

Andrew Blair

Landscape architect running a residential architecture practice, with nearly 20 years in the built environment across South Africa, Norway and the USA. Master's in Landscape Architecture from NMBU, Norway. Experience on Norwegian road and rail infrastructure with Tegn_3 and Sweco, and on residential architecture, freelance from 2013 and through my own practice since 2019. I use AI every day and build my own tools for design, drawing and practice management.

Experience

2019–today

AB Architecture (Pty) Ltd · Founder

Knysna and Cape Town, South Africa

- Residential architecture from brief to approval: new houses, alterations, pools and heritage-area additions.
- Larger jobs under the joint brand AB+HvD Architects.
- Built an AI-run back office: fee proposals, invoicing and bookkeeping, council forms and project records, all by voice.
- LiDAR scanning to as-built drawings; design checks against zoning schemes and SANS 10400.

Ongoing

Zonely · Founder

zonely.co.za

- Web app giving Cape Town property owners zoning answers in plain English, with paid reports.
- Designed and built it myself using AI coding tools; runs its own ads reporting and blog publishing.
- Site data (boundaries, existing buildings, building lines, height limits, coverage) exports straight into Revit and CAD. In development: a drag-and-drop layout tool that checks what is allowed.

2014–2018

Tariq Fensham Architects · Architectural assistant (freelance)

Kommetjie, Cape Town

- Council submission and construction drawings, details and schedules; SANS 10400 compliance.
- Projects included four new houses in Newlands, a house at Cape Point, and Whale Rock, Plettenberg Bay.

2013–2016

Unite&Co · Owner

Cape Town

- Own residential landscape design and installation company.

2013–2015

Hanneke de Wet Architects · Architectural assistant (freelance)

Cape Town

- Revit drawings, details and council submissions for new houses and alterations.

May–Sep 2012

Sweco Norge AS · Landscape architect

Oslo, Norway

- E6 Arnkvern–Moelv: 25 km road widening from two to four lanes.
- Vestfoldbanen parcel 12.2 and Råde station: construction plans for platforms, crossings and parking.
- Detail and planting plans for train stations and a housing development at Voksenkollen.

2011–2012

Tegn_3 · Landscape architect

Oslo, Norway (part-time alongside my master's)

- Terrain modelling and grading in AutoCAD Civil 3D; 3D visualisation; construction documents.
- Road and rail work included E6 Bjørum, E6 national road projects, Vestfoldbanen and Farriseidet railway work.
- Site analysis, measurement and site-plan work for a primary school, including schoolyard design.
- Wider project experience included infrastructure, housing, kindergartens and schools. First use of Revit.

2007–2009

Early practice in Cape Town

Sam Glen Landscape Architects · Earthworks Landscape Architects · COA Architects

- Public spaces for the City of Cape Town (Ocean View, Princess Vlei), a 30-year cemetery masterplan, and residential landscape work.

Education

2008–2012

Master's in Landscape Architecture

Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Ås · 300 ECTS

- Thesis: housing concepts for informal settlements, with Khayelitsha as the case study.
- Norwegian as a foreign language.
- Teaching assistant at UMB (now NMBU) while completing my thesis.

2006–2008

Landscape Architecture

California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo

- Attended before transferring to Norway. Dean's List.

Selected projects, own practice

- Pool and site works, Belvidere, Knysna (2026)
- Off-grid new house, Calitzdorp (2026)
- House extension, Pinelands, Cape Town (2026)
- Residential project, Hout Bay (2026)
- Kitchen and extension, Simola, Knysna (2026)
- Alterations in a heritage area, St James (2025)
- Pool and zoning departure, Brenton-on-Sea (2025)
- Residential project, Kirstenhof, Cape Town (2025)
- Cottage, Kalk Bay (2025)
- Apartment renovation, Kenilworth (2021–2026)
- House, Wellington, New Zealand (2021)
- Projects in Plettenberg Bay and Knysna (2022–2024)

A fuller list with images is in the portfolio.

Software

- Revit, AutoCAD, Civil 3D
- SketchUp, 3ds Max
- Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign
- LiDAR scanning to drawings
- GIS and zoning data

Languages

- English, native
- Norwegian, working level

AI and automation

- Claude, ChatGPT, Claude Code
- Custom AI skills and agents
- Local models and speech-to-text
- Web apps (Next.js, Vercel)

Contact

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