

Tharique De Silva // Class of 2017  
RIM Architects

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# Professional Preparedness Workshop

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**Alumni Panel**  
**04/11 Thu 6-8pm**  
**Brannan Gallery**

Alumni share their experiences and offer advice

See what they are working on now!

International student alumni discuss OPT and H1B visa issues

Network with alumni and get referrals!

Reception to follow with refreshments

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# The Big Picture...

So you want to be an architect, right?

The school world and the professional world are two completely different entities, though that does not mean that they are unfamiliar to one another. Your first job out of university is, in some ways, your most important as it will set the guiding force for what you want to do in your career, as well as what you are looking for.

The journey does not end once you graduate! There are numerous challenges to overcome but with time, patience, and a willingness to learn you will get there. The most important thing is to keep pushing forward!



THARIQUE DE SILVA (HEY THAT'S ME!)

# What were my goals?

## SCHOOL -

### What I was looking for:

- Sustainability-focused practice
- Varying types of work
- Mid - large sized firm
- Within San Francisco (minimal commute)
- Let's be honest, any job would do

## WORK -

### What I got:

- A company that cares on an individual level
- Opportunities to constantly learn more
- Projects at various stages of completion
- Good work / life balance
- Career growth opportunities



**Commercial:**

Retail, Office, Transportation, Aviation

**Civic & Cultural:**

Visitor Centers, National Park Concessions

**Hospitality**

**Residential**

**Healthcare**

**Educational**

**Federal**

**RIM ARCHITECTS**

Architecture

Interior Design

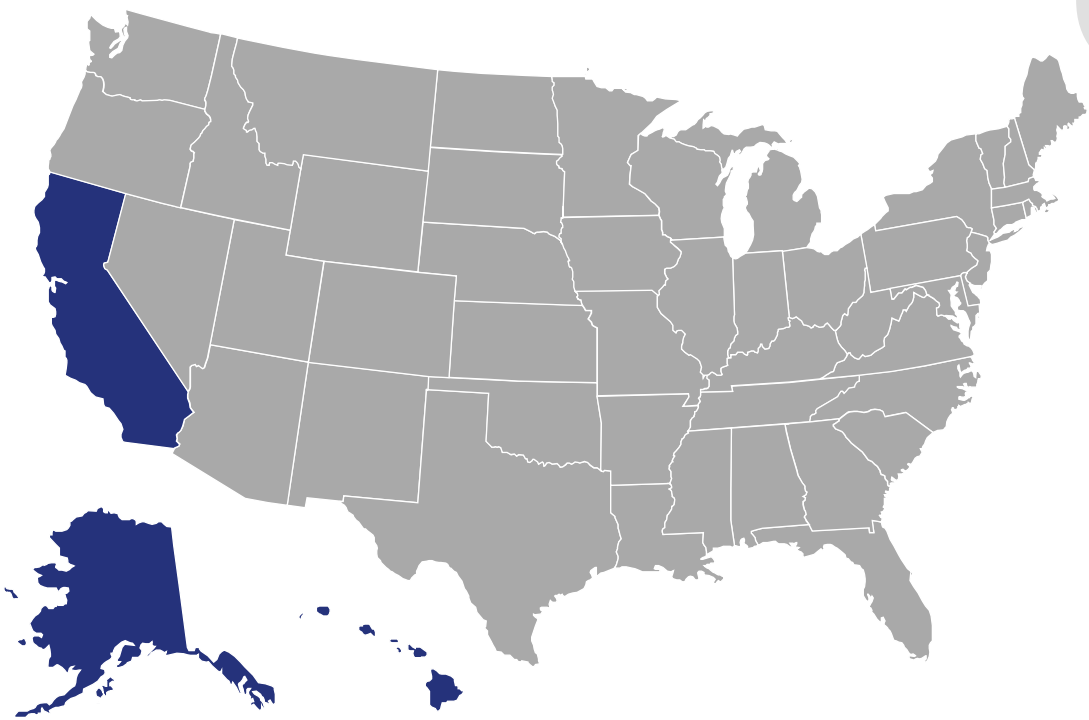
Planning Strategies

Sustainable Design

Branding & Graphic Design

**RIM**

Our  
OUR OFFICES -  
Offices



San Francisco  
Tustin  
Honolulu  
Anchorage  
Guam\*  
Manila\*

COMMERCIAL OFFICE

LATEST PROJECTS

# 85 Bluxome Street



LATEST PROJECTS

# Big Bend National Park



COMMERCIAL OFFICE INTERIOR

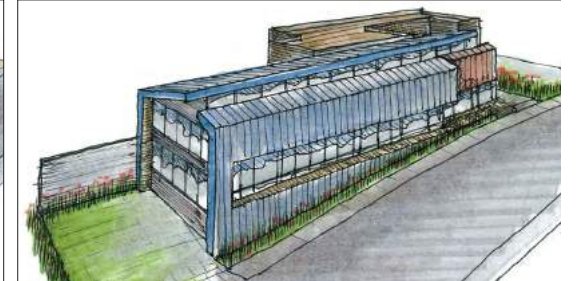
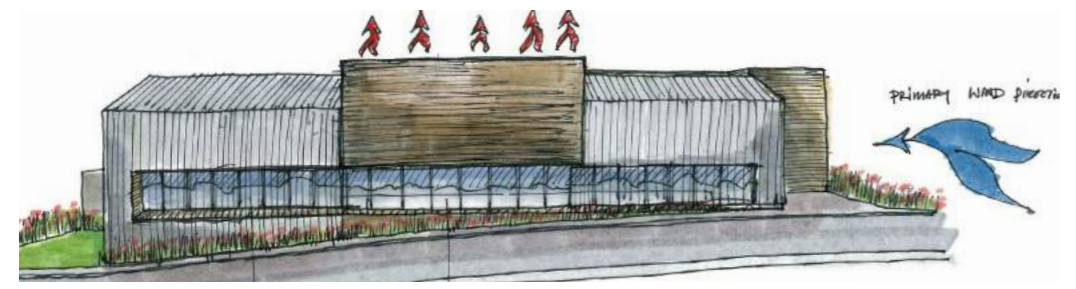
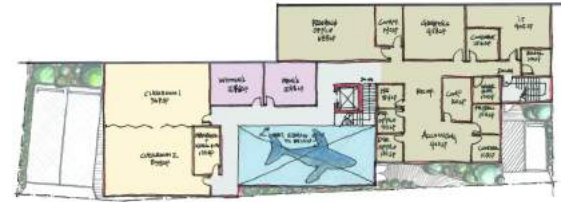
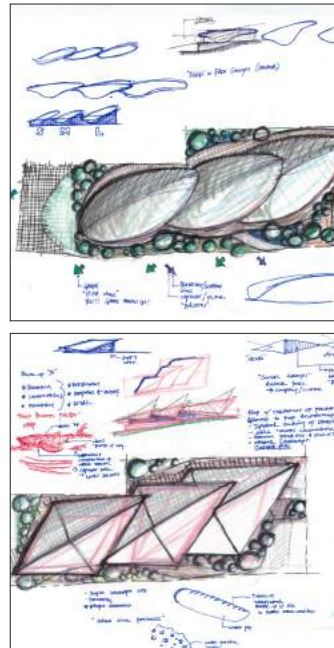
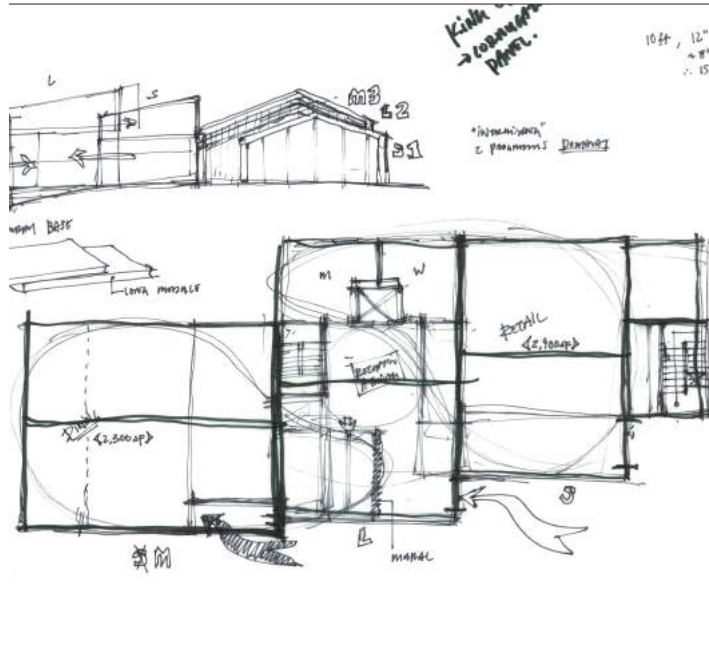
LATEST PROJECTS

# PG&E 77 Beale Street



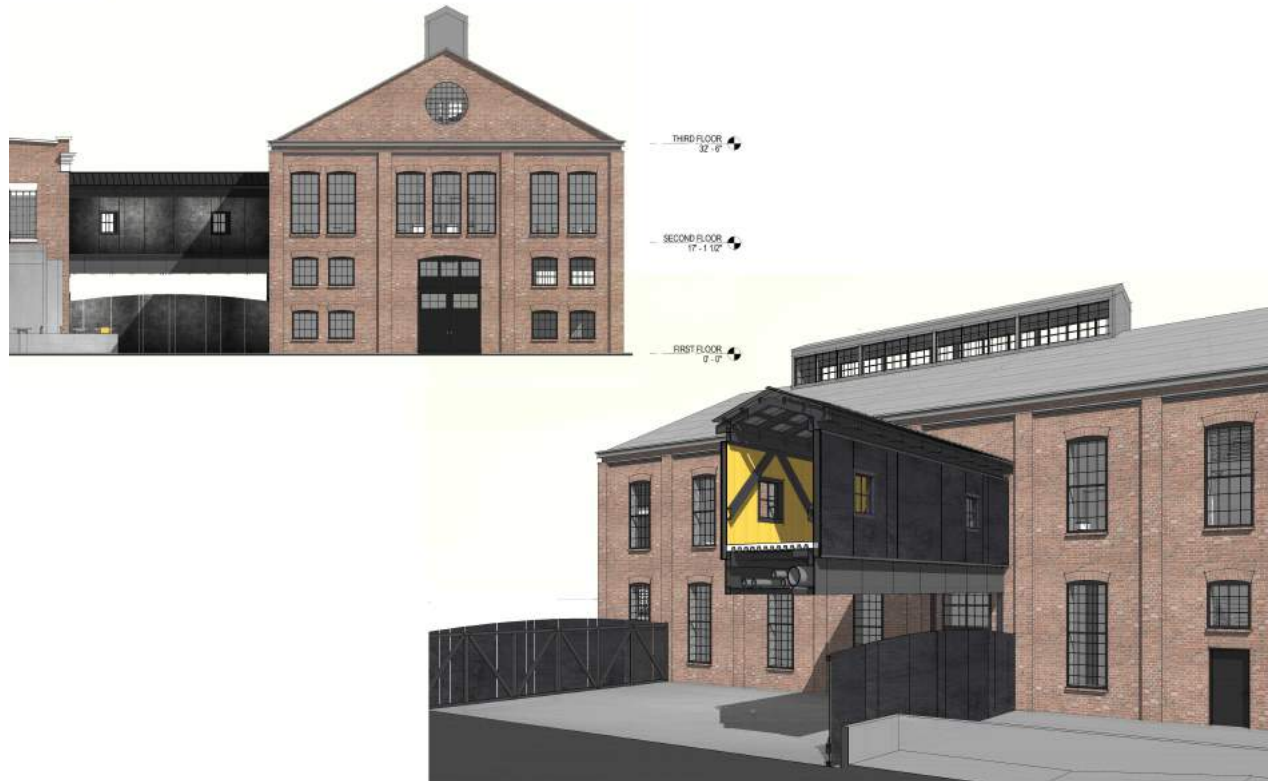


# Pacific Whale Foundation




LATEST PROJECTS

# Savage & Cooke Distillery



Gallery & Awards



Savage and Cooke Distillery – Mare Island Building 45

**Savage and Cooke Distillery – Mare Island Building 45** [Share Project Link](#)

PROJECT: Savage and Cooke Distillery – Mare Island Building 45  
LOCATION: Vallejo, CA  
ARCHITECT: RIM Architects  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: ZFA Structural Engineers  
CONTRACTOR: Terra Nova Industries  
AWARD CATEGORY: Durable and Adaptable Wood Structures  
PHOTO: ZFA Structural Engineers

The unique aspect of this adaptive use project is the extent to which the existing wood framing was preserved and left exposed when the building was redesigned to house a distillery's tasting rooms and whiskey barrel storage. Built in the 1850s, the historic naval structure—which had survived a fire and multiple earthquakes—was framed with knail-free wood joists and solid wood girders spanning its entire width. Engineers proof-loaded the existing framing to determine its capacity for the heavy whiskey barrels. They then added internal steel framing as well as a secondary gravity system along the perimeter of the unreinforced brick masonry bearing walls to improve lateral-force resistance. Supplemental wood framing was sourced from other parts of the project where wood was removed. The result is a safe building that supports the weight of its new use while celebrating the original structure. 15,300 sq ft Type III construction.

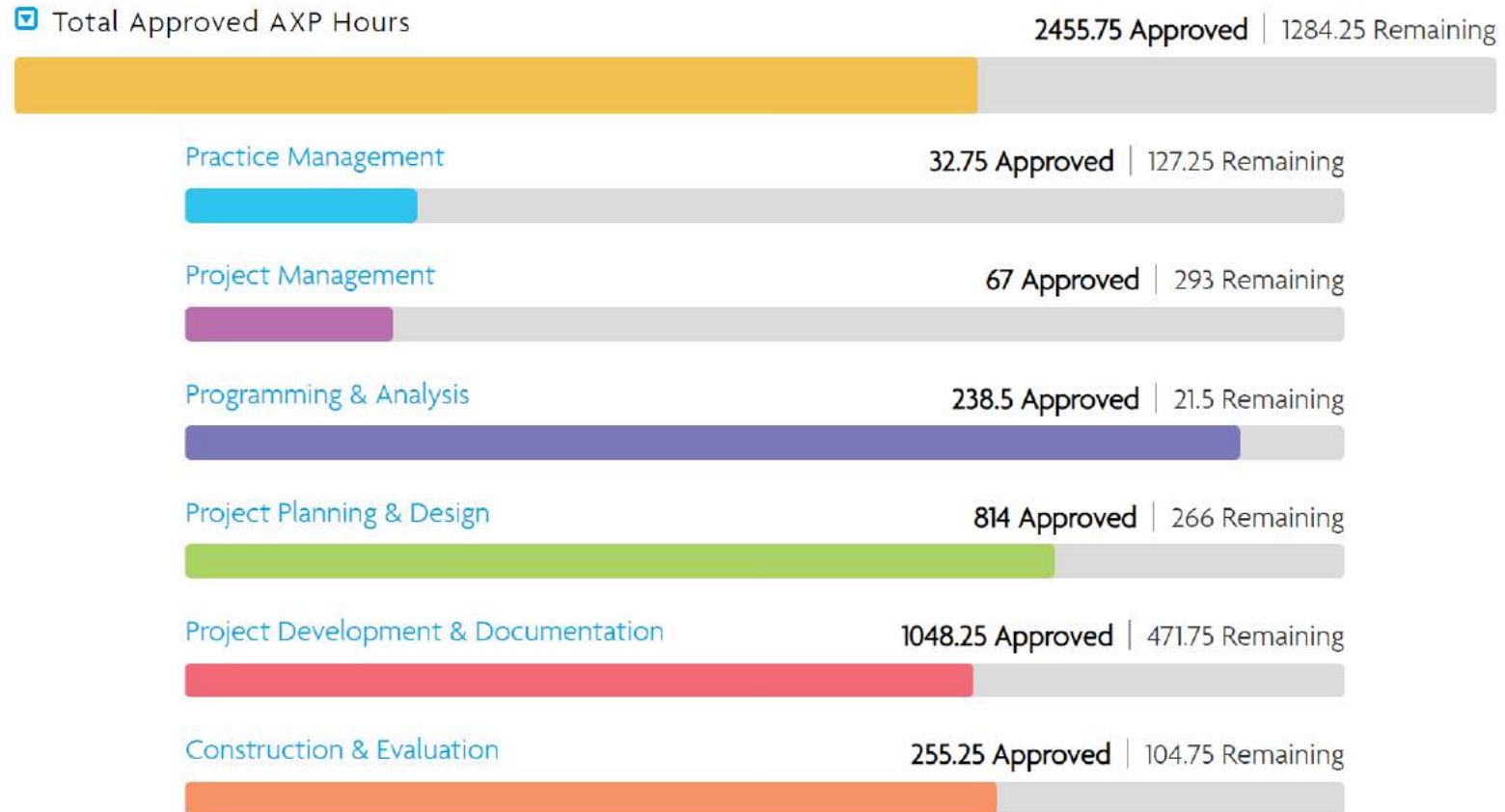


1. Priority tasks
2. All other tasks
3. Constant phone coordination
4. Small material samples
5. Project documents / redlines
6. Reference sheets / current redlines
7. Full-size samples
8. CalDAG / CBC (buried)
9. Business cards (clients, consultants, vendors, etc.)

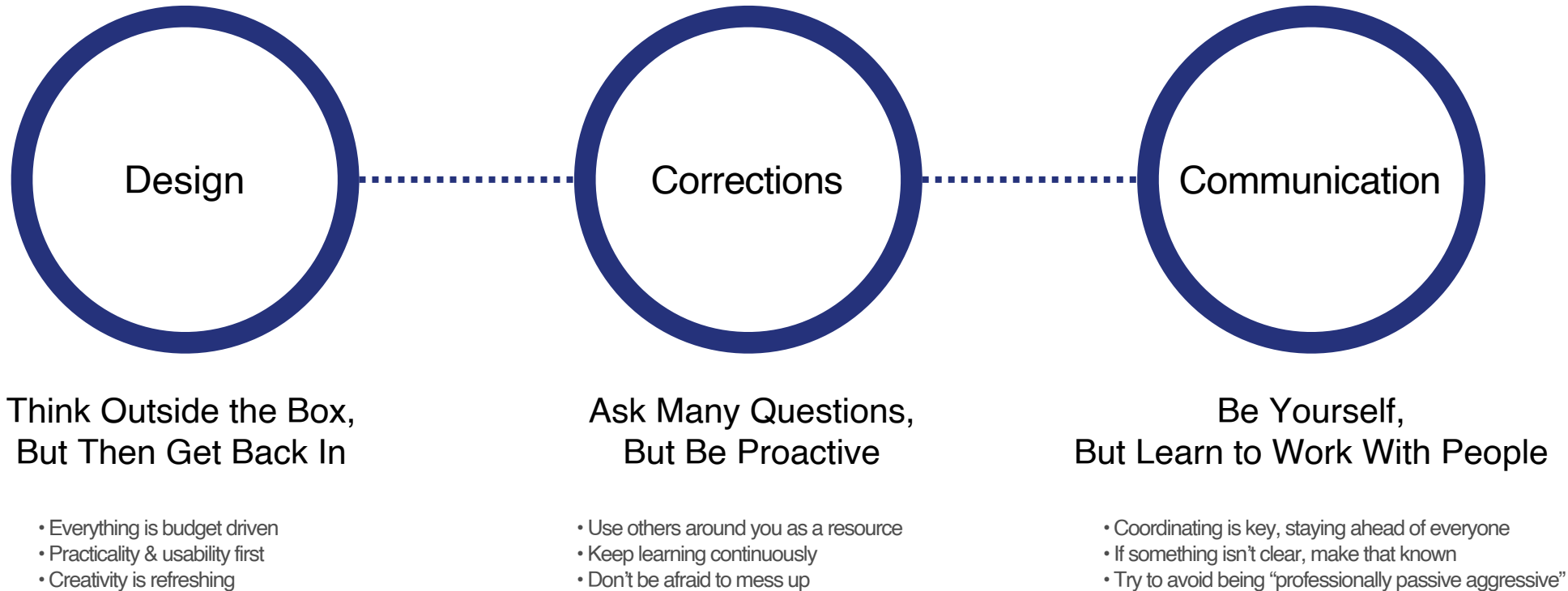
# AXP Progress

Experience Start Date: November 2017

AREs Taken: 2 // AREs Passed: 0



# What I have learned about an architecture office



So you're almost out of school...  
Now what?



AIA SF

B A Y A

BAY AREA YOUNG ARCHITECTS



Archinect



indeed

## Resources For Your Job Search

- Update your LinkedIn! Things like “Actively seeking \_\_\_\_; Graduating in 20XX; Looking for entry level \_\_\_\_”
- Do your research: AIA Compensation Report is a great starting point to know your numbers (AAU should have it)
- Reach out to friends and colleagues in the industry
- Be professional & make an impression
- Don't be afraid to reach out first
- Don't get disheartened

What are you looking for?  
Some helpful pointers to get you started, perhaps?

# Find Your Interest

What type of work do you want to do?

Project types could include residential, commercial, mixed-use, hospitality, healthcare, and so on. Some firms offer more hands-on and detail oriented experiences, while others focus on the larger picture - masterplanning and community development. What would excite you to come into work every day?



Find Your Interest

What type of work do you want to do?

What are you looking for?  
Some helpful pointers to get you started, perhaps?

# The Scale of Your Environment

Are you looking for a small office, or a big one?

Understand how architecture offices work so you can understand how you can be valuable. Typically, larger offices would hire you to be a part of a team - they would be looking for someone to fulfill a specific function. Smaller firms have more opportunities for variety as you might be doing many different things at the same time. Both have great capacity for learning experience. Office culture is also very important!



Find Your Interest

What type of work do you want to do?



The Scale of Your Environment

Are you looking for a small office, or a big one?



What are you looking for?  
Some helpful pointers to get you started, perhaps?

# Far and Wide

You need to set up a lot of interviews.

Job interviews can be nerve-racking. Try and set up as many as you can, even if a firm might not be your first choice. You gain immense experience going through the process, and it helps to familiarize yourself with the types of questions you will be asked, and the types of interviewers. Know how to present your portfolio, and know what types of questions to ask back to them. You are interviewing them just as much as they are interviewing you!



Find Your Interest

What type of work do you want to do?



The Scale of Your Environment

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Far and Wide

You need to set up a lot of interviews.

What are you looking for?  
Some helpful pointers to get you started, perhaps?

# Know Your Worth

You get one shot; make it good.

You are making a long-term commitment by joining a firm; as such both parties have to be satisfied with what is on the table. Your portfolio will only get you so far, but the rest is based on communication skills. Know what you have to offer, and where you have room for improvement. Know your numbers salary-wise (NO unpaid internships), and inquire about hours and workloads. Always follow up with a thank you email or note, no matter how it goes.



Find Your Interest

What type of work do you want to do?



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Far and Wide

You need to set up a lot of interviews.



Know Your Worth

You get one shot; make it good.

What are you looking for?  
Some helpful pointers to get you started, perhaps?

# Don't Give Up!

The perfect fit is out there for you.

Fact: it is going to take time and effort to find a job. You have to trust in your skills, abilities, and 'brand' that you put out into the world. Find ways to network and attend events. Follow up with interviewers and keep searching for new opportunities on a daily basis. There are plenty of opportunities available and it will be a matter of time until you nail one.



Find Your Interest

What type of work do you want to do?



The Scale of Your Environment

Are you looking for a small office, or a big one?



Far and Wide

You need to set up a lot of interviews.



Know Your Worth

You get one shot; make it good.



Don't Give Up!

The perfect fit is out there for you.

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## Tharique De Silva // Assoc. AIA, LEED Green Associate

04.02.2018

Airbnb  
888 Brannan Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Hello, and to whom it may concern:

As a young professional experiencing the wide world of architecture through recently unv I am very interested in the unique opportunity that is presented by Airbnb. My infatuation architecture grew throughout my travels in life, and I count myself lucky to have been able many places around the world and experience so many cultures that all left their own unique upon me, which I could then in turn infuse within my work.

The training that I have received has prepared me to be a rigorous thinker and good problem and has taught me that strong concepts that promote a sense of place for an individual, no far from home they are, and transformative design that addresses the global unity that can within all of us are the most critical aspects of the field of architecture as we move forward future together. The culture that I have seen nurtured within Airbnb and the outlook of this as a whole reflect all of the attributes that make the future of architectural design the exciting that it is, and is something that I can really see myself being a part of.

At your convenience I would like to arrange for an interview to come in and show you my the meantime, I have enclosed my resume and samples of my work.

I am very enthused at the possibility of becoming a member of your creative team and looking meeting with you soon.

Thank you for your consideration, and for taking the time to review my resume and work.

Sincerely,



Tharique De Silva  
Architectural Designer

415.527.6240  
thariquesilva@hotmail.com  
tdesilva.com

## Tharique De Silva // Assoc. AIA, LEED Green Associate

**Skills** Drafting & Construction Documents: Autodesk Revit, AutoCAD  
3D Digital Modeling: Rhinoceros, 3DS Max, Maya, SketchUp, Grasshopper  
Rendering & Visualization: Maxwell, VRay, Mental Ray, Lumion, TwinMotion, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign  
Other Skills: Microsoft Office Suite, Physical Modeling

**Languages** English / Sinhalese / Arabic

**Honors & Accolades** LEED Green Associate Certification / 2018

Associate membership with the American Institute of Architects  
San Francisco Chapter / 2018

Academy of Art University:  
Spring Show, Selected for Best Student Work Exhibit 2017  
'Urban Hammock', Thesis Studio  
Received Thesis Award: *Thesis of Highest Tensity*

Spring Show, Selected for Best Student Work Exhibit 2014-2016  
'The New Library of Street Art', 'Structural Porosity', 'Engaging The Spectrum'

**References** Furnished upon request



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Tharique De Silva // B Arch

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## Tharique De Silva // Assoc. AIA, LEED Green Associate

**Objective** To join an innovative and forward-thinking company that practices sustainable and thought provoking architectural design on a wide range of project types and promotes creative thinking in a team environment.

**Education** Academy of Art University  
San Francisco, California  
B. Arch, School of Architecture / Spring 2017

Abu Dhabi International Private School  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
High School Diploma with Honors Distinction

**Experience** RIM Architects  
Junior Designer / Nov. 2017 - Present  
Worked on a variety of commercial projects in all phases from the schematic conception up to assisting in administering construction efforts, including service centers for a major company as well as projects such as gyms, office tenant improvements, and visitor's centers. Performed various conceptual studies to analyze a variety of architectural conditions, and later worked with multiple team members and consultants to achieve a cohesive and finalized result.

Cruz Architecture + Design  
Junior Designer / 2016 – 2017 (10 months)  
Worked on a range of building types including residential, hotel, and retail. Performed a range of architectural services: BIM modeling, 3D modeling and visualization, as well as administrative tasks and redline drafting.

Hobstetter Architecture Studio  
Junior Designer / Contract Work  
3D modeling through Revit on various single family residential projects

KnowledgeSmart Revit Architecture 2016 Fundamentals Assessment  
Scored in the 85th percentile

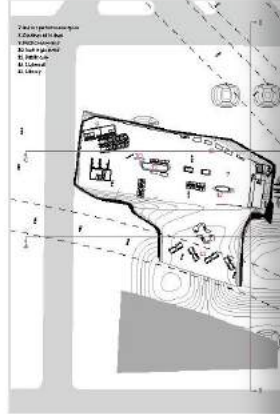
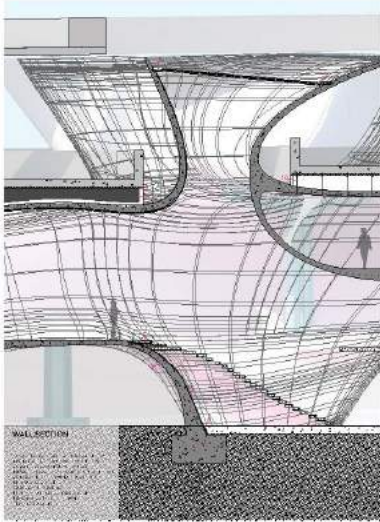
Academy of Art University  
Design Studio Student Mentor / 2015 – 2016

American Institute of Architecture Students  
Secretary of AAU Chapter / 2015

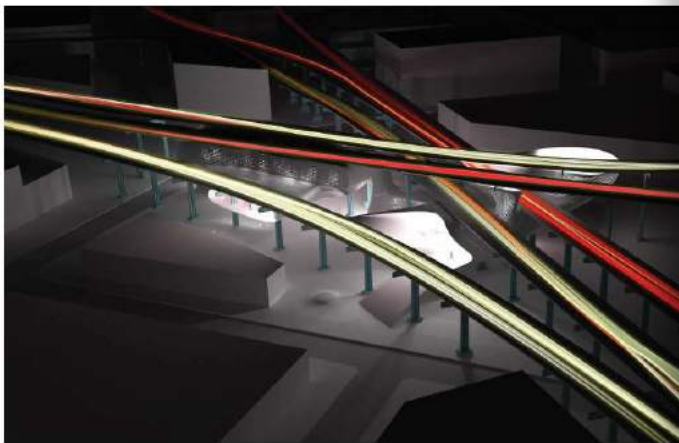
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Thesis Project  
 Instructors: M  
 Location: San  
 Program: Hous

## Tharique De Silva // B Arch



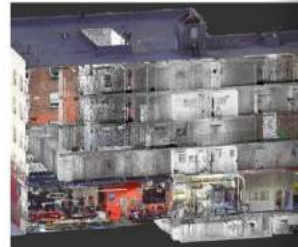
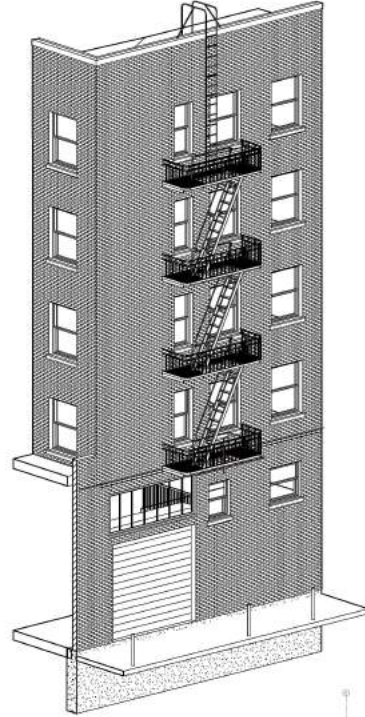
One starts to notice interstitial voids between the can be made to knit the urban fabric together—in vague. The proposal alleviates the plight of housing, grafting together the leftover space between the a new type of in-between, habitable, and unconve



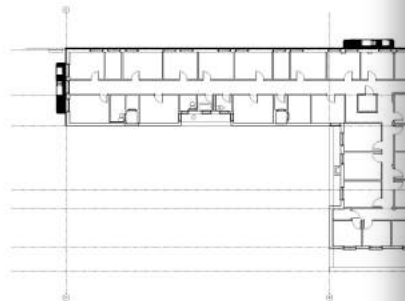
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 thariquedesilva@hotmail.com  
 tdesilva.com

Project: Civic  
 Firm: Cruz Arc  
 Location: San  
 Program: Low

## Tharique De Silva // B Arch



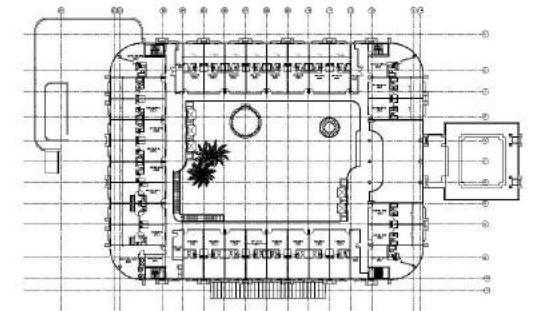
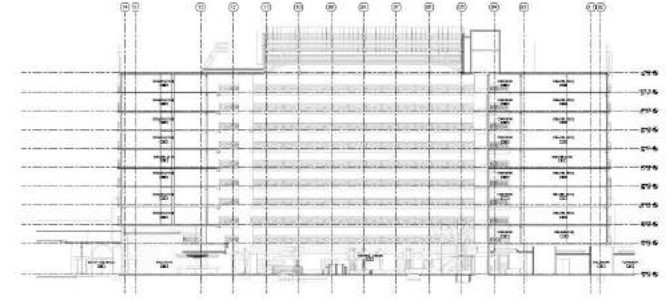
The existing building was being refurbished and renovated; as such the building was scanned and the resulting point clouds, along with reference photos taken on multiple site visits, were used to model the structure and immediate site context in Revit. Some elements that were worked on were the dining/office as-built on the first floor, special modeling of items in the foyer, multiple floors of residential rooms with custom door trims, and basement/back of house elements, as well as the custom historical fire escapes that needed to be preserved.



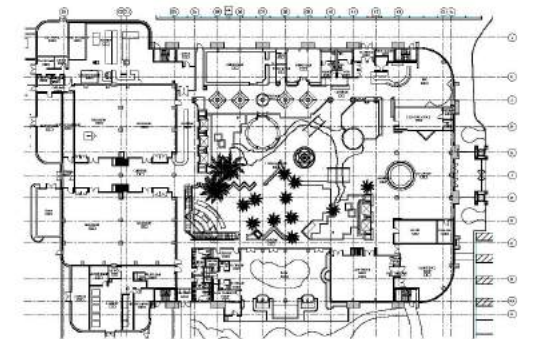
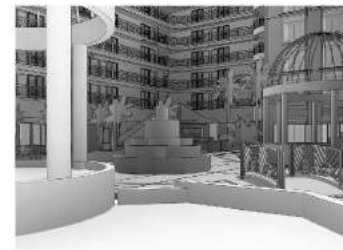
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 tdesilva.com

Project: Embassy Suites  
 Firm: Cruz Architecture & Design  
 Location: Minneapolis, MN  
 Program: Hotel

## Tharique De Silva // B Arch



The existing hotel complex was scanned and converted to point cloud imagery in order for it to be modeled in Revit. Attention was paid to complex details that needed to be modeled such as the custom railings that were on every floor, as well as the unique trusswork for the atrium roof. The hotel units were also drawn and modeled in accordance with the point cloud measurements and reference photos.





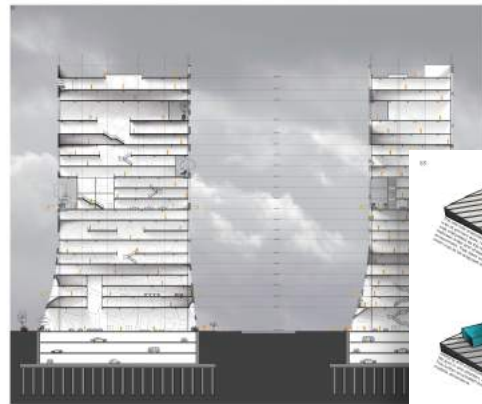
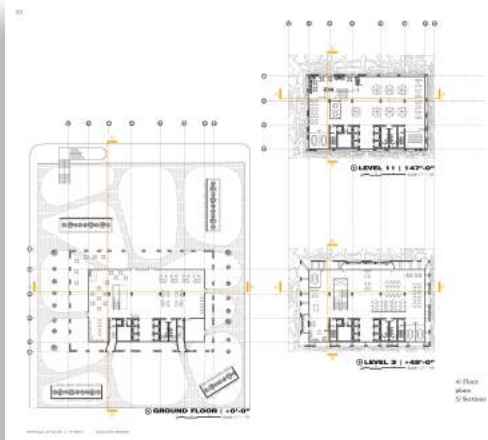
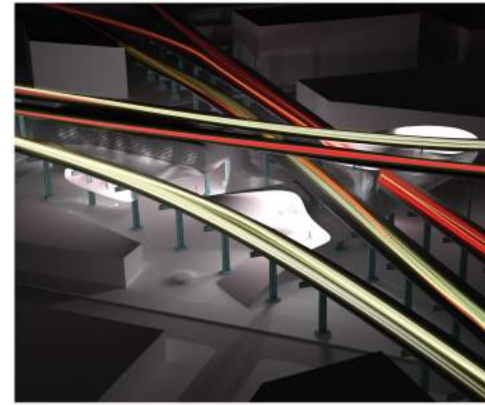
Tharique De Silva, B Arch  
Selected Works 2012 – 2017

Examining how the infrastructure of the freeway networks in San Francisco can be repurposed to promote a sense of urban renewal to these otherwise uninhabitable spaces.

**01**

Studio 01 / 01 Final Thesis Project  
Instructor: Alex Chu, PhD, RA  
Semester: Fall 2016 / Spring 2017

One wants to reduce transitional costs between the landscape of one neighborhood and be able to link the cities fabric together - an attempt to reduce the urban region. The program addresses the plight of housing on the existing and studied by grafting together the former space between the freeway and the ground to create a new type of housing, habitable, and architectural space.



# OPT Prep

PREPARATION IS KEY

- AAU International Advisors are a great resource - use them!
- Plan ahead - know your timelines, have an estimate of how long things will take
- Understand STEM criteria, requirements, opportunities
- It would be beneficial to find an employer who is enrolled in USCIS E-Verify
- If you are considering H1B sponsorship, inquire about it early; reach out to legal aid if needed



Legal F1 visa status total: 38 months

Thank You!

Good Luck!

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