

Resume – Irene Leisewitz

1. Personal profile

A highly motivated and hardworking professional architect, with a particular interest in house design. Have been involved in residential architecture since 1993. I Worked at several reputable South African architect's practices. I sat the South African board exam in August 2003, and registered as a Professional Architect in May 2004. I had my own practice which I operated between 2003 and 2006, and again from 2011-2014. I then worked part-time at Linda Lee Architectural Design. At this point I decided to make a career and go back to University to qualify as a teacher, after which I taught at two separate schools before immigrating to the USA as a family in April 2022. I therefore resigned from the South African Council of Architectural Profession (SACAP, professional registration number: PArch. 7030).

2. Objective

I have enjoyed specialising in residential architecture, as the one-on-one contact working with clients brings a wonderful sense of satisfaction. I enjoy being able to interpret their needs for their dream homes, whilst keeping within their budget (without compromising on a good style of architecture). Additions and remodelling have become a passion.

3. Key skills

- Computer literate in Microsoft Word
- CAD software skills in ArchiCAD, AutoCAD and Revit
- Seven years of experience in house design and full scale working drawings.
- Two and a half year's experience in an architect's firm which included being involved in projects from design through to site supervision.
- Work well with people
- Good organiser
- Leadership skills

- Cross cultural communication skills
- Initiator
- Creative
- Diligent and dependable

4. Education

4.1 UNISA (University of South Africa)

Pretoria, South Africa 2017 - 2019

Postgraduate Degree in Education (Intermediate and Senior Phase)

Received this certificate with DISTINCTION

4.2 Tshwane University of Technology

(originally Pretoria Technikon)

Pretoria, South Africa 1997 – 2000

Received an overall mark of 68%

Masters Degree in Architecture Technology

Part 1: Design dissertation: “Lerato Youth Centre”

- Youth Centre to be built in Majaneng, Hammanskraal (a sprawling underprivileged South African township just outside the capital city, Pretoria)
- In order to meet the client’s needs as well as community needs, an extensive process of community workshops and interviews took place.
- Designed to meet the needs of the community, to be cost effective and sustainable with the focus on community empowerment and responsible ownership of the project.

Part 2: Research Thesis: “Principles for use by design and development professionals in community development projects”

- Recognised the need to address the whole concept of being an effective ‘community architect’ (especially in the South African context) to avoid misunderstandings which could lead to projects ending up as ‘white elephants’ or vandalised in communities which desperately need development and upliftment.
- The thesis involved the following process:
 - Discussing the need for community development as well challenging the (traditional) role of the architect.
 - Selecting Winterveld as a community setting with various types of community projects (eg: clinics; schools & community centre) as case studies.

- Choosing criteria against which the case studies were assessed.
- Thorough evaluation of case studies; and providing principles for architects to apply in community development projects to avoid failures and misunderstandings during the process. To encourage more involvement by architects in development work in South Africa.

4.3 Pretoria Technikon

Pretoria 1995 – 1996

Bachelors in Architecture Technology

- Entrepreneurship 64%
- Housing 75%
- Structures 60%
- Principles of Urban Design 68%
- Applied design 72%
- Theory of design 70%

4.4 Pretoria Technikon

Pretoria 1992 – 1994

Diploma in Architecture Technology

4.5 Short courses

- Caddie course 1994 – Pretoria Technikon
- National Re-development Leadership Conference 1995 – Pretoria Technikon
- Leadership Training School, Hatfield Training Centre

4.5 Pretoria High School for Girls

Pretoria, South Africa 1986 – 1991

Matric Certificate, University Exemption

5. Employment history

5.1 Hatfield Christian School

Pretoria, South Africa 4th Grade teacher 2021

I had the privilege of teaching in a private christian school, with advantaged children with many resources.

5.2 Pure Hope School

Pretoria, South Africa 4th Grade teacher 2020

I had the privilege of teaching immigrant children from different ethnic groups, who were very disadvantaged with a real language barrier. Although a challenging environment to teach in, with limited resources, I found it very rewarding.

5.3 Freelance House designs

Proprietor – Pretoria January 1999 – 2006

I accepted various design projects which I completed. My activities have ranged from building additions to existing homes to the full scale design and construction drawings of new homes.

- Sketch plans
- Full scale working drawings
- City Council submission and approval of plans
- Site inspections
- Construction drawings

5.4 Linda Lee Architectural Design

Architectural Internship during second year practical – Garsfontein, Pretoria
1993 – 1997, 2015 - 2019

Linda Lee is a well recognised designer within the Pretoria East community, and specializes in house designs. Linda Lee has had her own architectural practice for over 20 years. She has designed more than 2000 houses, many of which have appeared in the *SA Home Owners* magazine.

- Exposed to the running of an office
- Mentored in house designs
- Trained to do full scale working drawings
- Construction and detailing
- City Council submission and approval
- Site meetings
- Trained to work on AutoCAD and Revit drawing programmes

5.5 Heyn & Bolt Architects cc

Waterkloof Ridge, Pretoria January 2001 – August 2003

Heyn & Bolt is a progressive and innovative architectural firm. The design process involved working on 3D ArchiCAD software.

Projects varied and included hospitals, shopping centres and a radio station. I was involved in the following:

- Trained in working on ArchiCAD software.
- Exposed to the full running of an Architects office
- Assumed responsibility for house building projects from Client-Architect agreement phase to the full design process; working drawings; detailing; Council submission and approval of plans and tenders. I was exposed to the formulation of contracts (such as the JBCC), site supervision and site meetings.
- I took a leading role in the “Impact Radio” project, which is an office block built on Corobay ave, Waterkloof Glen, Pretoria.