



Architect
Darryl Duffield
has found that
architecture has
taught him so many
things about himself
and the world
around him.

Darryl Duffield

Architecture was something that fascinated Darryl Duffield at an early age, but when he made a career choice he had a variety of other options.

For instance, he wanted to explore civil engineering.

'I love the idea of transforming the landscape (elegantly) in order to facilitate the passage of people, cars, elements and services or meteorology (weather sciences).

'The vastness and power of mother nature is incredible and is especially relevant in this day and age as we affect change on our planet and promote extreme weather patterns.'

So, how did Darryl ultimately make up his mind? He wrote aptitude tests, spoke to Career Guidance Counsellors and the following were suggested: architecture, electronic engineering, computer science and even a suggestion that he become a high school principal.

'I think listening to too many views on career choices can be informative, but ultimately it conflicted with what I wanted to do,' he says.

As a result, when he began his university studies it was in the field of computer science, but that really wasn't where his heart was and he changed to architecture – a choice he hasn't regretted.

'I have started to flourish personally and professionally in the field I knew I wanted to be a part of, regardless of how fashionable, sustainable or lucrative it was when I left school.'

To gain experience, Darryl worked in the drawing office of a technology company.

'I enjoy sketching and free-hand drawings add a certain quality to a design that can't be expressed or designed from scratch on a computer. I always sketch first then draw in CAD later.'

This Darryl believes gives him the edge on his competitors.

SKILLS NEEDED

'You need to focus on gathering as much knowledge and experience as possible to be great at what you do,' Darryl advises.

'You need to be able to speak well to express your ideas (explain your sketches, make the client understand your vision for his/her project)... you don't necessarily have to be a 'toast master', but find your own unique and personal way of communicating with other people.

'I've always appreciated and acknowledged those who were the best at what they did,' he adds.

'You need to develop the ability to analyse and question what you experience around you.'

'Often clients will provide very particular (pre-conceived) ideas about the project. It is important to listen and ask the correct questions.'

Most of all, and this is something Darryl hasn't quite got the hang of himself, is the ability to master time management.

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Mornings include site visits to 'ensure that your vision is correctly interpreted and carried out on site'. Then there are the meetings with the suppliers, engineers and contractors. It's only by mid-morning that Darryl gets into his office and can settle down to do the admin, research and design work.

Often his afternoons are taken up by meeting with clients or doing presentations and then in the evening it is 'design, design and more designing'.

Find joy in what you want to do, a genuine interest in your chosen career

Dr Maheshvari Naidu

It is thanks to supportive parents who 'broke with stereotypes of tradition to open doors to new and exciting possibilities' that Maheshvari Naidu has carved and moulded her career as a feminist (social) anthropologist who works with gender issues.

'My work looks at social behaviour in the context of women and gender,' she says, explaining that 'social anthropology deals with the study of human social behaviour and culture'.

Always a questioning child interested in people and the world constructed by people, Maheshvari's parents placed no boundaries on her insatiable curiosity. Her teachers, too, saw this as an asset and attempted to draw her attention to a career in the sciences. However, her natural move was towards the social sciences (where a discipline such as anthropology is based).

'At school I enjoyed and excelled in both the arts and the sciences. So, at university I first combined a mix of literature, philosophy and biology. I eventually found that I enjoyed arts

and humanities more, changed degrees and subjects and eventually moved to a postgraduate degree in anthropology.

'Many students know immediately what they want to study and become, while others need a period of intellectual exploration,' Mahesh-

Senior lecturer in Anthropology in the School of Social Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, **Dr Maheshvari Naidu**, has managed to meld her passions with her career so successfully that she is acknowledged to be among the top 30 researchers at UKZN and has garnered many an award, among which is the Department of Science and Technology Award for Outstanding Women in Science (2013)

vari says.

'As long as it's related to growth and not indulging in 'subject shopping' and wasting your parents' money, I think it's fine to explore your options.'



ADVICE

Maheshvari believes that anthropologists can be involved in many fields, not necessarily being an academic, as they carry the skills to understanding the rich diversity of cultures – essential for a multi-cultural society like South Africa.

'I would say an appetite for reading, a curious and questioning mind together with the capacity to challenge others, as well as yourself, are invaluable to being successful in a chosen career.'

'The best paying jobs are not always the best jobs,' she says.

'I never saw myself as being limited by my background, which was not the richest in money, but rich in the possibilities my parents created for me. I was never held back by being a female or an Indian.'

For more information on Dr Maheshvari Naidu, visit <http://research.ukzn.ac.za/list-of-top-30-researchers/doctor-uma-mahshvari-naidu.asp>

My career found me, not the other way around

ARCHITECT - an architect is a person who designs a new building, extensions or alterations to existing buildings. He/she also advises on the restoration or conservation of old properties

ANTHROPOLOGY - The study of human social behaviour and culture. There are many sub fields at the cutting edge of knowledge production such as social, medical and migration anthropology. Anthropology allows one to engage with pressing societal and global issues. For instance, anthropologists involved with human rights issues work against human and organ trafficking, gender violence as well as the HIV/Aids crisis.

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