

# Martine J. Zaarour

ARCHITECT - ENTREPRENEUR - DESIGN & BUSINESS CONSULTANT  
YAC: EMBASSY OF THE NETHERLANDS, BEIRUT | BOD, GINI LEBANON

**JAR THURAYÄ**  
LEBANESE HANDCRAFTED DELICACIES



## PROFILE STATEMENT

Architect, entrepreneur, and business development professional with international experience across Beirut, Madrid, Washington DC, San Francisco, and Amsterdam. I have trained and mentored women and youth entrepreneurs, designed entrepreneurship curricula and reports for NGOs, and supported ventures from ideation to growth. As the founder of Jar Thuraya, I lead a women-led food enterprise that preserves Lebanese culinary heritage while creating economic opportunities for rural women. My work combines design, innovation, entrepreneurship, and social impact through consulting, training, program design, and business advisory services. Fluent in Arabic, English, and French.

## EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIPS

2014 | BA of Architecture with Honors

*Lebanese American University, Byblos, Lebanon*

2019 | Fellowship in Economic Empowerment

*Virginia Tech, US Department of State, Washington, DC, USA*

2022 | Fellowship in Community Solutions

*George Mason, US Department of State, San Francisco, USA*

2026 | Fellowship in Female Leadership and C.E.

*Vrije University Amsterdam, Kingdom of The Netherlands*

## IN ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

2024 | Design and Generative AI Consultant

*Saudi Films, Riyadh, KSA*

2018 | On-site Architect

*Mayne Group, Jounieh, Lebanon*

- Led architectural design and on-site excavation, from concept development, to spatial planning.

2015 | Concept and Design Architect

*RHA, Jounieh, Lebanon*

- Prepared detailed Bills of Quantities (BOQs) and construction documentation for residential, venue, and public space projects.

2014 | Visiting Architect

*Touza Arquitectos, Madrid, Spain*

- Worked on F&B outlets, hotels, and luxury residential villas in Spain in a Spanish-speaking architectural team. Contributed to design development, and technical detailing, while adapting to local regulations and cultural contexts.

## COMPETENCIES

### Languages

Arabic, English, French. [level 1 Spanish]

### Softwares

Autocad 2D/3D, Sketchup, PSD, Ai, InDesign, Canva, Keynote, Gamma, Microsoft Office, Asana, Slack,, Animation, Editing, Modeling and Generative Ai Design.

## CURRENT ROLES

2025 | External Consultant

*Global Affairs Service Center - LAU GASC | Abaad, Center for Gender Equality*

- Reports, Toolkits and Curriculum Design

2025 | Entrepreneurship Trainer and Coach

*Bedayati NGO, Beirut, Lebanon*

- Delivered entrepreneurship training and mentorship to aspiring entrepreneurs, guiding participants through ideation, business model development, market validation, and pitch preparation.

## CONSULTANCIES

2025 | Monitoring and Evaluation

*Forsa II - 360 Consulting, Mercy Corps, Beirut, Lebanon.*

2025 | Women, Peace, and Security Trainer

*Leadership for Sustainable Development, Beirut, Lebanon*

2024 | Design and Generative AI Consultant

*Saudi Films, Riyadh, KSA*

2024 | Entrepreneurship Trainer and Mentor

*Farah Social Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon*

- Designed and trained the YEP Entrepreneurship Program for marginalized youth in Lebanon.

2024 | Youth Mentor

*Education for Employment, EFE, Beirut, Lebanon*

2023 | Business Coach

*The Rural Initiative, GIZ, Beirut, Lebanon*

- Provided 1:1 personalized support to program participants, including M&E and reporting.

2022 | Business Advisor

*Centro Community Partners, San Francisco, California, USA*

- Delivered training of Entrepreneurship Programs for BIPOC and LatinX women in NorCal.

2021 | Business Coach

*Jusoor, Agri-Accelerator, Beirut, Lebanon*

2019 | Communication Fellow

*Hungry, Arlington, Washington, DC. USA*

- Assessed program impact through community kitchen visits in Virginia and DC.

## INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

2024 | ASME's Rowad 2024 Country Rep  
*ESCWA MENA, Doha, Qatar*

2022 | ADIFE Exhibition for SME's  
*GIZ, Abu Dhabi, UAE*

2022 | Women Innovators Program Country Rep.  
*UNDP Arab States - MWC, 4YFN Program, Barcelona, Spain*

2021 | Gender Innovation Agora Country Rep.  
*UN Women MENA Region*

2021 | Peace Ambassador, Country Rep.  
*Global Peace Chain*

2021 | Dubai Expo Lebanese Pavilion, Country Rep.  
*UNDP Lebanon, Dubai, UAE*

2019 | Arab Young Professional Forum Country Rep.  
*UNESCO, Tunis, Tunisia*

2019 | International Youth Forum IYF3  
*UNESCO, Beijing, Changsha, Nanjing, China*

2018 | Regional Forum on Gender Country Rep.  
*UNDP Arab States, Tunis, Tunisia*

2016 | European Youth Event, EYE16 Country Rep.  
*European Parliament, Strasbourg, France*

2015 | 5th UNESCO Youth Forum Country Rep.  
*UNESCO HQ, Paris, France*

2015 | Meeting of Design Students, MEDS  
*Urban Network, Byblos, Lebanon*

## CERTIFICATES

2024 | Chief of Business Innovation - ongoing  
*Global Innovation Institute, GINI*

2024 | Curriculum Development for GCED  
*Asia Pacific Center for Education and Understanding  
Global Citizenship Education Capacity Building*

2024 | Food and Beverage Management  
*Università Bocconi*

2021 | Google Project Management  
*Google Scholarship*

- Foundations of Project Management and Planning
- Foundations of User Experience UX
- Foundations of Digital Marketing and e-commerce

2021 | UNWomen Training Curriculum  
*UN Women, MENA*

- Women, Peace and Security
- Women's Economic Empowerment Women's Leadership and Decision Making Gender Equality and Education
- Sexual Violence and Gender Diversity Violence against Women and Girls

## ACCELERATORS & AWARDS

2025 | Giving Joy Awards

*Giving Joy Organization, Boston, USA*

- First Lebanese to be selected as one of six winners of the Giving Joy Award, which recognizes women entrepreneurs worldwide and supports them in their mission to create impact and grow their businesses.

2025 | Aspire VP SEED

*Alfanar, Beirut, Lebanon*

- Received funding and support from Alfanar for the rehabilitation of the community kitchen, enabling improved infrastructure and expanded impact.

2023 | Impact Accelerator

*Seed Spot, California, USA*

- Completed the Accelerator in California, gaining advanced training in scaling mission-driven ventures and refining business models for social impact.

2023 | Impact Accelerator | Pitch Winner: People's Choice  
*Because Organization, Idaho, USA*

- Completed the accelerator training and received mentorship from CPG consultants, who supported in developing the expansion plan for California

2021 | The Startup Roadshow | Pitch Winner: 1st Prize

*Spark, Jusoor, Beirut, Lebanon*

- Completed entrepreneurship training from ideation to business development; won the pitch competition and received SEED money to launch the business..

2021 | Ten Outstanding Young People of Lebanon Award

*JCI, Beirut, Lebanon*

2020 | Shaping Tripoli - Badael

*Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club, Tripoli, Lebanon*

2020 | Culinary Diplomacy Program

*US Embassy Beirut, Lebanon*

- Completed a Culinary Diplomacy program focused on food entrepreneurship, receiving mentorship from international chefs. Worked collaboratively with a diverse team from across the MENA region to explore culinary business models and cross-cultural innovation.

2019 | Youth Leadership Program YLP4 | 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner

*UNDP Lebanon, Injaz, Beirut, Lebanon*

2019 | Fellowship Pitch Competition | Pitch Winner: Best in Category

*Legacy, US Department of State, Washington, DC, USA*

- Awarded Best in Category: Cultural and Environmental Preservation at the pitch event in Washington, D.C., recognizing the project's impact and innovation in sustainable, community-driven solutions.