

Christian R. Nielsen-Palacios
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MBE
(607) 227-7477

Architect/Specifier
christian@nielsen-palacios.com

Registration	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE - dba OPUS 2)	2016
	LEED Accredited Professional (second one in Ithaca)	2002
	New York State	1991
	Venezuela	1981

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Consulting	QA/QC review, specs, code reviews, assisting USA architects with projects in Spanish-speaking countries, and architects from Spanish-speaking countries with projects in the USA.
Specifications	Strong interest and skill in conducting product research and developing specs focusing on high performance and sustainability. This interest extends to the Front End sections in Divisions 00 and 01.
Design	Experienced in all phases of design, from programming and schematic design to construction documents, specifications writing and construction supervision. Special interest in integrated, high performance building design. Project architect for numerous buildings in New York State and the Ithaca area, including K-12 public schools and State University Construction Fund jobs. While still in Venezuela, focused on apartment building design and participated in national competitions that were awarded prizes and honorable mentions.
Construction Supervision	Supervised construction of multi-million dollar renovations of historic Cornell University buildings and major K-12 school projects, including classroom, auditorium, office, pool, gymnasium and laboratory spaces.
Management	Project Manager for several public school projects in New York State. Coordinated work of multiple disciplines and consultants. Collaborated with construction managers to develop front end specifications and construction administration procedures.

EDUCATION

Graduate	Cornell University, ▪ History of Architecture. MA. ▪ "Architectural Education at Cornell: 1928-1950; Between Modernism and Beaux-Arts." Ithaca, New York
Undergraduate	Universidad Simón Bolívar ▪ Six-year professional degree ("Arquitecto") ▪ Thesis: "The Poly-sensory Perception of Space; Architecture and the Blind." Caracas, Venezuela
Secondary	The Lawrenceville School Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola Lawrenceville, New Jersey Caracas, Venezuela
Other	Colegio de Ingenieros de Venezuela ▪ Courses on building cost estimating, legal and administrative aspects of site supervision. Colegio de Arquitectos de Venezuela ▪ Courses on prefabricated building systems and on building permit regulations. Foreign Language Courses Courses in German, French, Danish and Italian. In Venezuela, USA and Germany.

PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, CONFERENCES

School Business Affairs magazine:

- "High Performance Schools Make Cents", June 2003 issue, published by The Association of School Business Officials International

New York Construction magazine:

- Interviewed for "Green Schools: K-12 Schools Learn the Ropes of Sustainable Design", March 2006 issue

Energy in Schools 2004:

- Speaker at conference sponsored by NYSERDA and NESEA in Albany, NY.

Greenbuild (USGBC):

- Attended annual conferences in Pittsburgh and Denver.

Building Energy (NESEA):

- Attend annual conference every year, volunteer with organization.

AIA Southern New York Chapter:

- 2006 Honorable Mention Award (Calkins Road Middle School, Pittsford, NY)

EMPLOYMENT

STREAM Collaborative architecture + landscape architecture dpc (Ithaca)	2017-2020
▪ <u>Senior Associate</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In charge of Building Code reviews, technical specifications and quality control.	
Nielsen-Palacios International and Opus 2 Architectural Services (MBE) - Consultant	1995-present
▪ <u>Opus 2 Architectural Services:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independent consultant (MBE) offering support services to other architects (QA/QC, specifications, code reviews, drafting, etc.)	
▪ <u>Nielsen-Palacios International:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• English to/from Spanish translation and editing services (including specifications in Spanish for USA architects working abroad)	
Ashley McGraw Architects (Syracuse)	2008-2015
Senior Architect, Project Manager	
▪ Altmar Parish Williamstown Central School District - Additions and Alterations (\$34M project) Awarded LEED Gold and Silver Certification (two schools)	
▪ Bethlehem Central School District- District Wide Facility Improvements (\$20M project)	
▪ Bernardine Apartments renovation and elevator addition (23-story assisted living facility.)	
▪ Conducted product research and developed specifications for entire firm.	
Thomas Associates (Ithaca) – Became The Thomas Group, then TetraTech Architects and Engineers	1995-2008
Project Architect, Project Manager, Associate Principal	
▪ Ocean Township High School Additions and Alterations	
▪ Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Additions and Alterations	
▪ Ithaca High School, Additions and Alterations	
▪ Olean Middle School	
▪ Pavilion Jr/Sr High School, Additions and Alterations	
▪ Ecovillage at Ithaca, SoNG Common House	
▪ Calkins Road Middle School (Designed to LEED Gold standards, Owner did not seek certification)	
▪ Avoca Central School, Additions and Alterations	
Finest Homes and Contracting (Ithaca)	1994-1995
Staff architect, construction manager, commercial bidding coordinator.	
▪ All Saints Parish Center	
▪ Assorted residential projects.	
Egner and Associates (Ithaca)	1987-1994
Architect	
▪ Rehabilitation of Wing Hall and Wing Hall Wing, Cornell University	
▪ All Saints Parish Master Plan and Parish Center	
▪ George Junior Republic Education Center	
▪ Rehabilitation of Martha Van Rensselaer Hall, Phase IV, Cornell University	
▪ Town and City of Ithaca Fire Stations	
▪ Dryden Fire Station Addition	
▪ Groton Elementary School Addition and Alterations	
Perspecta, C.A. (Venezuela)	1981-1984
Owner/Partner	
▪ Asociación Civil Elizabeth Apartment Building	
▪ Mojacasabe Country Club	
▪ Lagoven Service Station	
▪ Award-winning competitions	
Edificaciones Túnel, S.A. (Venezuela)	1982-1984
Architect	
▪ Reinforced concrete building systems for low- and mid-income housing	
▪ La Tahona Apartment Building	
▪ La Virginia Residential Development	
▪ Río Lama III Townhouse Development	
▪ La Urbina Norte Apartment Building	

MEMBERSHIPS

American Institute of Architects	1995-present
SCIP (Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice)	2016-present
Northeast Sustainable Energy Association	2002
New York Interfaith Power and Light	2006-2008
Leadership Tompkins	2007
Tompkins County Environmental Management Council	
USGBC New York Upstate Chapter	
USGBC Bilingual Speakers Bureau	
New York Interfaith Power and Light	

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Teaching

Tompkins Cortland Community College - Instructor

- Professional Development Course for General Contractors

Cornell University - Teaching Assistant

- Architectural History Survey Courses
- Assistant to Architecture Slide Library Curator and to Darkroom Manager

Universidad Simón Bolívar - Teaching Assistant

- Architectural Drafting, Descriptive Geometry.

Volunteering

Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair

- Member of organizing team for annual event that raises thousands of dollars (over \$500,000 since 2005) for non-profit organizations.

NESEA (Northeast Sustainable Energy Association)

- Building Energy Conference volunteer.

Languages

Native speaker of Spanish. Fluent in English.

- Knowledge of Italian, German, French, and Danish.
- Freelance translator and editor in English and Spanish.
- Translated chapters of International Building Code, CADD drawings, and specifications for international projects.
- Founded Toastmasters Chapter at The Thomas Group,

TESTIMONIALS

Thomas:

"Mr. Nielsen-Palacios, a LEED® Accredited Professional, has been a professional architect since 1981 [...] He has designed and managed a multitude of project types, scopes and sizes, with a focus on educational facilities. Christian also has significant experience in gymnasium, pool and fitness center design. Additionally, Christian leads our efforts in sustainable, high performance design, and is in charge of coordinating the sustainable design aspects of [our] projects that are registered with the US Green Building Council in preparation for future LEED® certification. He has also written professional journal articles about the economic benefits of sustainable design, and translated parts of the International Building Code into Spanish. He has been invited to address professional groups to explain LEED® and other sustainable design issues."

Deborah:

"Thanks to both of you for your attention to these details. I believe our specifications are better under Christian's stewardship than they have ever been. "

Maria:

"Christian is a very conscientious and creative architect. He focuses on integrating sustainability and green design into both his work and his daily life. In addition to practicing, Christian is dedicated to sharing his expertise and connecting people to further his colleagues' and friends' knowledge."

Scott:

"Christian is dedicated to the improving our little piece of the world through his efforts to enhance the K-12 educational environment through thoughtful and sustainable design practice."

Brian:

"Christian approaches architecture with a passion for sustainable design and strives to work with each of the other design disciplines in order to develop a final solution that is greater than the sum of its parts."

Cheryl:

"Christian can spot a typo a mile away. He is very accurate in his work and precise. He is always suggesting improvements to our master specs, contracts, and office forms. [...] Christian always wants to do the right thing. [...] I'd rather work with someone who cares that much, than someone who doesn't care enough to stand up for what he believes in. Christian will always go the extra mile for causes important to him and the firm such as LEED® and high performance schools. Clients always give him a glowing report. Christian is a great asset to the firm."

SOCIAL MEDIA

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/christiannielsenpalacios>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NielsenPalaciosInternational/>