


NON WOMEN FOCUS



MAY 1999
VOL. 11 NO. 8

\$3.00

LESLEY HEAD

navigating the stormy
seas of business & life

KAYAKING, CLIMBING, MOUNTAIN BIKING...

adventurous women
tell all

THE WOMEN OF FINGER ONE

a float-home
"ladies lunch" party

DR VERENA TUNNICLIFFE & ARIELLE

an ocean floor scientist and her daughter

PACIFIC DESIGN ACADEMY: GRADUATES FIND SUCCESS AWAY FROM HOME

As a child, Anita Wiklem was dabbling in interior design without even knowing it! "My parents told me that I should be an interior designer because as a child I was drawing up floor plans and rearranging the furniture in my room," says Anita about her early childhood in Norway.

A graduate of Pacific Design Academy's Interior Design and Decorating program in 1993, Anita now lives in Toronto where she has worked for the past six years designing interiors for Decorating Den. She has won several awards by the company for her designs and in 1998 placed second internationally.

Anita looks back on her decision to study at Pacific Design Academy as one of the smartest decisions she's made. "As a stranger to Victoria and Canada," says Anita, "the small class sizes and friendly environment helped me to feel comfortable so that I could ask questions."

"You don't realize until you're out in the workforce just how much you've learned," says Anita. "When I'm offered upgrading courses through my company, I often don't have to take them because I already learned it through Pacific Design Academy."

Another aspect that students get out of their experience at Pacific Design Academy are portfolios of work that will help them land that all important first job.

"I was able to build up a portfolio and sample boards that I still use today in seminars and presentations," says Anita. "When I went out to interviews I had something very professional to show prospective employers."

Anita adds that students get out of their experience what they put into it. She says that her education has given her the knowledge to read blueprints and sketch. "All the hours I put into school have really paid off," says Anita who in addition to her work with Decorating Den has hosted a segment for Life Network's Design for Living series and a similar segment on a show aired on the Home and Garden channel.



Anita Wiklem

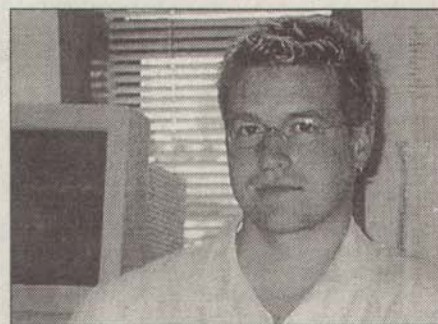
Gary Griffin, graduated in 1993 in building technology. He now works as a senior electrical designer with Reid Crowther. His experience at Pacific Design Academy opened up new horizons.

"The program gave me a better understanding of what I wanted to do with my

career. Previously, I had taken drafting and design, but it never gave me the realization of how much I would enjoy the field."

The practical class projects offered him industry experience that would prepare for an entry level job as a junior draftsman. Since graduation, he has worked steadily as an electrical draftsman and now as a senior electrical designer working on commercial, industrial and residential projects. He will soon be moving to Alberta to take up a job as a project manager.

Richard Poulin is another graduate in the building technology program who recently accepted a job in the British Virgin Islands after working for a local architect. Richard says that he was looking for an intensive, hands-on training which he found at Pacific Design Academy.



Richard Poulin,
graduate of Pacific Design Academy

"It's a really friendly, small school with a personal atmosphere and knowledgeable instructors," says Richard who works as an architectural technologist. "You get to work with instructors one-on-one and you get more out of it that way."

Class sizes are small, intimate and encourage one-on-one instruction by working professionals who bring both theory and industry experience into the classroom.

The registered private college offers intensive, one year diploma courses for students pursuing careers in interior design, landscape design, graphic design and architectural and building technology.

Pacific Design Academy director Maureen Drew is proud that graduates like Anita, Gary and Richard are making their mark in their field and competing for jobs near and far.

Make your mark by calling Pacific Design Academy at 383-3631 for a course catalogue, school tour or more information.

PACIFIC DESIGN ACADEMY

569 Johnson St.,
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1M2
Ph: (250) 383-3631
www.pda.edu E-mail
pacificdesign@hotmail.com