

To  
Journeyman International,

Dear Sir/Madame,

This is in reference to the volunteer opportunity with the different humanitarian organizations associated with Journeyman International. I am an Architect/ Urban Designer, currently residing in Mumbai. After getting my Bachelors in Architecture from L.S. Raheja, Mumbai, I did my Masters with Architecture and Urban Design as my major from Pratt Institute, New York.

Architecture exists in all form. But the right form of Architecture can make a huge difference to an individual, a community, a city or a even a nation.

My village in Haripura, Gujarat, India, no longer exists because all of a sudden there was an invasion by a company that produced mechanized embroidery. The company came with an influx of workers from all over the country and when I visited my grandfather in 2007, the once beautiful village was filled with trash, plastics and garbage everywhere. The lake had dried up and had become a dumping yard. Small scale industries that women from every household were a part of, disappeared.

This form of interference was made purely on capitalism without a thought given to the environment or the fellow inhabitants. But a step like this to radically change a place's identity is not what a city or a nation desires. Careful punctures in the city's fabric is the key to solving problems faced by a lot of developing countries today.

Coming from India, I am a little biased towards my country. India being a developing country, needs such revitalization and enrichment of societies that a lot of humanitarian organizations are currently doing. Being an Architect with an urge to help upbringing a community with useful designs and plans, I would very much like to be a part of Journeyman International as it goes through the uneven path of social and economic hindrances towards the goal of making Architecture as a healing power.

I have attached my resume and a portfolio of selected works along with this letter. Thank you for taking the time to go through this cover letter. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Yours sincerely,  
Menka Desai

# Menka Desai

menkadesai25@gmail.com 199, Greene Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11238 929-299-8688

## Profile

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**Internationally trained Architect** with a Masters degree in Architecture and Urban Design from Pratt Institute. Competent in conceptualizing, designing and planning residential, hospitality and commercial projects, while being sensitive to the site in context. Strategic thinker adept at assembling presentations and generating required drawings and models, while working calmly individually or with a team under time constraints. Have a keen interest in regional vernacular architecture.

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## Education

B. Arch. Bachelor of Architecture	<b>L. S. Raheja School of Architecture</b> Mumbai University, India	2008 - 2013
MS. AUD Masters of Science in Architecture and Urban Design	<b>Pratt Institute</b> Brooklyn, New York Degree received - May 2016.	2015 - 2016

## Experience

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Intermediate Architect	<b>AMP Architecture, PLLC.</b> Brooklyn, New York.	2016 - 2017
Build it Back Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Preparation of the preliminary and the final construction drawings.</li><li>Expediting for the applications (projects) - in order to get DOB and DDC approvals.</li><li>Incorporation of Post Approval Amendments, if any.</li><li>Conducting site visits to the BIB projects once under execution.</li></ul>	
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Preparation of conceptual designs according to client needs and preferences for high end residential interior and exteriors.</li><li>Filing the job with DOB and pulling the permit to start construction.</li><li>Finishes, tiles, furniture and light selections with the client.</li><li>Site visits and supervision.</li></ul>	
Junior Architect	<b>Praveen Awate Architects Pvt. Ltd.</b> Dadar, Mumbai, India	2013 - 2015
Saffron Residency	Headed the residential project - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Took design decisions and supervised the preparation of architectural and working drawings.</li><li>Compiled area and cost estimations for each phase of construction.</li><li>Conducted meetings with the client and the consultants.</li></ul>	
Others	Administered proper site execution of the design. Worked on five other projects ranging from villas to town planning genre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prepared municipal drawings responding to Mumbai building and zoning codes.</li><li>Planned, designed, detailed, and generated 3D views and models as a part of the team.</li></ul>	
Intern	<b>AG Consultants</b> Dadar, Mumbai, India <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prepared presentation drawings and area charts for residential interiors.</li><li>Brainstormed for concepts in the initial stage with the design team.</li><li>Developed technical details and working drawings for site execution.</li></ul>	2012 - 2013

## Honors

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- Selected for 'Pratt InProcess' as an archived project. - Master's project - **Horrific Beauty** 2017
  - Awarded the 'Most Innovative Design' for Thesis - **ConserveRedevelopment of Crawford Market** 2013  
Thesis also got selected for **Charles Correa Gold Medal Competition**
  - Shortlisted in **Top 25 in National Student Council's (NSC) Transform Urban India (TUI)** competition as Team MMR (Group of 3). Redesigning and Marketing Skywalks 2013
  - Participated in the **National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA) in the Louis. I. Kahn (LIK) trophy** for four years. 2008 - 2012
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## Skills

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| Advanced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Autocad</li><li>• Microsoft Office</li><li>• Google Sketchup Pro 8</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adobe Photoshop</li><li>• Adobe Illustrator</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rhinoceros</li><li>• Keyshot Render</li></ul> |
| Basic    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maxwell Render</li><li>• Autodesk Maya</li></ul>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adobe InDesign</li><li>• Revit</li></ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vray Render</li><li>• Corel Draw</li></ul>    |

**Affiliated with the Council of Architecture, India**  
**Member of The Urban Design Research Institute, Mumbai**  
**The Architectural League, New York**