

SIMON NICKS : CURRICULUM VITAE

Present Appointment	Managing Director, CNdV africa urban designers, environmental planners and landscape architects
Nationality	South African
Education	BCom (Natal) BAS MCRP MCPUD (University of Cape Town)
Professional Memberships and Positions	Registered Town and Regional Planner (Reg No. 779) Certified Environmental Assessment Practitioner Member of the Urban Design Institute of South Africa Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute Member of the South African Planning Institution Previous Council Member, South African Council of Town & Regional Planners Member, Association of Town & Regional Planners South Africa
Languages	English : First language, Afrikaans : Understand



SIMON NICKS is Managing Member of CNdV africa. He has qualifications in commerce, architecture, urban design and planning. He is a committed urbanist and environmentalist. He was project leader for the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, as well as Municipal and Town Spatial Development Frameworks for Stellenbosch, Eden, Uniondale, Frances Baard District Municipality (Kimberley), and Dikgatlong (Warrenton).

He is project leader on Imizamo Yethu partially supported by the Irish government and European Union and Pelican Park mixed income housing projects. He was part of three of the N2 Gateway presidential project urban design teams. Simon is also working for a number of private clients on upmarket residential, agricultural and ecological estate projects. Each of these projects attempts to take the boundaries of environmentally sustainable design and operation one step further.

Simon is particularly interested in the restructuring of the Apartheid City, environmentally sustainable design and management of cities in developing countries and the integration of transport, housing and urban planning. This work has been focused on how cities can reduce the psychological and fossil fuel energy required by cities and towns in order for them to function. These have included plans for the structured densification of the City of Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Paarl and Wellington. Similar work has recently commenced in Knysna. Much of this work has focussed on the relationship between transport and urban form and structure and has included international work and research in the cities of Curitiba (Brazil), Copenhagen (Denmark) and Leuven (Belgium). Practical experience has been gained in the Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework, Cape Town, Klipfontein Corridor, Cape Town and smaller projects in Stellenbosch and Paarl. He also worked as an advisor to the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) on the development of Cato Manor along these principles. He is currently advising the Western Cape's Department of the Premier on its Sustainable Human Settlements Policy.

As part of this work Simon has travelled overseas and exchanged ideas with practitioners such as Bill Dunster of BEDZED and the Eden Project. Global network support is key to the mainstreaming of ecologically sustainable urbanism.

This focus on environmentally sustainable urban restructuring was found to have wide ranging benefits in addition to reducing energy requirements, including:

- Strengthening thresholds for viable SMME and informal businesses;

- Improving affordable access for the poor who may not even be able to afford public transport;
- Making public transport services more viable;
- Increasing the use of public facilities such as schools, crèches, clinics, libraries and health facilities;
- Reducing the pressure for urban sprawl to the detriment of well located and scarce agricultural land;
- Providing space for bio-diversity so that eco-system services can continue to sustain urban complexes;
- Allowing the conservation of tranquil scenic landscapes so that they may continue to provide for psychological well-being and resources for the tourism economy.

He has published a number of papers on these topics, see attached list.

This work has also received a number of national and international awards including:

- Dubai International Award for Best Practice 2000 (UN Habitat)
- WESSA W Cape Environmental Consultancy Award (2006)
- IAIA (SA) Premium Award Finalist (2006)

He was a trustee and is a member of the Development Action Group; an NGO committed to effective urban development that addresses the need of the very poor. He was a lecturer and co-ordinator on the Housing and Community Development course at the Department of Construction Economics at the University of Cape Town. He also presented the Urban Planning and Design Module of the Masters Program in Housing for the Department. He gives occasional lectures at the Department of Environment and Geological Science UCT, and SAPOA's Property Development Program (PDP) at the Graduate School of Business UCT.

He presented the Cape Town case study at the Environmental Management for African Cities Workshop in Dakar, Senegal in June 1995 and co-led case study tours to Brazil, studying urban environmental management land-use and transportation in 1994.

Leadership positions include sitting as a National Council member of the SACTRP from 1998 – 2001 and membership of the Executive Committee, ACTRP (South Region) of which he was chairperson in 2000/2001. He is currently a member of the Western Cape's Planning Advisory Board.