

CURRICULUM VITAE

Ali Balarlou, M.Pl.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Master of Urban and Regional Planning*, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran, 2008
 - Bachelor of Urban Planning, Design and Management*, University of Art, Tehran, Iran, 2005
- * evaluated as equivalent to Canadian Master and Bachelor degrees by World Education Services, 2016

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Currently pursuing membership with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Planner** January 2019 – Present
Armstrong Planning & Project Management Vaughan, Ontario

In this role, I coordinate and prepare applications including but not limited to Site Plan Control, Draft Plan of Condominium, Minor Variance, and Part Lot Control, as well as Building Permit applications. I provide support on submissions for Official Plan Amendments, Draft Plans of Subdivision, Zoning By-law Amendments, and appeals to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. In addition, I apply my expert level skills in a wide-range of software applications including AutoCAD and ArcGIS to prepare key plans (including Draft Plan of Subdivision, Subdivision Lotting, Site Plan etc.) as well as visuals and maps in support of development applications.

- **GIS Intern** March 2018 – December 2018
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Vaughan, Ontario

In this role, I gained knowledge on protection of the natural heritage system by developing and implementing restoration projects for environmental features such as wetlands, streams, forests, shoreline enhancement, and meadows. I also strengthened my technical skills by applying Integrated Restoration Prioritization framework (IRPF) using ArcGIS to identify the location of new restoration projects. I applied my knowledge and experience and organized geodatabases and spatial data for more than 1000 previous restoration projects and created a complete and integrated package of spatial information that would be used by the restoration team for planning, project management and budgeting of future plans and projects.

- **Planning Volunteer** April 2017 – August 2017
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Vaughan, Ontario

As planning volunteer, I assisted planners in the review and approval of environmental assessment and infrastructure permit applications under Ontario regulation 166/06. I applied my knowledge and experience to coordinate application circulations to TRCA planners and assist the TRCA planner with drafting responses to proponents. I also shadowed meetings with both internal and external stakeholders.

- ***Project Manager, Policy/Land Use Planner*** February 2011 – June 2016
Mahanshahr Co (Consulting Engineers) Tehran, Iran

In this role, I was responsible for leading the preparation and implementation of a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) in one of the most populated neighborhoods in Tehran. I managed a team of planners, socioeconomic experts and urban designers to prepare an overall study report, and a planning justification report in support of Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendments, and a CIP report. I also prepared land use and zoning maps and formulated related policies (such as tax reduction, max. height, lot coverage, min. municipal right-of-way, and parking rates). The research resulted in incentives encouraging investors and land owners to participate in the Community Improvement process in order to improve overall accessibility and mobility in the neighborhood.

I also presented the CIP recommendations during public open houses, Statutory Public Meetings, and Council Meetings and obtained CIP approvals. During implementation of the CIP, I also supported land owners and investors and liaised with City Staff on signing agreements, obtaining required Zoning By-law Amendments, Site Plan approvals and building permits.

- ***Project Manager-Policy/Land Use Planner*** April 2009 – February 2011
Tarhokavosh (T.O.K) Consulting Engineers Tehran, Iran

In this role as Project Manager, I worked on various projects for the public sector. As the representative of Tehran's Urban Renewal Organization, I coordinated the preparation of 10 regeneration plans for neighborhoods in the City of Tehran with a team of consultants. Using established terms of reference, I oversaw the preparation of required reports and maps by the consulting team. I ensured conformity of reports and mapping to existing regional and local growth management strategies, land use policies and natural heritage preservation policies. Moreover, as Project Manager, I successfully responded to multiple Requests for Proposals (RFP's) and secured work under two contracts which included required scope of work, estimated pricing and project scheduling.

In addition to the above, I prepared land use policies and a plan for a new development area in "ARAS Free Zone Area" in the North West part of Iran (Province of Azerbaijan). I worked with a team of urban design professionals to provide three options for new low-mid-high-rise residential developments. I provided land use policies and a plan that met the requirements of regional policies and prepared supportive reports and maps. In addition, I formulated provisions for new developments including min. lot frontage and depth, lot coverage, max. height (number of storeys), number of units, required setbacks and parking. I also developed a framework for building our internal Geodatabase which, ultimately, was used for research and mapping for project reports.

- ***Policy/Land Use Planner- GIS Coordinator***
Tarmeh Consulting Engineers

February 2008 – April 2009
Tehran, Iran

In this role, I was responsible for preparing Official Plans for urban and rural areas in 4 municipalities in province of Karaj. I contributed to reports, and prepared mapping for proposed city structure including road networks, natural heritage and open space networks and the overall land use plan. I worked with a team of planners to prepare land use policies and plans for various uses including residential, commercial, institutional and industrial areas. I also worked on identifying of the extent of the urban and rural areas within the cities' jurisdiction that supported future development and as well as natural heritage conservation according to regional growth management plans and policies.

Additionally, as a GIS Coordinator, I developed a custom geodatabase model in ArcGIS which compiled data from different sources including survey data (land use, building quality) and census data. Using ArcGIS, I completed spatial analysis exercises in order to provide information for reports including data tables and maps (such as Schedules for Official Plan including maps for City Structure, Road and Transit Systems, Land Use and Open Spaces – all in appropriate scale and high-quality graphic design).

PLANNING AWARDS

- The City of Tehran's Municipality, Iran 2008
The City of Tehran's Urban Research & Planning Centre sponsored my Master's Thesis: "Explanation of the Role of Information & Communications Technology on City Globalization and Urban Planning Process. Case Study: Tehran's Urban Planning and the Issue of Globalization"