



Resume

Hani Asfour

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Profile

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Hani Asfour is an architect and a creative strategic thought leader with over twenty years of experience.

He combines a unique mix of design expertise, entrepreneurship skills, academic depth and hands-on experience.

Hani is a founding partner of Polypod, a multi-disciplinary collaborative design studio in Beirut, Lebanon, that offers integrated design services in architecture, interior design, branding, web design and development, graphics and information design for local and international clients.

Professional Experience

2006–present

Polypod, Beirut, Lebanon

Founding President, Partner

Established a design collaborative studio with a focus on designing interiors, websites, branding and buildings that emphasize cross-disciplinary sharing and exchange of design ideas for private and public clients.

Since its founding in 2006, Polypod has won several international design awards such as three Interactive Media Awards, four Graphis Medals and two ReBrand 100 awards and the Prix Ars Electronica for Visualizing Palestine.

Awards and achievements

Beirut Design Week International Advisory 2017
 Silver Medal Graphis 2017
 Academic Consultant, Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation 2016–17
 President of Beirut Creative Cluster 2012–2017
 Advising Member Beirut Creative Week
 LogoLounge 9 Selection 2016
 Philip Jodidio, Architecture in Islamic Countries selection, 2016
 3 Interactive Media Awards, Outstanding for 3 projects, 2015
 Arabian Property Merit Award 2012
 Work or achievements published on Future TV, and in BrownBook, TimeOut Beirut, Oasis Magazine, Agenda Culturel, Entrepreneur Levant, Lebanon NOW, Watad, Fast Company online, MondoWeiss, Al Jazeera online.
 Prix Ars Electronica 2012 for Visual Palestine
 Infographic of the Day, Fast Company, 2012
 Gold Medal Graphis Brand 2013, Poster 2012, and Graphis Logo 2012
 World Architecture Community Award for Dubai Constant 2010
 Gold Medal Graphis Letterhead 7 2009
 Rebrand Distinction Award 2009
 ReBrand Merit Award 2006

Speaking engagements

4 lectures and 3 workshops, Vilnius Design College, Lithuania, April 2017
 Polypodium curator for over 70 talks, 2010–present
 Harvard GSD speaker Spring 2017
 Keynote Data4Change Workshop 2016
 Lebanon Opportunities BOIL 2016 Speaker
 Lebanon Lantern Festival Architectural Juror 2016
 Foundation Studies Moderator, LAU 2016
 Design Industry Panelist, BDW 2016
 BDL Accelerate Mentor 2015, 2016
 Global Entrepreneurship Week Speaker 2015
 Beirut Digital Space Speaker 2015
 Data4Change Workshop Speaker 2015
 UK Lebanon Tech Hub Tech Talk Speaker 2015
 Fuckup Nights Speaker 2015
 Studio X Amman Speaker 2015
 Disrupt!Design!/ Juror 2015
 Behance Portfolio Review Mentor 2014
 AIGA Middle East Workshop Lead 2014
 PechaKucha speaker 2014
 TEDxBeirut 2012 Speaker
 Coach at Beirut Service Jam 2012
 Debated Rem Koolhaas and Ronald Wall on Dubai at NAI 2010

2007–2009

The Edge, Dubai, UAE

Director of Knowledge and Design

Leading The Edge Knowledge, the strategic research division of The Edge, to develop a world-class, user-centric knowledge services platform to position the company as a knowledge enabler. Addressing the impact of knowledge-based economies on the future of business environments, defining the strategic vision, launching customer-facing initiatives, building a knowledge library, structuring workshops and roundtables, establishing a telepresence facility, planning publications, developing a digital branding strategy, and nurturing a network of local and international creativity consultants.

Awards and achievements

Organized roundtable discussion with Dr Richard Florida
 Planned book publication with Philip Jodidio
 Art directed and implemented IPO road show presentation
 Charted new territories in knowledge-based strategies

2002–2003

Innovation Catalyst Partners, Boston, Massachusetts*Cofounder and Design Lead*

Developed prototypes and consulting on all aspects of innovation and design for several companies including Merck, Orange, Motorola, Solidere, Northeastern University, and some startups.

Awards and achievements

Helped Motorola take new concept to market

Represented Orange at MIT Media Lab conference

1998–2002

Viant, Boston, Massachusetts*Lead Creative Consultant*

Merck Pharmaceuticals
 General Motors, Holden Australia
 Frank O Gehry Partners
 Carat North America
 Parametric Technology
 Fleet Bank
 Viant IPO roadshow
 Viant Corporate Communications

Lead Creative, Business Development

Instrumental team member for business development with Polaroid, Audi, General Motors, Verizon, Orange, France Telecom, EMC, Sprint PCS, Compaq, and several startups

Leader, Viant Space Steering Committee

Design and construction of Viant Los Angeles flagship office with Gensler
 Design of Houston, Atlanta, and Boston Headquarters with Gensler

Lead Designer, Viant Innovation Center

Prototyping and development of futuristic scenarios including: 'Social Shopping', 'e-Bank', wireless technology, 'smart Hotel', 'Active Messaging', and others. Some of the projects were joint with the MIT Media Lab and Harvard's Center for Design Informatics.

'Active Messaging' co-lecture with David Tames at the Living Surfaces conference, Chicago, 1999

Branding and positioning of Viant Innovation Center

Awards and achievements

2001 International Interior Design Association Calibre Award

2002 International Illumination Design Award

2001 Set for major feature film *I am Sam*

2001 Set for major feature film *Big Fat Liar*

2001 Set for television commercials for Canon, Dell, Diet Coke, Mercedes among others

2002 Publication of 'Designing the Radically Collaborative Workplace', *Interactions*, interview by Kate Ehrlich with Marylyn Dintenfass

2001–3 Lecture, 'Building the Radically Collaborative Workplace' at Viant offices, International Interior Design Association, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and American Institute of Graphic Arts

Early Experience

1991–2001

Independent Design Consultant

Solidere digital brand and website, with Invivia, 2001
 Perry Dean Rogers digital brand and website, with Allen Sayegh, 1999
 Residence, Meshref, Lebanon 1998
 AUB Science and Technology conference, digital brand, website and poster, 1998
 How to Sell Your Home, by Dennis Joseph, graphic design of booklet, 1998
 Residence, Mirdif, Dubai, UAE, 1994
 AinSaadeh apartment building, with HashimSarkis, 1993
Beirut Reclaimed by Samir Khalaf book and cover design, with HashimSarkis, 1992
 Al Reda residence, Dubai, UAE, with HashimSarkis, 1989
 Nasrallah 3 Engineering, main office interior, Elissar, Lebanon, 1988

1996–1998

The Office of Peter Rose, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Senior Architectural Designer

Cohen residence, Nantucket, Massachusetts
 Marketing and branding guidelines
 Schwartz residence, Los Angeles
 Ski lodge, Mt Tremblant, Canada
 Chicago Bears training facility, Lake Forest, Illinois
 Buckingham Brown and Nichols School gymnasium, with Chan Krieger Associates, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Awards and achievements

1998 Mauer residence *Record Houses* award winning submittal
 1998 BB&N Gymnasium wins several trade awards

1994–1996

Machado and Silvetti Architects, Boston, Massachusetts

Architectural Associate in Charge

New City Gefinor masterplan
 Arthur M Sackler Museum bridge
 Getty Villa Museum Malibu

Awards and achievements

2006 *Architectural Record* article on Getty Villa

1990–1991

Appel Design and Development, Los Angeles, California

Senior architectural designer

Booth residence, Manhattan Beach
 Kenan addition, Manhattan Beach

1988–1989

Testassociati, Alessandria, Italy

Architectural designer

Palazzo Ghilini restoration and municipal exhibit
 Alessandria Expo
 'Italian Minor Centers' photographic urban research project

1987–1988

Imre and Anthony Halasz Architects, Boston, Massachusetts

Architectural designer

Nantucket residence, Hadzi studio, Roslindale elderly housing

Summer 1986

JafarTukan and Partners, Amman, Jordan

Summer intern in architectural design

Academic Experience

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- 2005–present
- Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon**
Adjunct Faculty Assistant Professor of Architecture and Design 2013–
Part-time Assistant Professor of Architecture and Design 2011–2013
Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture and Design 2009–2011
Part-time Assistant Professor of Architecture and Design 2005–2007
 Main course in Foundation Design studios for all incoming students, and also taught second year architecture and interior architecture studio, as well as Design Culture, a new survey course tying design and its cultural significance.
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- Fall 2008
- American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE**
Adjunct Professor of Architecture and Design
 Taught 'Smart Spaces', a seminar on the integration of technology, networks, and spatial practices and their impact on business strategies, public space and everyday life
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- 2003–2006
- American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon**
Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture and Design
 Developed design research on understanding the impact of networks on spaces, devices, business, and information.
 Taught basic design and advanced architectural design studios, two seminar electives, and thesis advising for both architecture and graphic design students
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- May 2004
- Contemporary Discourses in Architecture, Beirut, Lebanon**
Author and Speaker
 Delivered 'Parallel Lines' a research paper on the convergence of network and aesthetic theories, proposing critical design methodologies, with an understanding of the social and political imperatives of advances in networks and communication
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- Fall 1998
- Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts**
Visiting Studio Instructor
 Taught a fall architectural studio addressing architecture, urbanity, context and time to second year students
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- Spring 1995
- Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island**
Visiting Studio Instructor
 Co-taught architectural studio with Hashim Sarkis addressing architecture, urbanity, and complex programming to second year students
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- 1995–2001
- Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, Massachusetts**
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island
Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts
Boston Architectural Center, Boston, Massachusetts
Juror
 Sat on various design juries reviewing student work
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Institutional Leadership

2015–present	<p>Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation, Dubai, UAE <i>Academic Consultant</i></p>
2011–present	<p>Beirut Creative Cluster, Beirut, Lebanon <i>President and Board Member</i></p>
2007–present	<p>World Architecture Community <i>Honorary Member</i></p>
2006	<p>Gumusluk Academy, Bodrum, Turkey <i>Founding Member</i> Co-founding member of a cross-cultural multidisciplinary art and creativity community based in Turkey</p>
November 2004	<p>Rebrand 100, Providence, Rhode Island <i>Jurist</i> Served on a panel of 10 international branding and design leaders to select the best of 100 entries for the first international rebranding award</p>
November 2003	<p>Multiples of 1, Cambridge, Massachusetts <i>Co chair</i> Co chaired the second annual Multiples of 1 Conference at the MIT Media Lab. Organized a program and invited thought leaders in business, technology, design and law to discuss how we can engage in making networks more meaningful and humane Developed the brand and design for the promotional materials, including a website, programs, and announcements</p>
2002–present	<p>Ambient Devices, Cambridge, Massachusetts <i>Board of Advisors</i> Design advisor for intelligent products company</p>
2001–2002	<p>American Center for Design, Chicago, Illinois <i>Board of Directors</i> As one of 12 nationally recognized designers and thinkers, put together programs, budgets, and agendas for the 75-year old design organization, including national seminars and conferences</p>
2002–2001	<p>Living Surfaces <i>Chairman</i> Designed and developed the theme and program for the ACD's ninth annual national Living Surfaces conference on collaboration, 'Multiples of 1' Invited 32 speakers from a variety of disciplines including keynote industrial designer Karim Rashid Developed the brand and design for the promotional materials, including a website, programs, and announcements for an audience of 40,000 Authored 'Multiples of 1' an article in <i>Interactions</i> describing the conference</p>
1991–1998	<p>Plan B Urban Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts <i>Cofounding President</i> Lecture series co-sponsor and coordinator with the French Cultural Center, Boston New City Gefinor masterplan and graphics, phase 1 with Machado and Silvetti, and phase 2 with DuanyPlater-Zyberk Balamand University masterplan and graphic design</p>

Education

1991–1994

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Graduate School of Design

Master of Architecture with Distinction 1994

'Hotel Kenmore' thesis, an architectural intervention in Kenmore Square, Boston, Jorge Silvetti advisor

Studios with Rem Koolhaas, Gavin Hogben, Jim Williamson, and Mary McAuliffe

Awards and achievements

Graduated with Distinction

Teaching Assistant in structures for Professor Spiro Pollalis

'Hotel Kenmore' thesis award finalist

'Hotel Kenmore' thesis exhibited and published in *StudioWorks*

'EuroDisney Housing' project with Lance Chu and Rem Koolhaas, critic, exhibited and published in *StudioWorks*

1984–1988

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Bachelor of Science in Art and Design 1988

Studios with William Porter, ImreHalasz, Rene Chow and Tom Chastain, Jan Wampler and EnzoTesta

Alpha Tau Omega fraternity

Awards and achievements

Chamberlain Award for Excellence in Design, Boston Society of Architects, first undergraduate recipient

Teaching Assistant for Professor Barry Zevin

Founding President, MIT Arab Student Organization

Secretary, MIT Lebanese Club and logo competition winner

1983–1984

American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

Completed first semester architecture school

Studios with Jay Randall, Friedrich Ragette, Martin Giesen

Awards and achievements

Ranked top 5% of class

Art Director, *Campus 1994* yearbook(until Feb 1994)

1969–1983

International College, Beirut, Lebanon

Experimental Sciences, ranked 2nd, with Distinction

Awards and achievements

Ranked 2nd in class

Graduated with distinction

Stephen Penrose Award for academic and extracurricular achievement

Editor-in-Chief of annual yearbook, *Torch 1983*

Co-Editor-in-Chief and Art Director of annual yearbook, *Torch 1982*

Art Director of the annual yearbook, *Torch 1981*

Keyboardist and co-composer, The Rubber Band

Languages

English, Arabic, intermediate Italian, and basic French