

# 2008/09 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

## Gianninoto Honorable Mention



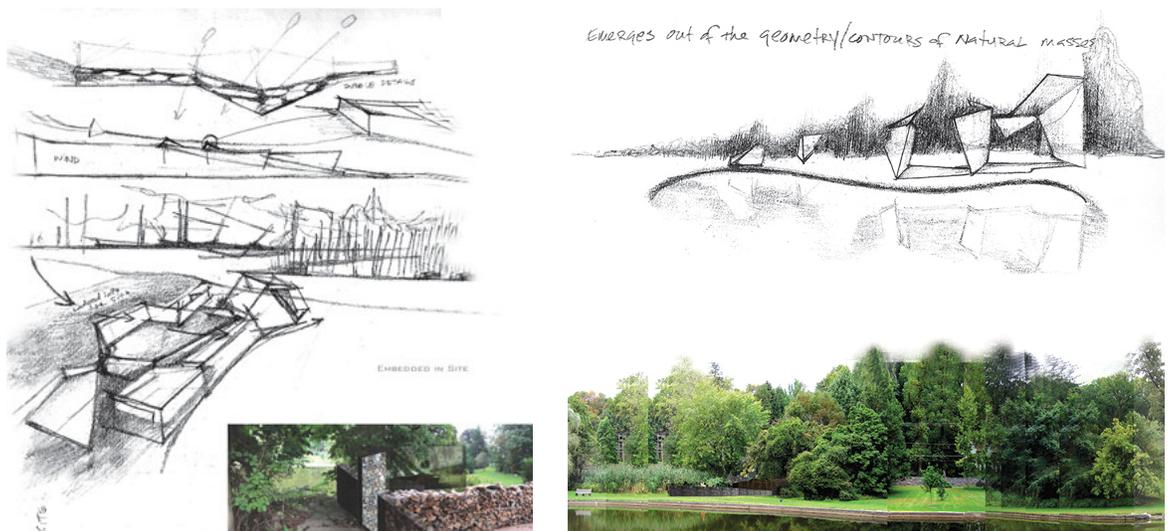
**MUHAMMAD-HANIF AZLY**

Architecture  
Junior  
Temple University

**Hard-nosed upbringings** in a small village in Malaysia were the first lessons of my childhood. I spent my formative years in Perlis, at a grammar school where I bloomed as an artist. My mother realized my potential and enrolled me in formal lessons. She hung my work proudly in her office. Charcoal, markers, and 2B pencils were my weapons. I represented my school and championed several local art competitions at age nine.

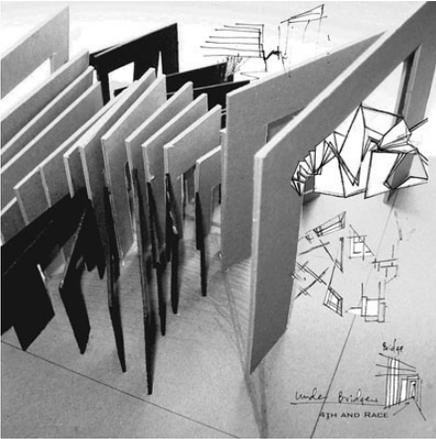
This artistic childhood did not prepare me for New York City when my parents pursued their PhDs at Columbia University in 1998. At the mercy of a new environment, I began to express another form of art through graffiti.

I saw graffiti as an artform beyond its political stigma: as explorations of character, composition and expressive form of art. At 14, I designed artwork for libraries in Nigeria and sculptures reflecting African cultural motifs for local galleries in Teaneck, New Jersey. The study of graffiti and its forms at an early age became my influences in architecture; the formal gestures and expressive nature of this “art” were adopted and explored in my early projects.



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Architecture



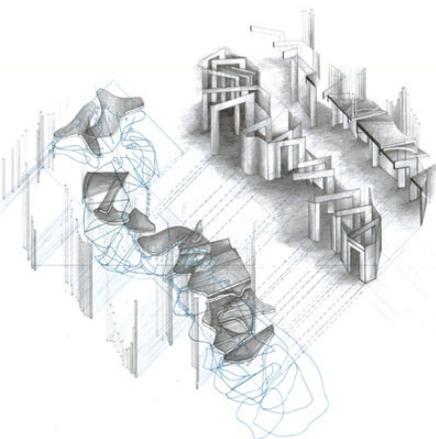
I realized that the gift to draw, paint, sketch, and design were also tools to make my mark in the new community. At 16, I was the president of my high school's art club, a soccer coach for a youth league and a peer leader for students in high school. At 19, I held a seminar among students in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity in our environment.

It has always been my goal to become a contributor in the global community. At Temple University, now at 21, I have backpacked to Paris, Amsterdam and Bangkok, among other beautiful cities of the world. I will be studying architecture in Rome through Temple's abroad program in the fall. In learning the vernacular of these places, I have also learned to appreciate the unique social milieus and cultural diversity among people.



My focus as a young architect is to address our position in global architecture through ethical practice: addressing environmental issues, influencing sustainable living conditions through responsible design. My work at Temple University responds: the design of my sustainable hotel was selected for Temple's Spring Showcase in 2007. I am currently involved in a competition designing a sustainable agriculture school in Fishtown, Pennsylvania.

The social plagues of unemployment, crime and drugs have devastated this beautiful city for years. As a designer, I began to question how architects could influence positive changes in the community. The revival of an abandoned lot, Arthur Hall's Park in North Philadelphia, is one example of community outreach. Among volunteers, I designed and installed concrete walking pavers for the park, responding to the neighborhood's call for safe walking premises.



I was recently hired to work with Veritas, a design firm in Kuala Lumpur for the summer of 2008. Upon graduation in 2010, I will have gained experiences working with architectural groups around the world. I will contribute as a professional by joining the effort to improve living conditions of citizens in developing countries; the dense urban districts of Malaysia, for example, cry out for new solutions to repair its plague of drug abuse, unemployment and crime, especially among younger generations.

I pursue my studies with immense dedication and perseverance at Temple University to fulfill these expectations. A global network will relay the importance of cultural exchange and social networking for a leader with motivations for repairing the fabric of our communities, our environment and, most importantly, our people.