

I am a Psychology graduate who has maintained an interest in architecture, art and design for a very long time, ultimately switching to Interior Design. One of my many passions is maximizing the potential of any space, personally renovating one house and three condos which taught me a great deal.

I married my husband in 2006 in Siena, Italy, the summer before he completed his Masters of Architecture at Montana State University. He had switched into architecture from pre-med completing his Architectural Engineering degree which allowed him to skip a quite a few semesters in his undergraduate years. He is now an Intern Architect working for Cannon Design Architecture Inc. Over the years I have had a lot of time to listen to architects talk and have gained a lot of knowledge on structures which proved essential to understanding LEED credits.

I wrote LEED NC (New Construction) and received LEED AP accreditation. My LEED accreditation really is a result of a goal that was set for all employees in my husband's office to be LEED accredited before 2009. My husband was writing his LEED exam on December 29th and wanted someone to review with, determined to pass on his first try, which he did, of course. I read the NC reference guide in order to be a competent LEED person, able to discuss credits, intents, requirements, submittals, calculations and reference standards.

Those few days not only assisted him but really assisted me as well, helping me go from having no previous knowledge of LEED credits to confidently understanding each one. I resigned myself to writing in the summer after second semester but a few weeks later, in January, I read on the CaGBC website the changes that were going to be made in early 2009 to LEED and decided to book my exam before they implemented the first change, which was the pricing for exams.

Exams were only booking into February which was a packed month of school projects so I booked my exam for the next week, January 24th which gave me a week to review. Between homework and other projects I got about four days of solid review time, wrote and passed with a very comfortable margin.

Before coming to Kwantlen I knew of LEED and had made it a goal to become LEED accredited someday. I wanted to do so because it is a very marketable credential to have and is very quickly gaining importance within the architecture and design fields. Every year there is a greater need and stronger push to align construction of the built environment with environmental responsibility and sustainability.

LEED is a step in the right direction.

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