

01
Town 24
landscape
concept Phase 1,
Chengdu, China

02
Project research
(site photos,
plant research)

03
Drawings and
sketches

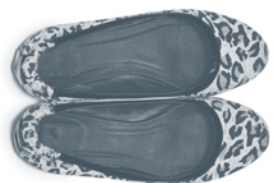
03



PATRICIA FONSECA ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

Name
Patricia Fonseca
Job Title
**Landscape
Designer**
Location
**San Francisco,
USA**
Degree
**Professional
Degree in
Architecture,
University of
Costa Rica.
MA Landscape
Architecture,
Berkeley,
University of
California**
Joined AECOM
2006
(Internship at
AECOM's EDAW
London office in 2005)

Patricia Fonseca



Q1. What is your role at AECOM?

As a part of a broader team, I'm responsible for preparing hand sketches, computer-assisted drawings, and physical and digital models for landscape design projects. Usually a new project kicks off with a site visit so that we can collect as much local background information as possible. When we're back in the office, we all get a chance to put forward our ideas, which are then discussed with consultants such as architects, engineers and developers. Once we've got a direction, I sketch the ideas, discuss it with the team, review it with a Senior Associate and formalize it digitally.

Ultimately, we review our design with the client, and make any revisions necessary once we receive the client's feedback. There's a lot of back and forth in the process, and the design is always evolving as a result of the collaboration.

Q2. What's the most challenging aspect of your role?

Deadlines are definitely a challenge. But luckily, architecture school, or any design school in general, prepares you for strict deadlines. It's easy to lose yourself in work, so you have to be careful to maintain the right work/life balance. Another challenge is to remain innovative as a designer. After all, each client wants a design that's cutting edge, original and fresh. But we have an incredible range of resources available to us within the company, which really helps us to stay ahead of the game in terms of ideas.

Q3. Have you travelled much with AECOM and if so, where?

Yes, many of our projects are international. Initially, I was mostly involved in resort projects and was able to travel to Hungary and Costa Rica on several occasions. Many non-resort projects are abroad as well, and I've traveled to Mexico and will soon travel to the Philippines.

Q4. What is the career development and other support like at AECOM?

Last year I took part in the Career Development Forum, and since joining the company my role has evolved quite a bit – from doing mostly production work, to being more involved in project and team management. We have a review process, which is a useful way to monitor your personal progress. We talk to our supervisors and mentors about our work to date and map out career development plans for the future. It's a great opportunity to receive feedback. And finally, because AECOM is an international company there are many opportunities to work abroad in emerging regions. For example, I'd like to do more work in developing countries, as they require our expertise the most.