## PERSONAL INFORMATION

# Chitsanzo Isaac



6234 Homer Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144, USA

+1 (215) 847 9884 +1 (215) 847 9884

chits.isaac@gmail.com

Linkedin.com/chitsanzoisaac

WhatsApp: +1 (215) 847 9884

Sex Female | Date of birth 25/06/1985 | Nationality Malawian/ American

## POSITION & STUDIES APPLIED FOR

Doctoral Position

## WORK EXPERIENCE

(2022 – Present)

### Visiting Assistant Professor, Master of Sustainable Design Program

Thomas Jefferson University College of Architecture and the Built Environment, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

- Teach graduate-level design courses and seminars,
- Supervise Thesis student desertions.
- Student Advising
- Program development
- Academic research
- Courses taught:
  Resilient Cities and Communities Design Studio, Thesis 2, Master Design Studio: Living Buildings, Ecological Design Studio, Principles of Sustainable Design

Business or sector University Teaching & Academic Research

(2000 - 2021)

### Adjunct Lecturer

Thomas Jefferson University College of Architecture and the Built Environment, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

- Taught undergraduate design studio courses
- Performed academic research.
- Courses taught:
  The Urban Equity Research Studio, Principles of Sustainable Design, The Tectonics Studio, The Global Studio: Health Infrastructure in Malawi.

Business or sector University Teaching & Academic Research

(2021 - 2022)

### Faculty Instructor – Jefferson Career Discovery Camps: Summer Architecture Academy

Thomas Jefferson University College of Architecture and the Built Environment, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

- Was responsible for teaching two sets of high school students the fundamentals of the architecture profession through an intensive one-week workshop.

Business or sector University Teaching

(2016 - 2020)

### Self-Employed/ Company Founder

BhoFro Design, Philadelphia, United States

- Designed accessories made using Malawian African print fabric
- Retail & wholesale sales
- Created partnerships for capacity building in Malawi with local NGOs

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- Ran all operations of the business

Business or sector Accessory Design

(2011 – 2016) **Lecturer**

The Polytechnic - University of Malawi, Blantyre, Malawi

- Taught undergraduate design studio courses, and contributed to the development of the Honours Degree syllabus.
- Courses taught:
  Urban Studies, Architectural Design Studio 4, Architectural Design Studio 2, Art & Design.

Business or sector University Teaching

(2011 - 2016) **(Co-Founder) Architect/ Designer**

Striation Design, Blantyre, Malawi

- Practiced Architectural Design with a focus on residential and commercial projects.
- Graphic Design.
- Ran all operations of the business.

Business or sector Architecture & Design Consultation

(2009) **Urban Management Consultant**

GIZ, Bangladesh/ Berlin

- Conducted research with surveys, interviews, analysis, workshops, and inter-agency cooperation (UNDP & others).
- The project was in cooperation with The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH on a Slum Improvement project located in two rural cities of Bangladesh.
- The aim was to build capacity of local Governments and local slum residents.
- [Video: “The Slums in Bangladesh (Mymensingh and Narayanganj
- District)” https://youtu.be/huGO5jlmPj0 ]

Business or sector Urban Management

(2008) **Intern/ Drafting Technician**

Garrison McNeil & Associates, New York, NY, United States

- Drafted Construction Documents
- Was responsible for the Firm’s marketing
- administrative work.

Business or sector Architecture

(2007 - 2008) **Drafting Technician Consultant**

Riverside Architecture, New York, NY, United States

- Drafted Construction Documents.

Business or sector Architecture

(2007 - 2008) **Drafting Technician**

SYSTEM architects, New York, NY, United States

- Drafted Construction Documents
- measured existing site conditions

Business or sector Architecture

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(2005 - 2007) **Intern/ Drafting Technician**

ADB Consultants INC, New York, NY, United States

- Drafted Schematics
- 3D modelling & rendering.

Business or sector Architecture

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2021 **Certificate: "Project Monitoring and Reporting Using Open-Source Tools"**

Action Network BluoVerda & Weltweit., Germany

Principal subjects covered or skills acquired:

- Project monitoring using Open Foris & QGIS

2021 **Certificate: "Urban Solutions: Nature-based solutions to Climate Change in Urban Territories"**

DAAD, BluoVerda, 2811, & Weltweit.

Principal subjects covered or skills acquired:

- The path towards regenerative cities
- Nature-based Solutions in Urban Planning

2021 **Certificate: “School of Climate Change”**

Oxford Climate Society

Principal subjects covered or skills acquired:

- Climate change, adaptation + mitigation strategies

2008 - 2010 **Master of Science in Urban Management (Msc.)**

European Qualification Framework level 7

Technical University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Principal subjects covered or skills acquired:

- Dissertation:
“Sustainable Urban Management and the Informal Sector: Upgrading the informal sectors in Africa by Implementing a Credible Informational Infrastructure”

- Urban planning techniques, good governance, slum-upgrading, inter-organization cooperation, city profiling, urban development of Least Developed Countries

2002 - 2008 **Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch)**

European Qualification Framework level 6

City College of New York, New York, United States

Principal subjects covered or skills acquired:

- Thesis:
“Tafika Kwhathu Cultural Center”, Mpunga Township, Malawi
- Architectural design, site and urban analysis, building integration, human scale design

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## PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): English / Chichewa

Other language(s)

| | UNDERSTANDING | | SPEAKING | | WRITING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Listening | Reading | Spoken interaction | Spoken production | |
| French | B2 | B1 | B2 | B2 | B1 |
| German | A2 | A1 | A2 | A2 | A1 |

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

**Communication skills**

- Good at public speaking and giving presentations
- Good at collaborative communication in the co-creation process
- I listen and synthesize information readily
- I am very open to learning new skills
- Personable
- Very good at graphic representation of designs and analysis and ideas
- I can translate complex information into diagrams and digestible information
- Good graphic design skills
- Good networking skills (I have networked for the Sustainability program to gain more partners and connections)
- Good at teaching

**Organisational/managerial skills**

- Leadership (currently leading co-design activities between three multi-disciplinary Design Studios)
- I am mentoring some undergraduate students at my current place of work (faculty adviser)
- I am thorough and have high attention to detail. (I have run two businesses and ran all operations)

**Job-related skills**

- Very good at collaboration work
- Good at facilitation of co-creation design charrettes
- Urban analytics and research

**Computer skills**

- Good command of Microsoft Office™ tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Autodesk AutoCAD,
- Autodesk Revit (moderate proficiency)
- Autodesk Insight (building performance software)
- Google SketchUp,
- Sefaira (energy modelling + building performance software)
- Enscape rendering engine
- Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign)
- Miro + Mural online collaboration tools
- Proficiency with Zoom conferencing (remote teaching and online collaboration)
- ArcGIS and QGIS (moderate proficiency)
- Open Forris
- DepthMapX
- Google Earth Pro
- Climate Consultant
- PowerDirector 365 video editing software
- Proficient with Windows and Apple Operating Systems

**Other skills**

- Artistic drawing & architectural sketching
- Artistic painting

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- Jewellery and bag design + manufacturing

Driving licence
- Unites States driving licence class C (regular vehicle)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications
- Contributing book chapter: Fleming, R., Roberts, S.H., & Isaac, C., Sustainable Design for the Built Environment (2nd ed.). Routledge, London, 2024 (forthcoming)
- An Integral Sustainable Design Evaluation of the 15-Minute City and Processes of Transferability to Cities of the Global South, *Innovating Strategies and Solutions for Urban Performance and Regeneration*, edited by Cristina Piselli, Haşim Altan, Osman Balaban, Peleg Kremer, 2024 (forthcoming).
- Mapping Social Cohesion and Identity in Intercultural Public Spaces: The Case of Germantown, *Urban and Transit Planning (3rd Edition) - City Planning: Urbanisation and Circular Development*, edited by Francesco Alberti, Abraham R Matamanda, Bao-Jie He, Adriana Galderisi, Marzena Smol and Paola Gallo, Springer Nature, Switzerland, 2023.

Presentations
- Thomas Jefferson University College of Architecture and Built Environment Spring 2023 Lecture Series speaker: “My Mother’s Veranda – the Intrinsic Significance of the Space we Occupy.” (2023)
- Fast Forward Philly speaker: “Mapping Social Cohesion and Identity in Intercultural Public Spaces” (2021) (Link: https://youtu.be/fBEb31i_VU8 )
- CCNY Spitzer School of Architecture Diversity Hour Lecture Series speaker: "The Journey After the Degree” (2021)
- TedX Lilongwe speaker: “The Architecture Student and the Developing City” (2014) (Link: https://youtu.be/LmbUOSHsSRk )

Projects
- Dunia Fore Cultural Centre, Sierra Leone. Sustainability consultant in charge of pre-design, site planning, sustainable design practices (2022-2023).

Conferences
- URS 2022: 3rd International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability, Tirana, Albania (2022)
- Green Building United Sustainability Symposium, Philadelphia, United States (2022)
- Malawi Institute of Architects Annual General Meeting & Continuing Professional Development conference, Lilongwe, Malawi (2022)
- 6th edition of the Urban Planning and Architectural Design for Sustainable Development international conference, Florence, Italy (2021)

Grants
- Jefferson CFDNL Pedagogy Grant (2021), Co-recipient: “Evolving the Traditional Lecture Course Using a Novel, Experience-Based Toolkit to Teach Complex Learning Objectives”.

Honours and awards
- Lotos Foundation Bert Stern Emerging Architect Award (2008)
- 2021 RISE Leadership Mentor for the CCNY Spitzer School of Architecture (2020)

Memberships
- Green Building United (2022)
- Action Network Worldwide. (2022)
- Black Matter University (2022)

Research Interests

Urban social complexity and systems, integral theory, community resilience, and sustainable regenerative development. Net zero design, geo-spatial urban social analysis, socio-spatial analysis, cultural/ social/ environmental/ equitable/ inclusive urban solutions, people-centered place building, urban futures, and dynamics of post-pandemic, developing city urbanism.

References

Robert Fleming, AIA, LEED AP, NOMA| President-Elect, Philadelphia AIA
Director of Online Innovation
Faculty Director, Executive Program in Design Leadership
University of Pennsylvania, Stuart Weitzman School of Design
Meyerson Hall, 210 S. 34th Street
Philadelphia PA 19104-6311
flemrob@design.upenn.edu

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Robert Fryer, RA, LEED AP BD+C, NCI
Director, Professor, and Cofounder
MS Sustainable Design Program
College of Architecture and the Built Environment
Thomas Jefferson University
T 215.951.5634
Robert.Fryer@jefferson.edu

Christopher Harnish
Associate Professor, Architecture Program Director,
Health and Design Collaborative Director,
Jefferson Consortium of African Partnerships
+1 917-402-2391
chris.harnish@jefferson.edu