

Zixuan (Sara) Qiu

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CAREER OBJECTIVE

Master of Architecture student at the University of Sydney, applying for the Graduate Designer position. Experienced in concept design, documentation, modelling, visualization and fabrication workflows, with an understanding of the National Construction Code and Australian Standards. Recognized for strong communication, collaborative working style, and a proactive approach to learning and technical problem-solving.

EDUCATION

University of Sydney

Bachelor of Design in Architecture
Master of Architecture

Sydney, AU

02/2023 - 12/2025

02/2026 - (Expected Completion 12/2027)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Architectural Association School of Architecture (*partnership with University of Sydney*)

AA Visiting School Sydney - For the Term of Your Natural Life

Sydney, AU

06/2025

- Two-week intensive studio exploring architecture, landscape, and environmental histories through site-based research and speculative design.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Digital Modelling and Fabrication (DMaF) Lab

Student Assistant

Sydney, AU

02/2026 – present

- Guided students with varying levels of fabrication experience with clear technical concepts in process of preparing fabrication digital files, identifying and troubleshooting common issues to improve production accuracy, efficiency and minimise material waste.
- Supported the safe operation of laser cutters by assisting students with equipment procedures, material selection, and compliance with workshop health and safety requirements.
- Managed material sales and maintained an organised workshop environment, ensuring equipment and workspaces were prepared for efficient daily operation.
- Collaborated with lab technicians to deliver timely technical support during peak deadline periods, helping maintain smooth workflow and minimise downtime.

Ice Kirin Bar

Casual Front of House Staff

Sydney, AU

08/2024 – 05/2025

- Trained new team members while maintaining high service standards during busy trading periods, demonstrating reliability and clear communication.

Starbucks

Part-time Barista (Rotating Roaster)

Hong Kong

06/2022 – 01/2023

- Delivered efficient customer service in a high-volume tourist location, prioritizing competing demands while communicating effectively with customers from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Self-Employed HKDSE English Tutoring

Part-time English Tutor

Hong Kong

07/2022 - 01/2023

- Established and managed an independent tutoring service by liaising directly with students and parents, coordinating lesson schedules, and preparing tailored learning resources.
- Adapted teaching strategies and communicated complex concepts clearly, helping students improve understanding through structured feedback.

LEADERSHIP AND MENTORING**BDES1026 Architecture Studio 1A**

Mentor

Sydney, AU

02/2026 – 05/2026

- Facilitated weekly design discussions by clarifying studio concepts, design methodologies, and precedents, reinforcing teaching delivered by tutors and lecturers.
- Reviewed students' developing projects throughout the semester, providing constructive design feedback and helping students prioritise tasks to meet deadlines.
- Encouraged students to consider broader design intentions alongside detailed project development, helping them balance conceptual thinking with practical decision-making.
- Participated in interim and final design reviews as critic, evaluating multiple design responses to a common studio brief, identifying strengths and weaknesses across different approaches objectively, and articulate design thinking to students in clear, accessible language.

School of Architecture, Design and Planning Peer Mentoring Program

Peer Mentor

Sydney, AU

02/2026 – present

- Mentored commencing undergraduate, postgraduate, and exchange students by providing academic guidance, sharing study strategies, and supporting their transition into the School of Architecture, Design and Planning.
- Organised regular check-ins and one-on-one meetings to understand mentees' progress, address challenges, and connect them with appropriate university resources.
- Fostered an inclusive and supportive learning environment, building lasting relationships that extended beyond the formal mentoring programme.

City of Ryde Bushcare Group

Volunteer group to help restore damaged national and local parks

Sydney, AU

Fortnightly

SKILLS**Software:** Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Enscape, Rhino 7 & 8, Revit, SketchUp, QGIS 3, Microsoft**Technical:** Laser Cut, 3D Printing, Photography**Transferable:** Proactive problem solving, clear communication, workplace health and safety awareness, calm under pressure, workflow and time management, training and peer support**Language:** English (Fluent), Cantonese (Native), Mandarin (Fluent), Spanish (Basic)**AVAILABILITY**

From September 2026