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Shah is Associate Professor in Materials Science and Design at the University of Cambridge's [Department of Architecture](#), and senior scientist at the [Centre for Natural Material Innovation \(CNMI\)](#). Understanding the relationships between materials, society, technology, history and nature, Shah's research aims to design and innovate with natural materials by exploring low-energy methods of manufacture, improving structural performance, introducing multifunctionalities, translating across disciplines and application sectors. A megawatt wind turbine with a wooden tower and [flax biocomposite blades](#). An affordable ankle-foot disability orthosis from recycled plastic waste. An [off-grid low-energy house](#) constructed from industrial hemp materials. A room-temperature processing method for [artificial spider silk-like textile fibres](#). A [green policy](#) that weaves agroforestry and construction in a circular bioeconomy approach enabling aggressive decarbonisation. These are examples of how Shah's research and design at the CNMI imagines the replacement of anthropogenic materials with bio-based materials, such as engineered timber, bamboo, natural fibres and their composites. Shah's work is published in over [60 peer-reviewed journal papers](#), has attracted numerous awards such as the International Quadrant Award 2015 and the JEC Asia 2013 Innovation Award, has been exhibited at the [Dutch Design Week 2021](#), [London Design Biennale 2021](#) and [Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition 2019](#), and regularly appears in international media such as on BBC, Reuters, Guardian, Dezeen, and Telegraph.