

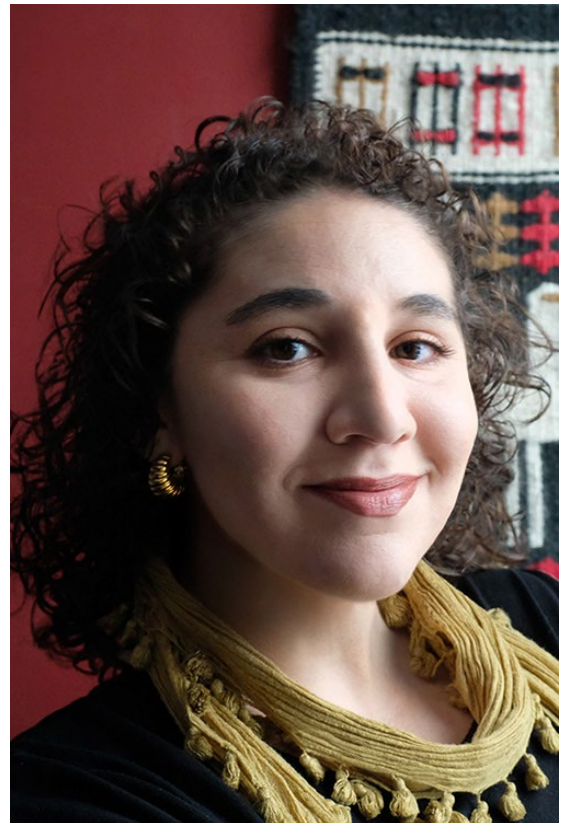
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Society of Architectural Historians Announces 2025 H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellows

CHICAGO, February 26, 2025 — The Society of Architectural Historians has named Amalie Elfallah and Francesca Sisci as recipients of the 2025 [H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellowships](#). This unique fellowship provides the opportunity for an emerging scholar to study the built environment through travel and contemplation while observing, reading, writing, photographing, or sketching. The intent of the fellowship is to allow fellows to experience the built environment firsthand, think about their profession deeply, and acquire knowledge that they can contribute to their future work, their profession, and to society.

Amalie Elfallah is an architectural-urban designer who resides and works in the Maryland–Washington D.C. area, which she acknowledges as the ancestral and unceded lands of the Piscataway-Conoy peoples. As an independent scholar, her research examines the socio-spatial imaginaries, constructions, and realities of Italian colonial Libya (1911–1943). She explores how narratives of contemporary [post]colonial Italy and Libya are concealed/embodied, forgotten/remembered, and erased/concretized. Her research practice is rooted in an architectural education, most recently as a Fulbright scholar at Politecnico di Milano, where she earned her master’s degree. She previously obtained a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland and an associate’s degree from Montgomery College.

Over the course of six months in 2025, Amalie plans to travel along the eastern coast of the United States before departing for Italy, China, Albania, Libya, and the Dodecanese Islands in Greece. Her itinerary focuses on tracing the built environment—buildings, monuments, public spaces, and street names—linked to a selection of Italy’s former colonies,



protectorates, and concessions from the early 20th century. Through multiple lenses, including architectural history, preservation, urban planning, and alternative practices such as the arts and community-based discourses, she seeks to uncover the elusive connections between these diverse geographies of Italy's colonial past.

"Beyond being a tourist and guest, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of traveling to both unfamiliar and previously visited sites as a H. Allen Brooks Fellow for the Society of Architectural Historians," said Elfallah, who has been invited to speak at and attend the SAH Annual Conference in Atlanta this year. As a panelist for the session "Literature and Contested Architectural Heritage," she will examine the intersection of fiction and history by engaging with the writings of Alessandro Spina—a nom de plume for Basili Shafik Khouzam (Benghazi, 1927–Rovato, 2013).

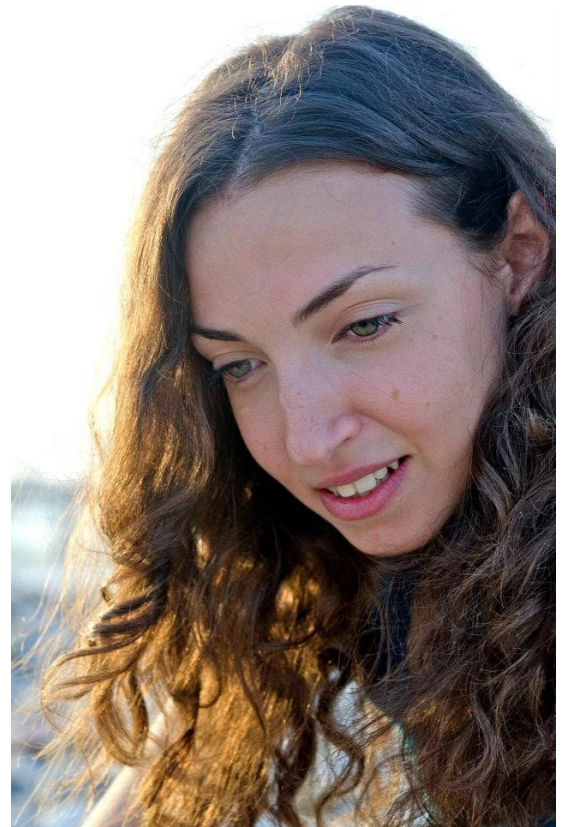
Elfallah's travels will begin in April 2025.

Francesca Sisci is an architect and adjunct professor at Polytechnic of Bari. She has a PhD in Architectural Representation and her approach of research is distinctive in its integration of multiple disciplines, including art history, architectural theory, and photography. She focuses on exploring aspects of visual perception and how these can be translated into images.

Her main research project revolves around the theoretical work of Robert Venturi. Under the supervision of Prof. David Brownlee at the University of Pennsylvania she conducted a groundbreaking study, uncovering a substantial amount of previously unpublished graphic material created by Venturi for his influential book *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* (1966). The findings of her research have been presented in both national and international journals and symposia.

Her Brooks-funded travel itinerary is based on a desire to explore the feminine imaginary as it applies to architecture from ancient to contemporary structures. She will explore this important question by trying to identify the types of architectural spaces that in different ways are connected with the female gender. In the course of a 6-month itinerary she will visit sites in Sardinia, Malta and Gozo, Türkiye, Crete, UK and Ireland, Norway, Greenland, the northeastern United States, and Mexico.

"I have outlined a comprehensive itinerary that begins with the architecture of Neolithic



civilizations and then leaps to contemporary structures. I chose to travel to places so ancient and remote in time to try to understand what the word architecture might have meant to these forgotten cultures. How was social and religious organization represented in architectural space? And how did it designate and accommodate different gender identities (male and female)?"

Sisci will begin her travel in March 2025.

Elfallah and Sisci will document their fellowship journeys through monthly reports published on the [SAH Blog](#) that will include written narratives, photographs, video, drawings, and other media.

For more information on the H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellowship, visit sah.org/brooks.

About the Society of Architectural Historians

Founded in 1940, the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) is an international nonprofit membership organization promoting the study, interpretation, and conservation of architecture, design, landscapes, and urbanism worldwide. The Society serves a network of more than 2,500 institutions and individuals who, by profession or interest, focus on the built environment and its role in shaping contemporary life. Through print and online publications, local, national and international programs, and advocacy efforts, SAH engenders meaningful scholarly and public engagement with the history of the built environment.

###

Media Contact:

Olivia Archer, Communications Manager
oarcher@sah.org
312-573-1365