

## Introduction

This report covers the vacation work done during the June-July and December-January vacation in the place called Vryheid in KwaZulu Natal. It was done with the company called uMalusi House factory.

This company specialises in architecture so we mainly dealt with house plans and drawings for the surrounding urban areas, send them to municipality for approval as well as visiting the construction sites during the construction.

Please note that this report includes both work done in June and work done in December.

## How did it all work?

The company worked in the following way; the client interested in having a building plan would call the company and make an appointment. Then the architect would meet with client who will explain what exactly he or she desires, for example a six bedroom house with the garage in front of the house, while the client explains the architect will make the rough sketch of what he or she says. The architect will then go to the site with the rough sketch, have a look at the site then draw a preliminary drawing using the sketch from the first meeting with the client.

The architect then takes that drawing to the office where a second preliminary drawing from that second sketch will be drawn. That drawing will be taken to the client and if he or she likes it then it would be taken to the office for the final detailed drawing.

## My days at work

### First two weeks

On the first two week my duties were to take the drawings that had been drawn by the architect to the municipal engineer for approval, although at first it seemed an easy task but later I realised that drawing plans was not as easy as it seemed, mostly because not all the drawings were approved by the municipality which meant that I had to take them back to the office so they could redraw them.

The main reason for some of the drawings failing was because they crossed building lines which meant that the design had to be changed or the house reduced. I also learnt that some drawing plans did not pass or were not approved by the engineer because of the technical errors in the drawings themselves.

### The following three weeks

My second task for the following two weeks was to draw second preliminary drawings from the sketches that had been drawn from site; these drawings were the ones that were later

taken to the client for approval before the final detailed drawings that would be taken to the municipality engineer for approval.

I would meet with the architect who had gone to the site and had drawn the proposed final look, take the sketch, all the necessary details and then I would start drawing a scaled neat drawing. When I finish with the drawing which normally took two to three days I would take it back to the architect who initially drawn it, if he finds errors I would have to redraw it which was quite stressful and very time consuming but on the other hand if he approves he would take the drawing to the client.

Should the client be satisfied with the drawings I would then take them to my supervising architect who redraw the drawings with me including all the details needed, (see the attached drawing).

## **Site work**

On my last two weeks at work I started my site work. When the client calls and says he needed a plan for a new house or was extending the house, myself and my supervising architect would meet with the client, the client would explain what he wanted and where his erf was, after taking all the necessary details we would go back to the office then I would be required to get the map of the area including the street map, also I would be required to find all the municipality regulations including zoning requirements etc.

When all the required information was gathered which they mostly had in the company shelves if not I would get it at the municipality we would go the site or erf where the construction would be.

On arriving on site I would have to locate all the service pipes by looking for them with the help of the maps we had brought, after we locate and the service pipes we would then find out what the client preferences were what he liked and what he did not like.

If the client wished to extend the house we would measure the available space on all the sides of the house, most of the houses I went to, the client would wish to add a car garage so I would measure the available space on either sides of the house, determine the available space not forgetting the boundary lines and service pipes that ran underground.

After all this information was gathered and different sketches were drawn I would take them to the office where the best and most efficient drawings would be drawn.

## **The lessons learnt**

I mostly learnt through working in this company a lot of things with dealing with different kinds of people, from people who just know they want a 3 bedroom house to clients who

know exactly all the details of what they wanted and how to deal with them. I also learnt the importance of briefing as most information is gathered and lost there. If for any reason there was miscommunication or the client and the architect did not understand each other for any reason the whole process was in jeopardy and resulted in a lot of money wasted.

Lastly I learnt the importance of being well informed and accuracy in the field of construction, should you not know the municipality regulations or had the wrong information or were inaccurate for any reason, the engineers did not hesitate to cancel the whole plan and the whole thing had to be redone, even if the construction process had already began, it would have to be demolished.