

CMWA 2020 Nomination Letter: Ghalya Alsanea

Nominator: Dan Martin, Stanley and Marcia Gumberg Dean, College of Fine Arts

Ghalya has pursued meaningful work, both personally and professionally, as a student in the School of Architecture. A candidate for the Bachelor of Architecture, Ghalya has minored in both Intelligent Environments and Physical Computing. This interdisciplinary work has allowed her to examine the integration of virtual and physical environments and the resulting human experience.

Her interest in experiential and socially-conscious design stems from her own self-awareness, empathy for others, and the need to create symbiotic relationships that builds stronger, more resilient communities for displaced and marginalized people, especially immigrants and refugees. This is evident in her academic work, community involvement, and professional experiences. She has been engaged in a number of design-build projects in the school, including the Urban Collaborative Studio.

Ghalya is committed to empowering women and advancing women's rights. Raised in Kuwait, she is keenly aware of the cultural pressures Middle Eastern women experience. A series of mixed-media works, titled "GOOD" GIRLS, focused on the pressures and expectations society puts on young women to be polite and modest and presented them in a paradoxical way. This work was featured in Carnegie Mellon's SPARK THE MOVEMENT Showcase.

She is an active member of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) and the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS).