

## **Prof. Najla Allani**

Full Professor, Department of Architecture and Interior Design  
College of Engineering, University of Bahrain



E-MAIL [nallani@uob.edu.bh](mailto:nallani@uob.edu.bh)  
ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1970-4388>  
SCOPUS ID [Scopus Author ID: 57211500220](https://scopus.com/authid/detail.url?authorID=57211500220)  
ACADEMIA <https://uob.academia.edu/NajlaAllaniBouhoula>  
RESEARCH GATE <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Najla-Allani>

Najla ALLANI is a Full Professor at the Department of Architecture and Interior Design, College of Engineering (University of Bahrain). She was the first Tunisian woman to achieve the rank of Professor in Architecture in Tunisia. Previously, she held the position of Director of the National School of Architecture and Urbanism (ENAU) and Head of the Research Unit "Methods and Models for the Representation of Architectural Knowledge." She has also been the General Director of the Center of Research, Studies, Documentation, and Information on Women (CREDIF).

Professor ALLANI obtained her Bachelor of Architecture from the Technological Institute of Art, Architecture, and Urbanism of Tunis in 1994. She completed her Master's in "Architecturology, Computer Science, and Artificial Intelligence" at the Henri Poincaré University-Nancy (France) in 1995. She earned her Ph.D. in Architectural Sciences at the National Polytechnic Institute of Lorraine in Nancy in 1999. In 2010, she was awarded the Habilitation Degree to direct research in Architecture from the National School of Architecture and Urbanism, University of Carthage.

Her research focuses on architectural knowledge formalization, urban heritage preservation, digital innovation, and emerging technologies such as BIM, with a strong emphasis on user-centered design in architecture and urbanism. She also explored cognitive processes in design, digital heritage, and Islamic and sacred architecture. She has published extensively in indexed journals and presented her work at international conferences. She has also supervised more than 20 master's and Ph.D. students.

Professor ALLANI has been deeply engaged in international architectural juries and gender advocacy committees, including:

- Jury Member of the "Green Your Community" Urban Design Competition organized by UN-HABITAT Bahrain (2024).
- Jury Member of the International Land Award: Nature and Artifice, recognizing significant projects that contribute to the dialogue between nature and artifice.
- Jury Member of the Haifa Award, an architectural prize established by the Interdisciplinary Design, Architecture, and Research Jerusalem Association (IDAR-Jerusalem) in 2020 to promote Palestinian heritage conservation.
- Founder and Jury Member of the Mediterranean Mimar Sinan Prize (MED21), which celebrates excellence in architectural design across Mediterranean countries.
- Founder and Executive Director of the Fatima Fihria Prize, dedicated to promoting women's access to education and professional opportunities in the Mediterranean.

In November 2021, representing Tunisia, she was elected Bureau Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Committee on Social Policy, Poverty, and Gender (Fourth Session).

Professor ALLANI has been an invited keynote speaker at numerous international conferences on architecture, shared sacred spaces, and gender equality. She has also contributed as a reviewer and scientific committee member for several international conferences and academic journals.

Her contributions to academia, research, and leadership have been recognized through several awards. She was awarded a Certificate of Merit on November 9, 2018, by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for her outstanding academic contributions and excellence as the former Dean of the National School of Architecture and Urbanism. In December 2019, she received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Minister of Women, Family, Childhood, and Elderly in recognition of her exceptional contributions as CEO of the Center for Research, Documentation, and Information on Women (CREDIF). Furthermore, on January 11, 2022, she was honored with a Certificate of Thanks and Appreciation from the same ministry upon the successful completion of her tenure as Director General of CREDIF.

Here are some of her most recent selected publications:

- Noor Saleh Alalawi and Najla Allani. (2024). Promoting Sustainability in Bahraini Primary Health Care Centers. Book Chapter in *Innovative Approaches to Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Urban Development: Integrating Tradition and Modernity*.
- Kawthar Husain and Najla Allani. (2024). Crafting Cultural Identity: A Phenomenological Study of Traditional Bahraini Architecture and Community Engagement. Book Chapter in *Innovative Approaches to Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Urban Development: Integrating Tradition and Modernity*.
- Afaf Ebrahim and Najla Allani. (2024). The Role of Users' Socio-spatial Behaviour in Fostering Sustainable Retail District Projects in Bahrain. *Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs*, vol. 8, no 2, p. 305–323-305–323.
- Meriem Zammel and Najla Allani. (2023). A Pedagogical Approach Using Digitalization and Heritage Building Information Modelling (HBIM) for a New Practice in Architecture and Archaeology. *American Journal of Remote Sensing* 11(1): 16-31; ISSN: 2328-5788 (Print); ISSN: 2328-580X (Online)
- Amal Attiya and Najla Allani. (2024). The Impact of Biophilic Design on Cognitive Map Performance: A Case Study on Girls Primary Public Schools in Bahrain. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference of Contemporary Affairs in Architecture and Urbanism-ICCAUA*. p. 1347-1360.
- Manar Buhusain and Najla Allani. (2024). Unveiling the Spiritual Essence in Contemporary Bahraini Mosques through Architectural Phenomenology. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference of Contemporary Affairs in Architecture and Urbanism-ICCAUA*. p. 65-73.