

Personal details

Name : Daniel Schwitter
Profession : Diploma Architect FH/HTL (UAS)
Date of Birth : 02.08 1953
Years of experience : 38 years (22 years with Skat, Switzerland)
Present position : Senior Education Infrastructure and Reconstruction Specialist
Nationality : Swiss



Key Competences

Daniel Schwitter was trained as an architect and planner in Switzerland. He has complemented experience in all aspects of architectural design, planning, general building construction and facility management in public works projects for housing schemes, education and health facilities, including primary and secondary schools, community colleges, high schools, universities as well as hospitals and dispensaries in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cuba, Haiti, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Kosovo, Kirgizstan, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Serbia, Romania and Rwanda.

Active in this field for thirty eight years, he has taken major roles in the design and management of large-scale school construction-, health- and housing projects in Switzerland, Asia and Africa.

Since many years he is also active in the area of disaster mitigation through the planning, coordinating, and backstopping of large reconstruction projects with more than 2000 houses in earthquake and tsunami, cyclone, and earthquake affected areas of Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin-America. He is also often engaged by NGO's and INGO's as an International Architectural Advisor for large scale basic, secondary and higher education infrastructure projects.

Mr. Schwitter also has considerable experience in institutional reform issues and capacity building in the field of architecture and sustainable building technologies, including institutional assessment, private sector participation in municipal services, and community contracting and management as well as introduction of maintenance concepts.

Beside his activities in developing countries Mr. Schwitter is involved in designing, planning, tendering and construction implementation management of various family homes, public and industrial buildings in Switzerland.

Education

1972 - 1978 : Diploma Architect FH /HTL, (University of Chur, Switzerland)
1969 - 1971 : Vocational Training School of Buchs, Switzerland
1960 - 1969 : Primary and secondary education in Pfäfers, Switzerland

Post-graduate Training:

2007 : Post graduate training courses in earthquake resistant engineering, University Singapore
2008 : Design of physical facilities for modern education (post graduate training workshops in school design, Switzerland and Finland)

Languages

	Speaking	Reading	Writing
German	excellent	excellent	excellent
English	excellent	excellent	excellent
French	basic	basic	basic
Italian	basic	basic	basic
Spanish	basic	basic	basic

Employment record

1995 – to date: Skat, Switzerland:

Task Manager Coordination Architecture and Settlement Management. In-charge of Sustainable Building and Settlement Development, Educational and Health Infrastructure as well as large scale reconstruction projects.

1984 – 1987 and 1991 - 1995: Urs Zinsli, Architect, Chur Switzerland

Architect-in-Charge and Project Manager. Responsible for the architectural design, construction design, detail planning and construction management of five medium and large scale primary and secondary school buildings and gymnastic halls.

1987 – 1991: Helvetas, Swiss Association for International Cooperation, Bhutan

- Architect-in-Charge and Project Manager for the design, planning and construction of the Natural Resource Training Institute in Lobesa (180 students) and the District Hospital in Bumthang (68 beds)
- Feasibility Study of the National Teachers Training Centre (350 students) in Paro
- General duties included: Design, planning, budgeting and supervision of Helvetas' national construction program as well as management of site engineers, supervisors, contractors and employees.

1981 – 1984: Robert Obrist und Partner, Architect, St. Moritz, Switzerland

Site Architect-in-Charge, responsible for the construction design, tendering, and construction management of the Pedagogical University of Chur Switzerland, (600 students, including boarding facilities).

1978 – 1980: Helvetas, Swiss Association for International Cooperation, Cameroon

Building Training Centre Kumba (vocational school 100 students), Head-of-Department

Selected Consultancies and mandates

2015 – 2017 Nepal: (for Caritas Switzerland and Swiss Solidarity)

Damage assessment, assisting in developing the project proposal and technical backstopping for the rehabilitation of 34 earthquake affected schools in Sindhupalchok, Nepal

2015: Haiti (for Swiss Development Cooperation, SDC)

External evaluation of the school reconstruction and vocational education projects implemented by SDC in the earthquake affected areas of Haiti.

2015 – 2017: Laos (for the Swiss Red Cross, SRC)

Technical Backstopper for the construction of Community Health Centers in Northern Laos. The mandate includes planning, building design and quality controlling in the field.

2013 - 2014: Worldbank/Cambodia (for the Asian Disaster Prevention Center)

Technical Specialist for the Development of DRR Guidelines for Cambodia. The guidelines aim at improved and safe housing in rural areas.

2013 - 2016: Serbia and Kosovo (for HEKS and ECO)

Technical advisor and backstopper of a Roma settlement up-grading program (500 houses). This project was among the ten finalists selected for the UN-Habitat Award 2015.

2012 and 2014: Myanmar (for SDC)

Development of a Concept on how to establish and introduce National School Construction Guidelines.

2012: Pakistan (for the Swiss Solidarity)

Evaluation Team Leader of the SwS financed reconstruction projects implemented by six Swiss NGO's in the 2009 flood affected areas of the Indus valley.

2012: Haiti (for SDC)

Evaluation and Technical Advisor of SDC implemented School Construction Projects in Haiti.

2011 – 21014: Switzerland (University of Luzern)

External resource person to the Master Course of Architecture in “Energy Efficient Building” and “Building in the Himalayas”

2011: Switzerland (for the Swiss Red Cross)

Technical Specialist for the Development of a Reconstruction Manual aiming at Contractor-based as well as Community- based contracting of reconstruction interventions.

2009 – 2012: Myanmar (for the SDC)

International Architectural Advisor for schools cum storm shelters to be built in the cyclone affected area of the Yangon River Delta. Preparing design options and developing working drawings, on-going backstopping and training activities for the SDC-staff.

2009 – to date: Laos (for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry MAF, Helvetas, SDC)

International Architectural Advisor for the planning and conceptualization, and technical backstopping of the new Agriculture and Forestry College in Luang Prabhang including academic and boarding facilities for 600 students. Developing conceptual- and tender designs, preparing tender documents. Advisory in construction implementation and maintenance, on-going.

2010: Cambodia (for the Swiss Red Cross)

Development of a project proposal for the reconstruction and retrofitting of 110 houses affected by the Ketsana Cyclone. Backstopping and monitoring of construction activities.

2010: Pakistan (for the AgaKhan Foundation)

Development of training modules for practical training and demonstration of cost effective and environmentally friendly retrofitting technologies in Gilgit, Pakistan

2009: Laos (for the ADPC Asian Disaster Prevention Center)

Technical Specialist for the Development of School Construction Guidelines for Lao PDR. The guidelines aim at uniform standard and quality in the provision of physical facilities for basic education.

2007 – 2008: Pakistan (for the SDC)

Technical Advisor of the SDC funded Earthquake Reconstruction Project in NW Pakistan. Backstopper for planning, technical and institutional issues. The project included the construction of 100 earthquake safe primary schools and BHU's

2001 – 2008: Laos (for the Asian Development Bank and MoE Laos)

School Architect of the Basic Education (Girls) Project, Lao PDR, 504 buildings). Preparing design options for multi grade primary schools, and proposing approaches for decentralised construction implementation. Identification of training needs and local capacity building of government construction staff. Production of site supervision manuals and drafting maintenance concepts. Member of the ADB/MoE Mid Term Review team.

2007 – 2008: Dharamsala, India: (for the University - and the Federal Technical Institute of Zuerich)

Member of the Swiss mission team exploring the feasibility and options to establish the "New Tibetan Medical Academy" in Dharamsala, including an academy, a hospital, and a pharmaceutical factory. Development of a Feasibility Study including budget envelope and implementation concept.

2003 – 2005: Afghanistan (for GOPA Consultants, Germany)

International Specialist in Higher Education Infrastructure Planning. Capacity Building for the Reconstruction & Development of the MoHE (Ministry of Higher Education). Design of new, rehabilitated and extended schools. Assistance and advice to MOHE staff in mapping, assessing, costing and prioritising the short- and medium-term infrastructure needs of the higher education system, including reconstruction and construction, and maintenance and asset management; on-the-job training of MOHE staff in this process.

2005: Afghanistan (for the Ministry of Higher Education)

Architectural design, working drawings, and costing of the "Business Community College Afghanistan" financed by the World Bank and the international donor community. Assistance in tendering and selection of contractors.

1997 – 2001: Laos (for the World Bank / MoE)

Advisor for the construction and infrastructure component of the World Bank funded Education Development Project (EDP I), Lao PDR, 300 schools and administration buildings. Local capacity building and quality management

2005 -2009 India: (for the Swiss Red Cross)

Technical Backstopper two Swiss Red Cross funded Tsunami reconstruction projects in Pondicherry, India and Tamil Nadu . The projects includes the reconstruction of six villages with over 2100 housing units, public buildings and village infrastructure in order to implement natural hazard safe housing

2005 -2008 Sri Lanka: (for Helvetas)

Coordinator of the Helvetas/Skat reconstruction projects in Tsunami affected areas of Sri Lanka. The project includes planning and construction of two villages with 230 houses, public buildings, educational facilities, and village infrastructure in consideration of disaster risk reduction principles

1995 – 2001 Philippines: (for SDC/ILO)

Coordinator of the Philippine component of the Building Advisory Service network and management systems for rural and urban projects in Cebu, Luzon and Mindanao.

Reports, Publications, conference Papers

- Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) 2015: External Evaluation Report of earthquake affected reconstruction projects in Haiti (co-author)
- Swiss Solidarity (SwS) 2012: Independent Evaluation Report of the SwS financed flood reconstruction projects in Pakistan (co- author)
- Holcim Award 2011: Main author of "Disaster Risk Reduction through School Construction" in Myanmar

- Swiss Red Cross 2010: "Contractor Based Construction", a planning, tendering and implementation Guideline for Reconstruction Projects
- Laos 2009: Co-author of "National School Construction Guidelines" by adcp
- AIA (American Institute of Architects), "More than 500 Schools for Laos" Helsinki Conference 2008
- Helvetas, "Project proposal for reconstruction of two tsunami affected villages in Sri Lanka" (totally 230 housing units, 2005)
- Swiss Red Cross, "Project proposal for the reconstruction of three Tsunami affected villages in Pondichery, India" (900 housing units, 2005)
- Swiss Red Cross, "Assessment of provincial health facilities in Kyrgyzstan" (2003)
- ADB/GOPA, "Inception Report" and "Final Report" of the ADB financed Capacity Building Program of the MoHE Afghanistan, Infrastructure component (2003 and 2004)
- ADB/OPCV, "Site Supervision Manual" of the Basic Education (Girls) Project of the MoE, Laos (2003)
- ADB/OPCV, "Multi Grade Primary Schools" of the Basic Education (Girls) Project of the MoE Laos (2002)
- Skat/BASIN (Editors) "Roofing Primer" by Roland Stulz, (1999)
- Skat/BASIN, coordinator of the "basinNews" magazine, published twice a year (1996 – 2003)
- Worldbank/skat "National primary school construction in Laos" Draft Concept
- RAS/BASIN "Case Study Series" No 1 - 12 (1998 - 2003)
- RAS/BASIN (Editors), "Roof Truss Guide" by W. Bieler, P. Eichenberger, D. Mostrales, (1998)
- RAS/BASIN (Editors), "Limits of Application of MCR technology ", by D. Mostrales, (1998)
- RAS/BASIN (Editors), "Workshop and Equipment", by H. Müller, (1997)
- RAS/BASIN (Editors), "Production Management", by H. Müller, (1997)
- RAS/BASIN (Editors), "Roofing Systems compared according to ecological criteria", by INTEP, (1997)
- SDC/IDA, "Education Development Project Laos: Mid-term Evaluation" 1997 (with evaluation team)
- SDC/IDA, "Education Development Project Laos: Re-structure of construction and infrastructure component", (1997)
- RAS/BASIN (Editors), "Biomass Roofing", by Nick Hall, (1997)
- Co-ordination of the Basin News, a professional newsletter published twice a year, (ongoing since 1996)
- SKAT, "Progress and Evaluation Report: ILO/DECO Micro Concrete Roofing Project Philippines", (1996)
- Habitat II, (Background Paper for the Istanbul Conference), "Jobs in Cities", (1996)
- BASIN News, "Traditional Building in Bhutan", (1996)
- SKAT, "Progress and Evaluation Report: ILO/DECO Micro Concrete Roofing Project, Philippines", (1995)
- SKAT, "MEPI International MCR Progress Report", (1995, 96,97,98,99,00)
- Helvetas (with planning team), "Project Document: NRTI Construction, Bhutan", (1988)
- Helvetas, "Rules and Regulations for Training and Examining of Woodworkers", (1980)