

# shivani raina degraaf

Urban Planner & Designer  
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San Francisco, CA

i'm

an urban planner and urban designer with a background in architecture and expertise in environmental planning and landscape urbanism. I am deeply committed to building climate resilience and equitable community development. My multidisciplinary approach makes me an ideal candidate for mission-driven work that spans multiple fields of study and research.

Master of City Planning | University of California, Berkeley, 2021

Bachelor of Architecture | School of Planning & Architecture Delhi, 2016

Community Design Fellow | Association for Community Design, 2023

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dr

**Design/ Planning Software & Expertise** Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Premier Pro; Dall-E, Prompt Engineering & Generative Image Production (GPT-2, Dall-E, Midjourney); Autodesk AutoCAD & Architecture, Revit, SketchUp + Vray/Extensions, Rhino, Ecotect/Project Vasari; community engagement & participatory community design; CEQA/NEPA compliance, Transportation Demand Management (TDM), project management, quantitative and qualitative technical analysis using AI & Python

**What Makes Me Unique** Excellence in storytelling, cross-cultural competency, crisis management (trained volunteer crisis counselor since 2023 at Crisis Text Line), and community engagement; urban design & planning work experience in USA Canada Australia Kenya India & Bangladesh;

● **Founder, [Raina DeGraaf](#)** (Freelance), **San Francisco, CA** (Feb 2021 - Present)

Founded value-driven design and planning consultancy where I lead design, content creation, web development, and strategic services.

## **Notable Achievements**

● **[U.S. Green Building Council + Mithūn](#)** (Remote) (03/2022): Created detailed infographics and branding for the "Centering Health Equity" project.

● **[Hayward Area Planning Association, Hayward CA](#)** (Remote) (03-2021-03/2022): Urban design and planning consultant on climate-resilient affordable housing project in Hayward, focused on sustainable design and community-driven solutions.

● **[Groundworks Consulting, Oakland CA](#)** (Remote) (11/20-05/21): Created workbook for Community Development Organizations to use; researched equitable development; filmed documentary on creative placemaking for systemic change.

● **Planning & Design Consultant, [ICF, San Francisco, CA](#)** (Hybrid) (03/01/2022 - Jan '24)

I specialize in providing design services on federal and state level environmental projects.

## **Notable Achievements:**

Integral contributor to California's first *Planning and Environment Linkages study at SR37*, providing technical planning, design, and writing input across all project stages.

Streamlined processes for the *SF Housing Element Update 2022 Environmental Review*, resulting in improved project efficiency and promotion to ICF's **Project Coordinator/Deputy Project Manager for SF Housing Element Update 2022**. Our Project Management team received a special commendation from Rich Hills (Director, SF Planning) Nov '22.

- Took initiative to develop branding for the OHV Park Landscape & Urban Design Project even though it wasn't in the scope. Client loved the branding and adopted it for all future Parks & Rec projects.

Awarded the ICF "Living Your Values" Annual Award

Nominated (Won) by her team-members for "You Matter" recognition (monetary award/bonus) for her relentless contributions to Link21 North Bay regional rail and BART Phase II expansion.

**Architect, DEPP Innovation Labs, SEEDS Technical Services, New Delhi, India, (Hybrid) (2018-19)**

- Played a crucial role in setting up the lab in the Karail Slum and working across multiple teams Identified and shortlisted innovative user-led solutions to user-identified problems and optimized selected solutions for scalability and effectiveness in reducing disaster risks.

### **Notable Achievements**

- Was promoted to Project Manager after working on the project for 4 months due to demonstrated expertise in cross-cultural and sectoral communication and a passion for community led design.

- Taught and created content for design innovation course at SEEDS Academy. Led community engagement workshops and submitted the winning proposal (Urban Agriculture) at SEEDS Innovation Hackathon in March 2019.

- Our work was studied by VNIT Nagpur Prof Rajashree Kotharkar whos published a technical paper on the impact of the architectural retrofits we designed on improving the heatwave resilience of slum homes. The paper recommended our retrofits as a commendable way of improving resilience.

Invited to give a talk on participatory design and Asset Based Community Development for slums and refugee camps at a Peepal Talk event, alongside notable architect Nabeel Hamdi.

Honored by World Bank in Washington DC for designing and prototyping a 'flat-pack' home that can be built for less than \$1,000 in the Himalayan Mountain Range (up to 10,000 ft). Resilient Home Challenge (Awarded May 9, 2019).

- **2021 International Development Consultant**, Institute of Urban & Regional Development, Berkeley, CA: Prepared program performance metrics and research reports, demonstrating public health (HiAP) and urban planning skills.

- **2020 Transportation Planning Consultant**, Department of Transportation, City of Oakland, CA: Independently researched instant delivery companies and prepared policy memo. Designed, compiled, and authored a report on Curb Management Strategies to manage COVID-19 related rise in food deliveries.

- **2020 Urban Design Consultant**, Bay Conservation & Development Commission, San Francisco, CA: Independently prepared design guidelines to reduce analog policing and create a sense of safety. Published a paper on safety and design, highlighting Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and creating user-centric solutions.

- **2017-18 Architect**, SK Das Associated Architect, New Delhi, India: Led design research, user research, and client presentations, and assisted in the creation of conceptual, architectural, and urban design drawings and presentations. Collaborated on sustainable design projects, including an eco-tourism resort in Goa, Indira Gandhi International Airport Project Coordination (Aerocity Urban Design Project), and an eco-friendly residential single-family home.

For more info and work experience visit [www.rainadegraaf.com](http://www.rainadegraaf.com)