

# RESUME

## Edward BALASSANIAN

Architect, Urban Designer, City and Regional Planner

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**SUMMARY:** Development research and planning. Corporate management and business administration. Planning, programming and project management. Comprehensive professional experience covering all phases of architectural, urban design, and planning projects: inception, promotion, design, implementation, and supervision. Community activism in social and cultural arena.

**EDUCATION:**

*University of Pennsylvania:*  
Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning 1975  
Master of City Planning 1968

*University of Teheran:*  
Master of Architecture 1963

### EXPERIENCE:

August 1992 – Present **ARMENIAN CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL ART**  
**“NPAK” in Armenian acronym**  
CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
*Worked pro-bono as a volunteer, managing the affairs of the Center and advising on artistic matters, as well as conducting public and governmental relations and fund raising,*

January 2010 – Present **RESEARCH AND PLANNING CORPORATION:**  
**Construction and Project Management Team**  
FOUNDER and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
*Provision of comprehensive Architectural and Engineering Services (A&E) in the Republic of Armenia and the region, ranging from project development through completion of construction and delivery.*

June 2002 – Mar. 2009 **CAFESJIAN MUSEUM FOUNDATION - ARMENIA**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (until January 2008)  
DIRECTOR of Construction Management and Supervision Office (Januart 2008-March 2009)  
*In charge of management of construction and pre-construction cultural activities of a world-class museum of modern art, in Yerevan, by donation of National Benefactor Gerard L. Cafesjian in partnership with the Governmrnt of Republic of Armenia.*

Sep. 1998 Mar. 2002 **HOLY MOTHER SEE OF EDJMIADZIN**  
PROJECT AND CONSTRUCTON MANAGER  
ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR CATHEDRAL OF YEREVAN  
*In the capacity of Authorized Representative of Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians was called upon to organize completion of the largest Armenian Cathedral in the world, on time for the celebration of 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armenia officially accepting Christianity in 301 AD. Project cost was estimated at \$16,000,000. The target was met and the consecration of the cathedral took place on September 23, 2001.*

July 1998- Present **RESAERCH AND PLANNING CORP. / E. Balassanian and Associates**  
*Architectural and Planning Consultants and Construction Managers, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia.*  
PRINCIPAL

Architectural and planning consultancy, project management and evaluation, conflict resolution, government relations, etc.

- Jan. 1997-May 1998    **DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH (Eastern United States)**  
*Headquarters of 43 parishes and mission parishes of the Armenian Apostolic Church in the Eastern United States.*  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR**  
Reported to the Primate.  
Duties included planning, programming, budgeting, implementation, and performance monitoring of all departments and programs, attending all administrative matters, and organizing public relations, development and fund-raising campaigns.
- Nov. 1995-Dec. 1996    **ARMENIA FUND U.S.A., INC.**  
*National Committee of the Eastern United States of America of "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund.*  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Duties included management of the headquarters in New York, public relations, devising and implementing fund-raising campaigns, solicitation of large-scale contributions, management of contribution records and follow-up, etc.
- Dec. 1992-Oct. 1995    **"HAYASTAN" ALL-ARMENIAN FUND**  
*An International fund-raising organization created for the purpose of collecting voluntary donations in the form of "National Giving" from Armenians around the world, and using them for implementing development and humanitarian projects in Armenia and Artsakh (Mountainous Karabagh).*  
**MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**HEAD OF THE CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT**  
Duties: Creation and implementation of management structure of the Executive Board, and founding and direction of the Construction Department of the Fund based on "Western" practices and procedures of the construction trade.
- 1992    **THE ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA**  
*A national non-profit organization in the United States, which promotes public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues.*  
**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
In Charge of planning and directing activities of the organization in Washington DC and Yerevan, Armenia, and coordinating these activities with various Armenian and non-Armenian governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations.
- 1990-1991    **H.L.W. INTERNATIONAL**  
*Architecture, Engineering, Planning Consultants, New York, U.S.A.*  
**SENIOR PLANNING CONSULTANT**  
Specifically invited to join HLW International for conducting pre-feasibility study for "**The CITY: Center for International Trade in Yerevan**", a major undertaking in the Republic of Armenia, of the former USSR, for creation of an adequate environment in Yerevan, capital of the republic, amenable for international business and trade.
- 1983-Present    **United Nations Center for Human Settlements (HABITAT)**  
On the Roster of International Experts in Architecture, Housing and Urban Design  
Projects included:
  - Preparation of the United Nations Secretary General's Report to the General Assembly on the living conditions of Palestinian people, for three consecutive General Assemblies in the eighties
  - Preparation of summary reports for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, of urban projects financed by the World Bank.
- 1980-1998    **Practicing architect in New York.**
- 1970-1980    **RESEARCH AND PLANNING CORPORATION**  
*Urban and Regional Planners, Architects and Engineers, Teheran, Iran.*  
**PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

- Founded and managed this consulting firm, which grew to a staff of 70 professionals and 3 regional offices. Over this period the firm completed 8 comprehensive master plans for Iranian cities (10,000 to 500,000 in size), and more than 100 construction projects ranging from small public structures to a housing development of 3,500 units, as well as more than \$1.5 million worth of annual consulting and research commissions/assignments.
- During this period also served as special adviser to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Iran on planning, development, and construction matters.

1970-1971

**DEPARTMENT OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING**

*School of Fine Arts, University of Teheran, Teheran, Iran.*

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CITY PLANNING

1969-1970

**ADIBI-HARRIS ASSOCIATES**

*An American-Iranian Joint Venture, Teheran, Iran.*

SENIOR PLANNER

Responsible for planning section of the Master Plan of Iranian Ports. Designed scientific model for the flow of foreign trade cargo, and coordinated its computer simulation. The objective was optimization of Iranian ports and intercity transportation facilities, based on cost/benefit analysis of capital investment vis-à-vis total transportation cost to the national economy.

1967-1969

**Part time researcher and designer in various U.S. consulting and research agencies.**

Projects included:

- Comprehensive master plans for several counties in West Virginia
- University of Pennsylvania Student Housing Complex
- Minicar Mass Transit System.

1963-1965

**ADIBI-HARRIS ASSOCIATES**

*An American-Iranian Joint Venture, Teheran, Iran.*

CHIEF ARCHITECT

Headed a department of 3 architects and 7 draftspersons.

Projects included varying size housing, industrial, and administrative projects, and comprehensive master plans of Iranian ports of Bandar Abbas, Bandar Lengeh, and city of Ahwaz.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

1. *Architecture in Relation with Climatic conditions: Housing for the Public Employees in Iran*, 800 pages, 4 volumes, Research and Planning Corporation, Teheran, Iran, 1977.
2. "Mass Media and Rural-Urban Transition", *Environmental Studies*, No. 2, 1973, Center for Environmental Coordination, University of Teheran.
3. *Planning Social Leadership: A Conceptual Study on Le Corbusier*. Doctoral dissertation in city planning, presented to the faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Pennsylvania, 1975.
4. Eleven technical and research papers published in conjunction with projects produced at the Research and Planning Corporation.

**PERSONAL:**

Born August 31, 1936, Gorgan, Iran.

Married, one son (born 1969).

Religion: Christian, Armenian Apostolic Church.

Citizenship: United States of America.

Permanent Residence: Republic of Armenia

**REFERENCES:**

Will be supplied upon request.