

PENNY UNNI

pennyunni1@gmail.com
+1 929 664 0358

Penny Unni is a Canadian architectural designer based in Ithaca NY, currently working on various competitions and collaborating with the research platform Burop. Her research interests lie at the conjunction of water infrastructures, myth-making and ritual practices, and climate change; specifically, the impact of architecture and infrastructure on climate upon the communal shift in meanings tied to objects.

EDUCATION

sep 2020 - jan 2022
Montreal, CA

McGill University, Peter Guo-Hua Fu School of Architecture
M.Arch, Master of Architecture (professional)

sep 2015 - aug 2020
Cambridge, CA

University of Waterloo, School of Architecture
Bachelor Honors of Architectural Studies, with Distinction

EXPERIENCE

mar 2022 - aug 2023
London, UK

Niall McLaughlin Architects
Architectural Designer

Worked independently on masterplan of wellness center in early concept phase and collaboratively completed Stage 2 packages; contributed to design iterations of timber cabins; contributed to curation of architectural models; contributed to roof and exterior wall details of student housing buildings for tender packages; independently completed Stage 4 design package for refurbishment of Victorian villa, worked closely with consultant team, created exhibition boards and represented project at community meetings in Oxford.

jan 2020 - apr 2020
Boston, USA

Moshe Safdie Architects
Architectural Intern

Responsible for model coordination, diagrams, animations, proposal graphics for design of tech company headquarters in Menlo Park, California.

jan 2019 - sep 2019
Rotterdam, NL

Powerhouse Company
Architectural Designer

Member of competition team and responsible for independent and collaborative concept creation on exhibition center and masterplan in Chengdu. Design detail of staircase of floating office in Rotterdam. Independently responsible for competition entry of adaptive reuse of historic hospital in Norway.

aug 2017 - dec 2017
Toronto, CA

Philip Beesley Architects
Architectural Designer

Significant role in design team to research and develop kinetic mechanisms in architectural sculptures for Design Exchange, City of Toronto, Royal Ontario Museum and fabrics for fashion designer Iris Van Herpen. Contributed to research of Living Architecture Systems Group (LASG).

may 2018 - sep 2018
Toronto, CA

Gensler
Architectural Intern

jan 2017 - apr 2017
New York, USA

Robert A.M. Stern Architects
Architectural Intern

ACCOLADES

June 2022	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) <i>Medal for Outstanding Final Thesis Project</i>
June 2022	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) <i>Honour Roll</i>
November 2021	Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA) <i>Arthur Erickson Travel Scholarship</i>
June 2022	ARCOP/ALCAN Award <i>at McGill University</i>
June 2022	A. F. Dunlop Fellowship <i>at McGill University</i>
June 2022	Canadian Architect Student Award of Excellence Nominee <i>at McGill University</i>
April 2022	Archisource Drawing of the Year 2021 Competition <i>Shortlisted Entry: Dam as Temple</i>
May 2021	Dr. Soo Kim Lan Prize in Architecture <i>at McGill University</i>
September 2020	Norbert Schoenauer Fellowship <i>at McGill University</i>
September 2019	Jon C. Bennett Rome Award <i>at University of Waterloo</i>
January 2019	Winner of Formica Chair Design Competition <i>Architect@Work Toronto</i>
December 2018	Patricia and William Sheets Award <i>at University of Waterloo</i>
September 2018	Masonry Council of Ontario Design Competition <i>First Place Winner</i>
September 2015	President's Entrance Scholarship <i>at University of Waterloo</i>
February 2015	Royal Canadian Legion <i>Golden Medal for Youth Arts Competition</i>
September 2014	RCSCC Iron Duke <i>Awardee of the Commanding Officer's Coin</i>

ENGAGEMENT

October 2023	Cornell M.Arch. Mid-Term Thesis Review <i>Invited panelist with Jennifer Newsom</i>
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September 2023	Bethel Woods Art and Architecture Festival <i>Invited guest reviewer</i>
June 2022	Royal Academy Summer Exhibition Art and Architecture <i>Assisted curation of architecture models and construction of installation by Boonserm Premthada</i>
January 2022	Arts et Lettres de Montréal – Territorial Partnership Project <i>Invited Contributor to Exhibition: Extraction, a line</i>
August 2021	Azraeli Foundation Global Studio Retrospective Book <i>Designer in collaboration with McGill University, Carleton University, Tel Aviv University and Technion (IIT)</i>
September 2018	University of Waterloo Paper <i>Editor for Satellite Campus editions</i>

EXHIBITIONS

January 2022	Homegrown Voices <i>Feature on M.Arch. Project: homegrown.co.in/topic/penny-unni</i>
December 2021	Peter Guo-Hua Fu SoA Exhibition <i>McGill University Projects Review, M.Arch Final: After the Floods</i>
March 2021	CBDX Borderlands Exhibition <i>Stantec Gallery, Finalist Project: Wadi Salib Subverted</i>
September 2020	Riverside Gallery Exhibition <i>Waterloo Projects Review, 4B Project: Well Wall</i>
May 2020	ROMA XLI Online Exhibition <i>Waterloo Rome Program, Project: Vivifica</i>
September 2019	Riverside Gallery Exhibition <i>Waterloo Projects Review, 3B Projects: Muquarna</i>
June 2018	Royal Ontario Museum, Philip Beesley: Transforming Space <i>Design Member with Living Architecture Systems Group (LASG)</i>
October 2017	Design Exchange, DX EDIT Toronto <i>Design Member with Living Architecture Systems Group (LASG)</i>

LANGUAGES

English, French, Malayalam, Croatian

SKILLS

Rhino, Revit, ArchiCad, SketchUp, Vectorworks, AutoCAD, Adobe CS, Painting, Writing, Poetry