



## Susan Roaf



### Biography ▾

Professor Susan Roaf was born in 1958 in Penang, Malaysia. She studied in Australia and the United Kingdom. Susan Roaf obtained her first degree in architecture in 1975 at the University of Manchester. She later graduated with a degree in architecture from the London Architecture Association. Susan Roaf received her Ph.D. in 1989 from the Oxford Brookes University, studying Windcatchers of Yazd in Iran. After graduating Roaf lectured in Technology and Design at Oxford Brookes from 1989 to 2005 but moved to Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh in 2005 where she was appointed Professor of Architectural Engineering. She has practiced for a number of years on the design of housing, schools, hospitals and town planning, and has taught at Baghdad University, University of Federico Naples II, the Open University, and Arizona State University. Her research focuses on windcatchers, traditional Middle Eastern and nomadic technologies. Professor Roaf also studied architecture in Iran, Mesopotamian archeology, photovoltaics, low carbon, resistance and sustainable design and thermal comfort from areas in Yazd-Iran.

Susan Roaf has a prominent personality in Britain because she built the Oxford Ecohouse, a house in Oxford designed to maximise energy efficiency. It is equipped with the first photovoltaic cell roof installed in Britain. She is a designer, teacher, writer, and pioneer of solar energy, and chairs the International Teachers' Chair at the Architecture Organization and the Crane Westminster Counting Team. She is also the chair of many international conferences, including the Second International Conference on Solar Cities in 2006, the Windsor Conference on Thermal Comforts in 1994, 2001, 2004, 2006 and 2008, and the Architectural Education Conferences in 2006, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2008 at the University of Florence. She has also been responsible for a wide range of planning committees, urban design, architecture, etc. Susan Roaf is a member of the South Korean-based International Solar Cities Design Board, the director of Dundee Solar City on the Advisory Board of the Resistance Design Institute in New York, and the director of the Edinburgh Carbon Innovation Center. She was also a member of the Oxford City Council from 2001 to 2008 and chaired the Environmental Review Committee. Her recent awards include 2013 Top 6 - UK 'First Women' Awards as a 'Visionary' in the Built Environment'; 2013 Top 10 'Women in Architecture' Awards, Architect's Journal, and in 2010 'the AJ's most influential UK architectural academic' in the field of Sustainable Design. She lectures internationally, and is an expert adviser in the field of energy and buildings to organisations in the USA, Austria, New Zealand, Norway and Italy. She has also studied aspects of traditional technologies during 10 years of research in Iran and Iraq. Her recent research covers solar systems, micro-grids, community energy, energy storage, low carbon, resilient, sustainable and eco design, thermal comfort and traditional energy technologies.

