

SHIVANI RAINA-DEGRAAF

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Strategic and results-driven Urban Planner & Designer with 7+ years of experience shaping sustainable development and environmental projects. Excels in integrating community-focused solutions, hazard reduction strategies, and social justice in climate resilience projects. Recognized for enhancing project efficiency and collaboration with innovative management techniques. Extensive multi-sectoral experience across four continents, committed to environmental justice and empowering underserved communities and Tribes through participatory design and education.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

North Richmond Coalition, North Richmond, CA — May 2024 – Present (Part-Time) | Project Manager

- **Led the North Richmond Coalition**, overseeing the implementation of a community-focused Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide equitable redevelopment.
- **Expanded the MOU's scope to prioritize sustainability**, integrating green and blue infrastructure projects, food security initiatives, and disaster resilience strategies.
- **Developed and executed implementation plans**, facilitating collaboration among key stakeholders, including local government, philanthropic entities, and community organizations.
- Authored the white paper "Prioritizing Projects for Transformational Community Investment: An Equitable Pipeline Strategy for North Richmond," researching **funding opportunities** and assisting member organizations in preparing **grant applications**, which secured funding from diverse sources.
- **Coordinated agendas, facilitated meetings, built consensus**, and established working groups to foster community engagement.
- **Managed reporting and documentation** to track progress and measure the impact of initiatives.

ICF, San Francisco, CA — Mar 2022 - Jan 2024 | Environmental Planner & Urban Designer

- **Co-authored the existing conditions component of California's first Planning and Environment Linkages study**, integrating **comprehensive equity analysis** throughout the project lifecycle.
- **Led strategic direction as Deputy Project Manager, coordinating with state and federal agencies** for the SF Housing Element Update 2022 Environmental Review and BART Phase II Extension SEIR/SEIS projects. Assisted clients in submitting high-quality documents promptly while navigating complex regulatory requirements, litigation, and due diligence.
- Championed brownfield remediation strategies, leading to a 20% increase in usable public green spaces within two large-scale urban development projects.
- Honored with ICF's "Living Your Values" and "You Matter" awards for outstanding leadership in complex project management throughout project lifecycles.

US Green Building Council (Remote) — Mar 2022 | Researcher & Graphic Designer

- **Conceptualized and illustrated education materials** for the "Centering Health Equity" project, later utilized in national policy discussions on multiplying health equity opportunities in real estate and infrastructure project delivery.

Hayward Area Planning Association, Hayward, CA — Jan 2021 - Mar 2022 | Urban Planning & Design Consultant

- Led a community-focused, car-free housing project. **Engaged local stakeholders** and influenced city planning policies, securing interest from three developers.

Groundworks Consulting, Oakland, CA — Nov 2020 - May 2021 | Community Development Consultant

- **Designed and authored a strategic graphic workbook for community organizations**, aligned with the Capital Absorption Framework, helping communities build better project pipelines.
- **Researched and directed a documentary on arts and community power building**, enhancing community engagement and empowerment.

- Oakland Department of Transportation, Oakland, CA** — Jun 2020 - Aug 2020 | Transportation Planning Consultant
- Co-authored the “Oakland Curb Management Strategy” report, improving pandemic delivery efficiency through optimized food delivery zones and practices.
 - **Collaborated with city officials and community stakeholders** to reduce congestion and enhance road safety.
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco, CA** — Jun 2020 - Aug 2020 | Consultant
- Developed guidelines to enhance public Bayshore access, expanding community waterfront spaces and promoting equitable access to natural resources.
 - **Engaged with community members and regulatory agencies** to reduce development exceptions.
- Institute of Urban & Regional Development, Berkeley, CA** — Jan 2020 - Jun 2020 | Research Assistant
- Led the research, design, and planning of a Nairobi community center and authored white paper on COVID-19 and women's health in Mathare slum.
- Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society, New Delhi, India** — Mar 2018 - Jun 2019 | Architect
- Established and mentored a Community Innovation Lab in Bangladesh, deploying community-owned mechanisms for economic growth and resilience in informal settlements and refugee camps, contributing to a 10% reduction in disaster-related impacts.
 - **Coordinated multidisciplinary teams of contractors, architects, and planners** to implement disaster resilience projects.
 - **Conducted training on participatory design methodologies at SEEDS Academy**, impacting over 500 students and integrating practices into ongoing community development programs.
 - Received commendation from the World Bank for designing a post-disaster rapid assembly “\$1000 Home.”
- SK Das Associated Architects, New Delhi, India** — Mar 2017 – Mar 2018, Architect
- Led project management, design coordination, and architectural design for multiple sustainability projects.

EDUCATION

Association for Community Design Community Design Fellow.	Chicago, IL October 2023 – January 2024
University of California, Berkeley Master of City Planning. Concentration: Environmental Planning & Urban Design. Anti-Racism Work Group Member, DEI Program Delivery.	Berkeley, CA 2021
School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi Professional 5-Year Architecture Degree.	New Delhi, India 2016

LICENSURE

Council of Architecture, India Registered Architect.	New Delhi, India 2017 to Present
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ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- **Technical:** Adobe Creative Suite, GIS, Microsoft Office Suite, Sketchup, Revit, V-Ray, Ecotect, Python, TDM, CEQA, NEPA, AutoCAD
- **Language:** English, Hindi