

KZNIA JOURNAL SPONSORED BY COROBRIK



KZNIA Journal | Issue 2/2016 | Vol 41 | ISSN 0379-9301  
Journal of the KwaZulu-Natal region of the South African Institute of Architects

# KZNIA

# WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE



## Raewyn Hayhoe

Evolution Architects



**Mother, Wife, Survivor, Architect, WOMAN.**

"Our gender defines us ... let this not confine us!"

### Mother

I'd always also wanted to be a mother. 13 years, 6 pregnancies, 4 miscarriages, a stillbirth, and finally a success, our perfect little girl whom we are so blessed and grateful for.

### Wife & Survivor

At 28 weeks pregnant, I suffered a ruptured cerebral aneurysm. After the initial, miraculous, survival of the haemorrhage, emergency brain surgery. My little girl (in utero) and I recovered from this procedure. My wonderful husband stayed at my ICU bedside for two weeks, never leaving my side. Despite this ordeal, I am still an architect, a mother, a wife, and more.

### Architect

An exposure to history of architecture at school set my course, and continued through university, travelling and experiencing buildings. Spaces and structures surround us and affect us deeply. Our appreciation of this is what sets architects apart from those who simply move through or occupy them. This is something I can never stop thinking about and learning from.

### Practice

I realized my dream and started my own practice Archangels Architects, which was a successful partnership with another woman. Later, Evolution Architects was born, and was the next "evolutionary" step - trying to fulfill career aspirations and personal goals. The journey has been exciting, stressful, rewarding as well as extremely challenging at times. I have never given up.

### Woman

I love being a mother, an architect and a wife. My team members were, and still are amazing. Through my incapacitation they kept the practice running strong until I was able to return.



Lifestyle Edgars Extension, Balitoe



Lifestyle Edgars Extension, Balitoe



Lifestyle Edgars Extension, Balitoe



Network Configurators New Office Building

## Ntokozo Zimu

From Nzuzo M Architecture & Project Management



I didn't really have much knowledge about Architecture, even after having done Civil Technology for Metric. All I wanted was a career that involved technical drawing with an aspect of art. First year was completed well, but the "second year slump" as our Professor called it, caught me. I encountered my first failure. The expectations of design, creativity and originality were extremely high and being introduced to CAD was a whole new aspect.

Being in a male dominated field and falling pregnant whilst studying seemed like the worst fall I had to endure, but with continuous support from family, friends and lecturers I was able to rise above it. Studio crits, which were a continuous examination and build-up of work with the aim for the student to learn and do better, felt like a critique of me as a person.

Travelling to and from KwaZulu daily, with practically no sleep due to long nights preparing for Friday presentations and continued responsibility of a mother and fiancé, were emotionally and physically draining.

2015 was another huge fall. My fiancé tragically passed on in a car accident. I was temporarily working in an architectural firm as an intern and the support I received was both comforting and uplifting. Through God's grace I was able to return to vinity, bruised but not broken. I didn't design the best looking high-rise building, but it was enough to pull me through and give me a pass. I finally graduated with a BAS in April 2015 and currently work for Nzuzo M Architecture & Project Management in Pinetown where I interned. Although I have completed my degree, the learning continues. Perseverance, patience and prayer are the keys.

I give thanks to my parents who have continuously supported and believed in me.

An imperfect journey with a perfect destination reached.

