

# Stéphanie Rafie

## Lead Architectural Designer

### ● EDUCATION

**McGill University**, Montreal, Canada; The School of Architecture  
**B.Sc Architecture**, Faculty of Engineering

- High Honors Graduate
- Recipient of the AUCC Scholarship [2014-2016]
- Appointed VP External, McGill School of Architecture [2015-2016]: Securing partnerships with 5 top firms in Montreal

### ● WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Stéphanie Rafie Design Studio

[2024-Present]

##### Founder & Architect

*Leading a boutique design studio dedicated to crafting bespoke architectural and interior design services for private clients on high-end residential projects across the US and Canada.*

#### GRADE Architecture & Interior Design New York, NY

[2016-2024]

*Lead the design of multi-million dollar residential and retail projects ranging from interior interventions to large scale estates. Creating custom lifestyle experiences, managing projects from schematic through construction administration phases, mainly focusing on projects in New York City, The Hamptons and Aspen.*

##### Lead Architectural Designer, GRADE New York

[2021-2024]

**Aspen Estate;** 15,000Sq.Ft, \$55M Budget, Phase: In Construction

**Sagg Main Complex/Estate:** 3.2 Acres- 5,000Sq.Ft, \$10M Budget, Phase: Completed

**Venice Biennale Architecture Installation:** ECC Exhibition, \$100K Budget, Phase: Completed

- Responsible for leading the creative design direction of large-scale estates with budgets ranging from \$10M-\$55M
- Fostered relationships with clients, gaining a deep understanding of their vision and translating it into designs that complied with town regulations and adhered to their desired design and budget
- Lead the team in designing the exterior architecture, interiors, and landscaping site strategies, providing guidance and mentorship to ensure seamless concept implementation from SD to CA phases of the project
- Worked closely with consultants and engineers to push boundaries of innovation, contributing to the overall project success and to firm's reputation for excellence
- Designed bespoke millwork and furniture pieces, sourcing all materials and finishes
- Developed comprehensive design packages, featuring immersive 3D and 2D visuals, to secure approvals for architecture, interior millwork, landscaping strategies and selected finishes
- Lead the team in developing detailed architectural drawings for all the exterior architecture and interior millwork to price project at 90% accuracy prior to construction
- Implemented cost-saving VE strategies in both core and shell and interiors budget by adjusting complexity of designs and quantity and quality of materials, without compromising design integrity of the project

## Project Manager & Designer, GRADE New York

[2020-2021]

**DIOR Men's Flagship, Soho NY:** Phase: Completed, Features: WWD, Vogue, Hypebeast

**DIOR Men & Women's Store, Hudson Yards:** Phase: Completed, Features: WWD, Haute Living

- Managed project budgets, created and maintained schedules, and tracked project progress
- Produced architectural drawings for both the core and shell, interior architecture and millwork scope
- Successfully obtained permits by effectively navigating the local zoning and planning approval processes
- Reviewed shop drawings for all architecture and millwork details
- Lead client presentations and weekly site visits to ensure project goals and objectives were met
- Prepared weekly construction reports
- Created and developed an innovative project management tracking system that enhanced the productivity and efficiency of the teammates
- Consistently delivered project budgets to 98% accuracy of finished costs and within desired timeline

## Job Captain & Head of Visuals, GRADE New York

[2018-2020]

**Hamptons Estate; 40,000Sq.Ft, \$40M Budget, Phase: In Progress**

**Upper East Side NY Lobby Entrance: 800 Sq.Ft, \$0.5M Budget Phase: Completed, SARA NY Award Recipient**

- Key contributor to project managers in the design and management of residential and retail projects
- Assisted in the development of architectural drawings, renderings, and material specifications using AutoCAD, Revit, and SketchUp and the Adobe Suite
- Spearheaded the creation of visually engaging marketing materials to attract potential clients
- Conducted user research activities to gain insights on clients, including empathy interviews
- Lead the team in developing strategies to enhance storytelling and identified ways to curate complex ideas into visually understandable concepts

## Junior Architectural Designer, GRADE New York

[2016-2018]

- Supported the team in developing ideas and conceptual sketches for schematic project stages of the project
- Assisted project teams in the production of 2D elevations and renderings, 3D modeling and renderings and in preparation of presentation materials

### • SKILLS

**Adobe Suite:** Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, AfterEffects

**Rendering Softwares:** Lumion, Vray, 3Ds Max

**Modeling & Drafting Softwares:** AutoCAD, Rhinoceros 3D, Sketchup

**Presentation:** InVision, Sketch

**Project Management:** ProCore, Asana

**Other:** Invision, Excel, Word

### • LANGUAGES

**Native:** English, French

**Basic:** Spanish

### • INTERESTS

**Podcast:** How I Built This, Acquired, ReThinking, Hidden Brain

**Hobbies:** Travel, Tennis, Pilates, Entrepreneurship

**Art & Furniture Fairs:** Venice Biennale, Art Basel, Frieze London, Salon Art & Design NY, Salone Del Mobile Milano

New York, NY

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