

Ivan Himanen, AIA

Architect --- Urbanist --- Writer



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Ivan is an architect who thinks like a planner. A jack of all trades, his practice seeks to **democratize the built environment through social infrastructure projects**. He has experience in cultural & institutional buildings, master plans, infrastructure, and installations --- at every stage of project delivery, from research & urban analytics to design & construction. He is a passionate educator and advocate for the profession.

Education

2018 --- Master in City & Technology (Advanced Urban Planning & Data Analytics) --- The Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), Barcelona.

2010 --- Bachelor of Architecture --- The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art, New York

Professional Affiliations

2025 --- Member --- Urban Design Forum (UDF)

2025 --- Member --- The Architectural League of New York

2023-Present --- Member --- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

2016 --- Registered Architect --- New York State

Work Experience

2020-Present --- AECOM Buildings + Places, NY

NYC School Construction Authority (SCA) --- Project Architect --- A broad AECOM program providing ADA compliance, facade & roof repair, and other improvements for NYC's public schools. CD and CA phases for multiple projects simultaneously. Highly standards-oriented and schedule-driven.

Toms River Restoration Project --- Project Architect --- For BASF Corp., a new 5,000 SF, \$6 million net-zero-carbon environmental education center in a restored 1,000 acre site and public park in Toms River, NJ. AECOM is delivering hydrology, landscape, building design, and energy analysis services.

NYC Borough-Based Jails Program --- Design Lead, Program Management --- AECOM and the Department of Design & Construction (DDC) oversaw the Design-Build program of the four facilities intended to replace Rikers Island. Humane, safe facilities, each ~1,000,000 GSF, 886 beds, with complex and groundbreaking program. As design lead & owner's rep of the Brooklyn facility, developed bridging documents; wrote basis of design, program, and specs in the RFP; guided Design-Builder through procurement, construction, and community engagement on behalf of DDC and City sponsor agencies including Department of Correction.

Amazon Logistics, Last Mile Delivery Stations --- Design Manager, Project Architect --- A nationwide program for AMZL consisting of warehouse renovations and new construction to accommodate last-mile delivery. Up to 12 sites in DD/CD/CA simultaneously, each ~150,000 SF, \$1 million budget, and 2-month permit approval target. Extremely fast-paced and high-pressure. I managed design team (2 architects per site plus SMEP) with members across the country, was POC for client and GC, stewarded AHJ plan check, fielded RFIs & Submittals, and did document control for project Standards. Saw most sites through TCO.

COVID-19 Alternate Care Facility (ACF), SUNY College at Old Westbury, NY --- Deputy Field Lead, BIM Coordinator, FF&E Coordinator --- 1,024 beds, \$120 million, 4-week rapid-execution design-build field hospital for the US Army Corps of Engineers. Minute-to-minute coordination between design team at home, contractors, subs, trades, suppliers, and stakeholders on site. Programming, DD, and CA occurring virtually at once. After core & shell construction, also coordinated FF&E package for this and two other ACFs in the region (plans, schedules, and product data sheets) for pricing.

Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), Brentwood, NY --- Architectural Coordinator --- 26,500 SF, \$20 million, new construction net-zero energy STEM higher education center. QA/QC for bid + award set assembly.

2019-2020 --- PAU (Practice for Architecture & Urbanism), NY

Sunnyside Yard Master Plan, Queens, NY --- Urban Planner --- 180 acres, mixed use, 100% affordable housing. Ambitious vision for a new neighborhood over large active rail yard in Queens, for the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Thorough master plan effort coordinated structure by Thornton Tomasetti, transportation planning by Sam Schwartz Associates, rail consulting by HNTB, infrastructure & resiliency by Langan, landscape by Nelson Byrd Woltz, cost & financing by Dharam.

JFK Towers at Schuylkill Yards, Philadelphia, PA --- Project Designer --- 1.5 million SF, \$200 million, for Brandywine Realty Trust. Two mixed-use towers (commercial, residential, retail) on complex site adjacent to 30th Street Station train hub. Carried project through DD phase. Developed Revit BIM standards from scratch.

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Work Experience (continued)

2015-2016 --- H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture, NY --- Project Designer

Tanger Center for the Performing Arts, Greensboro, NC --- 105,000 SF, \$60 million, new 3,000-seat state-of-the-art venue for a public-private partnership client entity. 3-tier 65,000 SF auditorium, public lobby, full back-of-house, and conference rooms. Highly technical program with tight budget. Carried project through DD phase.

2014-2015 --- Mitchell Kurtz Architect, NY --- Junior Architect

Chautauqua Institution Amphitheater Extension, Chautauqua, NY --- A historic 2,000-seat amphitheater renovation, increasing seating capacity, updating code compliance, expanding back-of-house functionality. Carried project through CD phase.

2012-2014 --- Andrew Franz Architect, NY --- Junior Architect

Upper West Side Duplex, New York, NY --- 5,000 SF, \$2 million. Gut renovation of a large two-story apartment. Coordinated carpenters, plumbers, HVAC subs, FF&E, and others, including a grand metal & wood stair at the confluence of several trades. Carried project through CA phase.

Chelsea Apartment, New York, NY ---1,000 SF, \$1 million, gut renovation. New kitchen, bathrooms, millwork, finishes, and FF&E. Carried project through CA phase.

Upper East Side Studio, New York, NY --- 500 SF, addition to a landmark building rooftop. New bathroom, millwork, exterior weatherproofing. Carried project through CA phase.

2011-2012 --- The Rockwell Group, NY --- Junior Designer

Google Cultural Institute, Paris, France --- Retrofit of a historic building in the 9th Arrondissement into a multimedia cultural center and office for Google. Offices, video projection hall, kitchens and pantries. Developed CAD drawing set and material schedules. DD phase.

Pier 54, Hudson Park, NY --- Schematic design for the revival of a 70,000 SF pier on the Hudson River near 14th Street, for the Diller von Furstenberg Family Foundation. Collaborating with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (landscape architects), small team worked iteratively using models and sketches.

Advocacy, Outreach

2025-Present --- NYC Parks Department, Trees New York --- Citizen Pruner --- Certification to maintain street trees.

2025 --- Urban Design Forum --- Participant --- Study Trip to Copenhagen, led by Gehl, tours and talks about the city's current policies and how to transpose them to NYC.

2023 --- AIA Civic Leadership Program --- Fellow --- A 6-month program bringing together 10 early- and mid-career architects and planners to develop leadership & advocacy skills, organize seminars, and engage the civic process.

2020-Present --- The Architectural League Mentorship Program --- Mentor --- In partnership with CUNY City Tech and The Spitzer School at City College. One-on-one mentoring.

2023-Present --- AECOM + NYCCT Pre-Internship Program --- Mentor --- Coordinated and led five 2-hr sessions with students from the CUNY City College of Technology. Profiled AECOM's work and culture. Guided students to summer internships.

2021-Present --- 105 Montague Street Decarbonization --- Researcher --- Spearheading an effort to decarbonize my 25-unit, 40,000 SF co-op and comply with NY Local Law 97.

2020, 2024 --- Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) --- Volunteer --- For the NYC Department of Homeless Services, a one-night citywide canvassing of NYC's public space by hundreds of participants to help establish an accurate count of people sleeping on the streets.

2020 --- Habitat for Humanity, A Brush With Kindness, Harlem, NY --- Volunteer --- Repainted the common spaces at the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Community Center in Harlem.

2019-Present --- Lexington Arts & Science --- Planner, Strategist --- Member of the brain trust to revive a historic Catskills hamlet through creative placemaking.

2008-2011 --- Appalachian Trail Conservancy --- Trailbuilder --- Rehabilitation of the famed Appalachian Trail, improving drainage and erosion, building steps from wood and stone, and clearing vegetation.

2009 --- Washington Trails Association --- Trailbuilder --- Seven-day rehabilitation project in the North Cascades mountain range. Back country project meant team had to carry in all of the gear and tools it required.

2006-2010 --- The Saturday Program at The Cooper Union --- Instructor --- Free art classes for NYC high school students, taught by Cooper Union undergraduates. Taught Architecture 2006-08 and 2009-10. Sound Composition 2008-09.

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Exhibitions, Shows

2021 --- Data Through Design (DxD): Ground Truth --- Data Visualization --- A digital exhibition with 10 artists, each piece using a publicly-available dataset on NYC's Open Data Portal. My piece with Noah Garcia, Broadway Data Boogie Woogie, used real-time traffic data to reimagine Mondrian's iconic painting as a digital traffic map. [Link](#).

2011 --- The Particular Premiere of a First --- Set Design --- Dance & multimedia performance choreographed & directed by Esmé Boyce. Premiere at the Baryshnikov Arts Centre, NY.

2005 --- Meet the Exhibitors --- Photography --- Senior student photography exhibition, LaGuardia High School.

2004 --- Meeting Place --- Photography --- Scandinavian student art exhibit, Trygve Lie Art Gallery, NY.

Competitions

2014 --- Guggenheim Helsinki --- 200,000 SF art museum, 43,000 SF for exhibition. Approx. €130 million.

2013 --- Public Summer --- Honorable Mention --- A pop-up pavilion in First Park, East Village, NY. Administered by SUPERFRONT & First Street Green.

2012 --- Public Summer --- "Library of Immediacy": a pop-up pavilion on Governor's Island, NY. Administered by SUPERFRONT.

2010 --- Prospect Park 3rd Street Gateway Design Competition --- Runner-Up --- Administered by The Park Slope Civic Council.

Skills, Hobbies

Design --- AutoCAD, Revit, Rhino, Grasshopper, Dynamo, SketchUp, Adobe Creative Suite

Programming --- Python, SQL, QGIS, HTML, Javascript, Arduino, Processing

Craft --- Model building, hand drafting and sketching, photography

Languages

Native --- Finnish, Russian, English

Fluent --- Spanish

Conversational --- French, German

Media, Press

2025 --- Pilot Waves --- To Sysiphus --- Performed my poem for an independent podcast. [Link](#).

2024 --- AIA Brooklyn, Pylon Magazine --- Interview. [Link](#).

2020 --- Our Streets, Our Stories (OSOS) --- Oral histories collected by the Brooklyn Public Library. Interview about my experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Link](#).

2017 --- ¿Qué Le Dirías A Tlaloc? / What Would You Say To Tlaloc? --- Wrote, produced, directed, and edited an independent documentary film about Mexico City's water infrastructure. [Link](#).

2017 --- CLOG Issue 15: CLOGxGUNS --- Wildcat (Ballistics Report) --- Fiction writing competition. [Link](#).

2017 --- Arts & Letters Magazine --- The Architect Gets Grandfathered --- Writing competition administered by Georgia College. Shortlisted for the Pushcart Prize. [Link](#).

2015 --- As Seen On [] --- Lights Up, Bitches --- Honorable Mention --- Writing competition administered by Urban Omnibus.

2016 --- Construction Matters --- Written by Georg Windeck, published by powerHouse Books. Provided architectural photography of the Aalto Experimental House in Muuratsalo, Finland.

2016 --- Re:Public --- SOMA --- Short fiction for the Zagreb Rooms student workshop, Zagreb University, Croatia.

2013-2015 --- The Satellite Collective --- Web Design Director --- An arts incubator based in New York City and Detroit. Designed Transmission Vols. IV & V, an online periodical.

2010 --- The Pioneer, 150th Anniversary Special Edition --- The Break-In (Based On Actual Events) --- Short fiction for The Cooper Union student newspaper.

2010-Present --- Crises of Documentation --- Personal blog with research, fiction, non-fiction, criticism, and poetry. [Link](#).