


ALEKS GONTARZ

M.Arch, BAS

Aleks is an architectural designer based in Toronto, Canada. He believes that good design can be applied at all scales and aspects of life. Architecture, building science, urbanism, industrial design, and digital fabrication are the fields that he is passionate about. He is constantly in pursuit of new challenges to broaden his knowledge and skills.

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WORK EXPERIENCE

MG Architects Inc. | 2021 - 2024

 Arch. Designer, Project Architect  Toronto, ON

All phases of institutional and residential projects. A small firm specializing in primary school renovations and new builds. Responsibilities ranged from schematic design (while coordinating with client and other stakeholders), creating construction documentation sets (migrating entire firm from CAD to BIM, creating standard families and details, schedules and specifications), contract admin (site meetings, contractor coordination, issuing CNs, COs, SIs, etc), firm prequalification for services & RFPs, rendering and other promotional materials.

Sienci Labs Inc. | 2020 - 2021

 UI/UX Designer  Waterloo, ON

A flexible designer position at a start-up that produces CNC machines. Tasks included creating assembly manuals, web design, mockups of apps/tools/websites in development, creating resources for end-users, and creating videos for social media and tutorials.

Quadrangle Architects Ltd. | 2018



 Architectural Designer  Toronto, ON

Schematic, design development, and construction documentation for midrise and highrise residential buildings. Some responsibilities included designing facades, layout of units, detailing, calculating stats for permits, reviewing contractor submittals.

UW Enterprise Co-op | 2017



A co-op work term dedicated to contract work for various companies ranging from startups to architectural firms. Work included industrial design for Helpwear, UI/UX Design for Sienci Labs, and architectural technology for IA Interior Architects.

NBBJ New York | 2016

 Architectural Intern (8 mo. Co-op)  New York City, NY



Schematic, design development, and construction documentation for office interiors on the NBBJ Interiors team. Projects included renovations of historic buildings (85 Broad St), and fit-outs of new construction (One World Trade Progenics Office)

Urban Strategies Inc. | 2015

 Design Intern (4 mo. Co-op)  Toronto, ON



Large scale urban planning projects ranging from transit (Metrolinx SmartTrack), city planning (Edmonton North Precinct), and university campus planning (U of T, Brock). Creating maps and diagrams, presenting design options and reports to clients.

Benz & Ziegler Architects | 2014

 Architectural Intern (4 mo. Co-op)  Munich, Germany

Design of single family homes, and brand-focused renovations such as for offices and hotel facades. Focus on creating renderings and other visuals for clients.


ZAS Architects + Interiors | 2014

 Architectural Intern (4 mo. Co-op)  Toronto, ON

Design development for a number of institutional and transit projects, such as Vaughan Civic Centre Library, Gore Meadows Community Centre and Billy Bishop Airport Tunnel.

EDUCATION

Master of Architecture (M.Arch) | 2019 - 2020

 University of Waterloo, Waterloo ON

Thesis Topic: "The Fabrication Commons: Creative Agency through Intuitive Interfaces"

Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) | 2012 - 2017

 University of Waterloo, Waterloo ON

Included 5 co-op work terms, see "Work Experience" between 2014 to 2017.

SKILLS

Schematic Design + Design Development

Analyzing client needs, initial site visits and documentation, programming, presenting design options and sketches. Developing the design to be ready for a full set of drawings, and coordinating further with the client using diagrams and renders.

Construction Documentation + Tender

Comprehensive construction sets including plans, sections, elevations, details, schedules, and specifications. Referring to building codes. Applying for building and site permits. Involvement in the tender process, including issuing addenda.

Contract Administration

Site visits and meetings with contractor and client. Using CA management software to coordinate CNs, COs, RFIs, SI, etc. Reviewing shop drawings. Deficiencies and project closeout.

TOOLS

Design Tools (CAD and BIM)

Extensive knowledge of Revit 2014 to 2024 (used from initial schematic design, to construction documentation sets and details, to CA stage revisions/sketches). Knowledge of AutoCAD, Rhino3D, ArchiCAD, Sketchup, and rendering tools such as V-Ray and Enscape.

Documentation / Data

Full Office suite of products, including managing data in Excel and linking data to BIM models. Experience with Statslog FIVE contract management software.

Graphic Design / Layout / Video

Full Adobe suite of products (Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign, AfterEffects, Premiere). DaVinci Resolve video editing software.

Parametrics / Fabrication / Programming

Parametric design tools such as Grasshopper and Dynamo. Experience with 3D printing and CNC machining, including the relevant softwares (Fusion 360, various slicers and gcode senders). Experience with programming languages (Python, Processing, Arduino, Javascript).