

Saadiq Alli

Arch4861

10/28/18

Seven-Year Plan

My seven-year plan will start on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and will end on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. This fall semester will be my final semester at City tech, so, my seven-year plan won't include anything undergrad related. I'm 24 years old, currently working at a small office in Lynbrook, NY.

I assume as I map out these seven years the first few years will be the most detailed and get vaguer as the years go on. Seven years is a long time and I personally don't like to plan that far ahead because you never know what's going to happen.

### **2019: Year One - 24 Years Old**

This year I'd like to call it a 'build up' year. What I mean by that is I'll be focusing on how I present myself professionally. I currently have an idea of what my portfolio will look like, but I haven't started working on the portfolio itself. So, next year I plan on hitting the ground hard on my portfolio and finishing it in the first quarter of 2019. I also plan on working on a website that features my work in greater lengths. The portfolio shows my work, but the website will give me the opportunity to go into greater detail about my projects. It will also allow me to show work that I was unable to display in my portfolio. The website will also show other skills and hobbies I'm interested in. It will give me the opportunity to express my personality.

I've already started working on the website and have a domain name picked out. The next step is to design the website and have content to show people. Along with the website will come business cards and networking. This class has allowed me to go out and start networking and I will continue to do so in the new year.

Along with working on those two projects I will be applying to jobs in the City. Mainly Brooklyn and Manhattan. I've been working in architecture for over two years now and I think it's time I branch out to the city. Currently, I work in a small office with seven people. My goal in looking for a new job is to work in a larger office, preferably a mid to large firm. I'd like to be involved in more commercial projects across NYC. Anything except residential, I've done enough residential in my current architectural position. Hopefully I can land a job within the first half of the year. Since I've been in architecture for two years, the position I'll be going for will be along the lines of an Associate or Architectural Designer. I already have some firms in mind and plan on applying once I'm finished with school. On Glassdoor, the salaries for these positions range from 40k to 60k. It may be a stretch but with the amount of experience I have I'm fully confident I'll be able to land a job in that salary range.

Next year will also be a savings year. With a new job in sight I plan on staying home the entire year and saving as much as I can. I plan on living as frugal as possible next year and buying things that are essential to me. The idea for next year is to save as much as I can because I plan on moving out the following year.

Aside from working on myself professionally, I'd like to go out more and be involved in more social situations. Since school won't be taking up most of my time, I'll be able to go out and explore. Speaking of exploring, next year I must go out of the country for a vacation. Throughout college I haven't done much traveling so a huge goal of mine would be to see the world. Finally, I'd like to pick up an old and

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new hobby. I've slowly gotten back into art and I'd like to pick up two additional hobbies that are completely new to me.

### **2020: Year Two – 25 Years Old**

After I spent a whole year working on myself, this year will mostly be about finding the right architectural fit. 2020 will mark three years working in architecture so I'll have a better idea of where I'd like to be in the profession. I'm aware that finding the right office will be a hard task so I'd like to spend a good chunk of that year finding a job that is the right fit for me. I'd like a job that I can settle into for a few years and has room for growth. A job that has a great work environment and can challenge me with the projects I come across. I'd like to be able to work with people that are willing to teach me as much as I can because I'm still and will always be learning in this field.

Aside from my professional career, my goal for 2020 is to move out and be on my own for the first time. In 2019 a goal of mine was to save money and paired with a new job, moving out doesn't seem like a stretch. I've already started looking into places with a realistic budget and I'm thinking the Brooklyn area is best for me. Hypothetically, if I make around 45-40k a year I'll be netting around 30k. 30k over 12 months will be around \$2500 a month. I plan on getting an apartment with roommates, spending no more than \$1,000-1,300 on rent a month which will leave me with over \$1,000 for other expenses and enjoyment.

Every year I plan on traveling outside of the country to see the world and pick up new hobbies and interest.

### **2021: Year Three – 26 Years Old**

2021 will mark two years post-graduation. My plan for 2021 is to keep expanding my horizons, architecturally and personally. I'd also like to start thinking about graduate schools. I'd like to map out a list of schools that has the right graduate program for me. I know for a fact that I'll be going to school locally since I'll be working. The graduate school I attend must be affordable because I will not take out any loans, as I don't want to go into debt. The school that is the most affordable will be the main consideration.

The two schools I'm currently looking at is Pratt Institute and City College. I'm confident I can get into City College because my GPA and work meet the requirements. I know Pratt will be harder because they require a lot more. The GPA requirement for Pratt is a 3.0, the GRE and a Portfolio. My GPA is north of 3.0 so I'm confident that I will get into Pratt. My only concern is tuition. I don't want to leave college with any debt or loans. It will take decades to pay off. I'll be looking into how much I have saved and if I feel comfortable with the amount then I'll consider Pratt. If not, I'll go with the alternative in City College.

### **2022: Year four – 27 Years Old**

This year I plan on attending a graduate program that's best for me. I know graduate school will most likely be three years. I'll most likely be 29 when I finish. I must finish in the three years because I cannot afford to spend longer in grad school. I will be going to school and working at the same time which will

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be extremely challenging, but I know it can be done. Since school and work will take up most of my time I will have to put my hobbies and interest on hold while I finish school.

### **2023: Year Five – 28 Years Old**

Continue with school and work. At this point I'll have seven years of architectural experience under my belt so my job should reflect on the experience I have.

The Job I'd like to have is something related to a Project Manager. I'd like to be working on bigger projects and being out in the field more. I'd also like to be establishing a client base for my firm. At that point I should be comfortable going out and networking. Meeting new people and finding the right work for my firm will be the focus of my job.

### **2024: Year Six – 29 Years Old**

Continue with school and work. At this point I'd like to try something completely new artistically. Before architecture, animation was my primary focus and I still haven't given up on it. I plan on spending a lot of time learning animation. This will also be my final year of graduate school, so I'll be prepping for life after grad school.

### **2025: Year Seven – 30 Years Old**

At 30, along with my current architecture career, I'd like to set my sights on a new career. I've always wanted to teach so this year I'll be focusing on teaching. If I do end up graduating from Pratt applying for a teaching position will be one of my goals. Along with teaching I want to continue working in Architecture. I'd also like to continue with animation and work on a serious animation project. At 30 I should know where I'm at in life professionally and personally and this current year should set me up for the next decade.

I'm aware I got very vague towards the end but those are the main goals that I've always had in mind. I know I'm an extremely driven person and I can achieve each of these goals. I'm also aware that I didn't mention studying and taking the ARE. I didn't mention it because I know there are many fields I'm interested in and architecture is just one of them. I plan to keep an open mind throughout my professional career and maybe there will be another opportunity along the way. Art has always been my focus and architecture was the safer option, so I took it at the time. I know architecture may not be the result and I might find an artistic opportunity that I can't pass up. I don't know what's in store for me in the next seven years. I do plan on taking it a year at a time and having a few concrete goals will be a good foundation for what's in store.