lab Assistant

- (K) Part-time, FabLab Fabrication Workshop, London  
• Advanced model making techniques - 3D printing, laser cutting, CNC milling, casting;

July 2017

#### Pavilion Builder - 'Voluta'

- (L) Architectural Robotic Fabricated Pavilion

August 2016

#### Pavilion Builder - 'Tangential Dreams'

- (M) Burning Man Festival, Nevada, USA

March 2016 - July 2016

#### Mentor - Digital Fabricator

- (N) University of Westminster FabFest, London

July 2015

#### Pavilion Builder - 'The Rolling Pub'

- (O) Hello Wood Summer Camp, Hungary

June 2012

#### Pavilion Builder - 'KREOD'

- (P) Parametric pavilion for Olympics 2012

August 2016

#### Circadian Rythms Installation

- (Q) Personal commission for BuroHappold engineers;

### EDUCATION

Oct. 2019

#### Architecture Registration Board

- Fully qualified UK architect - 094629J -

Sept. 2018 - Oct. 2019

#### Post Graduate Diploma (RIBA Part III)

- University of Westminster, London, UK-

Sept. 2015 - July 2017

#### Master of Architecture (RIBA Part II)

- Distinction -  
University of Westminster, London, UK-

Sept. 2011 - July 2014

#### Bachelor of Arts in Architecture (RIBA Part I)

- First Class Honours-  
University of Westminster, London, UK-

Sept. 2008 - July 2011

#### Romanian and Spanish Baccalaureat

- Bilingual Highschool 'Miguel de Cervantes'-  
Bucharest, Romania

### AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

January 2022

#### Winner of Maths Art Exhibition

- (R) Winner of the American Mathematical Society for Maths Imagery on Scherk Minimal Surfaces;

January 2022

#### Winner of LCR TownHouse Competition

- Winner of the popular vote for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town House competition.

July 2020

#### 100 Days Studio

- Talk for the Architectural Foundation on DS18;

March 2019

#### Monsoon [+others] Book

- Publication of the entire research and experimental Master project.

June 2016

#### Detail Magazine Award

- Awarded for the best technical studies report on minimal surfaces construction.

Apr. 2017

#### The Politics of Environments

- Faculty of Architecture, Tallin, Estonia -  
Presentation of Final Master Dissertation at the international conference on 'Big Data'.

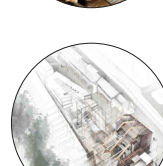
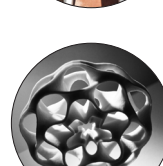
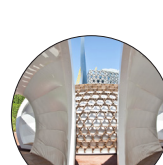
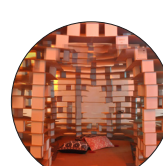
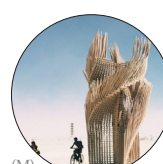
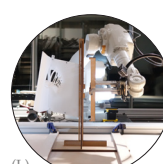
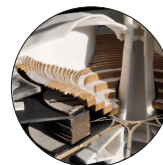
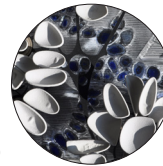
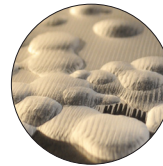
### SKILLS

- Adobe Creative Suite (10 years)

- Microstation V8i (5 years)
- Autodesk Revit 2019 (4 years)

- Rhinoceros 7.0 (9 years)
- Grasshopper (4 years)
- Digital Fabrication (CNC, Laser cut & 3D print and complex geometry) (4 years)

- Romanian (Native)
- English (Full Professional Proficiency)
- Spanish (Bilingual Proficiency)



Mar. 2016

#### Material Practice Scholarship

- offered by Robin Partington and Partners -  
Awarded for the best research and testing in minimal surfaces construction.

July 2014

#### RIBA - Bronze Medal Shortlisted-

- Royal Institute of British Architects-

Oct 2013

#### Polyport- International Collaboration

- Scholarship for a creative workshop held in Rome, Italy.

May 2013

#### Student Charrette Award

- American Institute of Architects (AIA)-

May 2012

#### CLAWSA Prize

- City of London and City of Westminster Architects-  
Nominated for the Best Portfolio in First Year Architecture.