

Sara Dobrijević

Architectural designer, strategist & researcher
specializing in urban & architectural environments

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Copenhagen, Denmark

Education

Sep 2020 - Jan 2023

MA in Spatial Design

The Royal Danish Academy, Institute of Design, Spatial Design

Master thesis:

Re-thinking urban appropriation strategies

Focus:

Development of a structured approach and spatial concept for fostering community-led architectural and social transformation.

This involved employing hybrid research methodologies integrating both quantitative and qualitative data analysis, conducting mapping exercises, facilitating workshops and ultimately developing a comprehensive final proposal - detailed report and presentation.

Sep 2016 - Jun 2019

BA of Arts in Design

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Architecture, School of Design

Bachelors thesis:

3m2

Focus:

Re-thinking co-working spaces by using modularity and flexibility as key principles that should be implemented in design solutions.

I conducted hybrid research, encompassing analysis of technical, human, spatial and economic factors. This included focus groups, analyzing research gathered from visiting sites, developing scenarios, prototyping solutions, material research and presenting a finalized design proposal along with thorough research documentation.

About me

Design professional with a commitment to driving impactful change through creativity, innovation and facilitation. My journey in architecture has been marked by a series of enriching experiences, and work across multiple scales; from design strategies for community-focused projects to research initiatives that push the boundaries of sustainable solutions. I thrive on the interplay between design research and hands-on testing, where I am particularly drawn to the prospect of applying design thinking principles to create innovative solutions, using my expertise in scenario development and rapid prototyping to bring in fresh perspectives.

This skillset has not only been acquired through my professional life but also through my active lifestyle, which includes climbing and yoga. These activities can always bring up my spirit, as well as encourage me to engage socially, develop resilience and think creatively.

Work experience

Oct 2023 -

Architectural Designer & Strategist

July 2024

Standard Practice / Copenhagen, Denmark

- Conducted research and strategy development for a KBH Kommune funded project, "Re:visiting the KBH Bench."
- Applied ethnographical research methods including participant observation and interviews, as well as scenario planning techniques.
- Led case studies with a focus on understanding the needs of disabled people, resulting in the development of a design proposal to address these needs. Presented the final proposal to the Kommune, demonstrating effective communication and stakeholder engagement skills.
- Conducted material research and testing on geopolymer concrete, involving collaboration with engineers, adjusting material compositions, and casting smaller and bigger samples.
- Focused on innovative heat treatment techniques for steel coloring.
- Developed a house design proposal in Kenya, involving hybrid research, concept development, technical drawings and client communication.
- Created presentations using Keynote and InDesign to effectively communicate design concepts to clients.
- Developed content strategies and managed content writing projects using Trello for various design projects.

Skills

Hard skills:

- Adobe Creative Suit (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop)
- MS Office (PowerPoint, Excel, Word)
- SketchUp
- Autodesk Fusion 360 (for CNC preparation)
- AutoCad
- Rhinoceros
- Blender
- Construction LCA

Soft skills

- Transferrable skillset
- Lateral thinking
- Team-work
- Circularity
- Adaptability
- Material testing
- Strategic design
- Detail - oriented
- Self & Social-awareness
- Innovative methodologies
- Design Thinking
- Constant learner

Languages:

- Croatian (Native speaker)
- English (Full professional proficiency)
- German (Elementary level)
- Danish (Beginner)

Jul' 2022 - present | **Co - founder**
collectivegesture-s / Brussels and Copenhagen

- Together with my co-founder, I established a collective as the formative manifestation of our ongoing collaboration.
- We have tutored two workshops in the European Architecture Students' Assembly on phenomenological spatial experience and design thinking strategies, taking up the responsibility for incremental spatial improvement.
- Workshops were focused on exploring design methodologies such as design sprints and rapid prototyping.
- We led creative discussions on design topics, fostering alternative approaches and lateral thinking .

Oct' 2019 - Jul' 2020 | **Junior Architectural Designer**
Market Collective / Zagreb, Croatia

- My tasks included concept development for products and interiors, 3D modelling in softwares (AutoCAD and Rhinoceros) , communication with production, technical drawing development and co-creating the book of standards (company's branding guidelines).

Awards and Achievements

Planka - an architectural renovation and adaptation project focused on site specific challenges and heritage conservation

2019 | *DA! Festival - Architecture and Design Student Award project*
In collaboration with Nikola Radeljković & Kolektiv mo:re

- Ongoing project of revitalizing a hiking shelter on a remote croatian Island
- As a member of kolektiv mo:re with 5 others, we did spatial layout planning, the development of material and color palettes, and the design of built-in furniture. We also developed plans for essential water and electricity infrastructure.
- Currently, we are finalizing the dining area design and preparing detailed technical drawings for the sleeping area

___LAND - a project based on intergenerational workshops that connects participants through their content and values.

2018 | *IFA - International FINSA Award*

- _LAND is a project that recognizes the knowledge held by the elderly, aswell as the learning capacity held by children. These workshops, where the elderly transfer their knowledge and the children curiously listen and create, empower and enrich both age groups through their content and values.
- First prize for the most innovative concept.
- Brief development, target group research, cross - disciplinary collaboration, facilitating social change, critical study of learning environments and project presentation on a seminar in Marseille and Zagreb.