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Motivation Letter

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Ever since I was a child, I have always had an eye for Art and Design. Whether it was my innovative sketches of new ideas and inventions that I would contemplate about in my head, my more intricate and colorful paintings or finding myself taking photos of objects and buildings from a plethora of different angles which would give them a new perspective, my eye was always on the lookout for Art in its different forms. I grew up in Saudi, a developing country. There, neighborhoods tend to be a crossover of commercial and residential buildings, with a lack of any sense of urban organization and segregation especially in less developed districts which makes them hard to live in. Due to that, I always wondered how the life of Saudis communities would be affected if they lived in a better well-planned environment with well-designed houses, developed districts and an organized urban structure. Recently in the most developed neighborhoods, the lack of consistency among many areas in terms of spacing between buildings, design themes, wastewater and rainwater management, narrow streets, and walkability still remains a challenge. I always had an admiration for the American and European intake on neighborhood design. I appreciate how each neighborhood has its own unique identity and consistent organization in the urbanization and landscaping with dedicated parks, front yards, stores and an architectural language that speaks to the psychology of the residents. In my senior year of high school, I attended a career fair where I met an architect who explained to me how the role of architects was far more important than just drawing blue prints of buildings. In fact, it is a job that creates a physical and a psychological space that influences the behavior and interactions of different people within the vicinity of a building or a neighborhood. This helped me acknowledge the vital role of architects in enhancing the quality of our life and its surroundings. In fulfillment to my admiration, I wanted to initiate a change in our community and develop better architectural understanding in how to properly design residential and commercial buildings. In addition to how a simple neighborhood can be revitalized into a more vibrant and a lively spacious neighborhood with a strong sense purpose and community by taking up a career in architecture.

Via my undergraduate studies at the University of Petra (UOP), Jordan's top private university. I had the opportunity to be chosen as a teaching assistant to help instruct courses such as: Architectural Design I and Architectural Design II. My capstone graduation project was the design of an Interpretation Center for King Talal Dam in Jordan that highlights the significance of the site in its environment. The project also would add a socioeconomic implication to the city by providing further job opportunities improving the local community's prospects. This project was an example on how architecture can influence the social, cultural and economic aspects of a community. Furthermore, upon my participation in the World Architecture Community's (WA) competition, my project won The Student Category Award for the top best designs. Upon my graduation, the faculty members of my department had requested me on multiple occasions to be a juror on several committees to judge and grade other students' projects. I was able to provide my intake and criticism due to my own personal and professional experience. Finally, I provided current architectural students with free workshops on how to conceptualize design ideas, partly out of my efforts in maintaining my relationship with my department and faculty members, but also out of desire to give back to my university.