

Print

Boards & Committee Applications - Submission #1476

Date Submitted: 3/5/2022

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO A SAN ANSELMO BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

To: San Anselmo Town Council

Date*

3/5/2022

**I wish to apply for an
appointment to a term/balance***

Planning Commission



Name*

Peter Thomas Strauss

Home Address*

128 Hilldale Dr.

Occupation*

Architect

Employer's Address

128 Hilldale Dr.

Home Phone*

7203087651

Work Phone

Cell Phone

7203087651

E-Mail*

ptstrauss@gmail.com

Number of years as resident of San Anselmo*

9

Number of years as a resident in Marin*

I grew up in Marin (and 4th generation San Anselmo), but left for college; I have been back in Marin 12 years.

Education Level Achieved*

Graduate Degree (Major)



Name and phone numbers of three San Anselmo residents who can be contacted for referral information about me:

1.) Name*

Jordan Weill

1.) Phone*

4156861230

2.) Name*

Ryan Wood

2.) Phone*

4152978917

3.) Name*

Dave Souten

3.) Phone*

4154542066

I would be able to regularly attend the meetings of this Board/Commission/Committee.*

YES

NO

I would be available to attend additional meetings when they are necessary.*

YES

NO

I am familiar with the responsibilities and functions of this Board/Commission/Committee.*

- YES
 NO

I have attended meetings of the Board/Commission/Committee as a member of the public.*

- YES
 NO

List briefly, previous experience serving the public office, and/or civic commissions, boards, or committees.*

I do not have experience serving in a public office or committee, but I am excited to start! As an architect, I have experience presenting to planning commissions and working with planning departments (mostly in San Francisco). Within my professional practice I have has experience serving on task forces or review boards to help lead special projects, or evaluate best practices.

Reasons for this appointment.*

I have been interested in getting involved in our community for quite a while, but haven't made the time. I am looking forward to getting involved now, either with the Planning Commission or with another commission (although preferably the planning commission).

What are your qualifications for this appointment.*

I am familiar with how planning codes and planning commissions function from my experience as an architect working with the commissions to address concerns and balance project sponsor needs with community needs and planning regulations. I am able to accurately interpret and visualize project proposals from submitted documents.

Briefly, what do you consider to be the most important, one or two current issues facing this Board/Commission/Committee?*

Balancing individual homeowners desire to expand, modify, etc their homes with protecting the community and neighbors from negative impacts.
Addressing innovative solutions to providing more affordable housing within out lower density communities.

I understand that I and all other applicants will be personally interviewed by the Town Council as part of the selection process for this appointment. I also understand that my application material will be a public document and available on the Town's website. Sensitive materials that you don't wish to be posted on the website should not be included with the application.*

- YES
 NO

Other Boards/Commissions/Committees on which you would be interested in serving if not appointed to this seat?*

Park & Recreation Commission



You may attach personal resumes or other information which you believe would be helpful to the Council in its selection process.

Strauss .pdf

Thank you for your interest in serving the Town of San Anselmo and its citizens. For further information, please contact Carla Kacmar, at ckacmar@townofsananselmo.org or 415-258-4660.

Peter Thomas Strauss - Registered Architect

720 308-7651

ptstrauss@gmail.com

www.straussarchitects.com

Overview

I am a registered architect in California with 13+ years of experience. My professional experience is across all phases of practice, ranging from feasibility studies to design and entitlement to construction administration. The majority of my work experience has been on commercial, multi-family residential, or mixed-use projects with some experience in single-family residential and public buildings. In addition to my work experience, I have a Masters of Architecture from Columbia University and a Bachelor from the University of Colorado and have taught at UC Berkeley.

Work

Piechota Architecture (San Francisco, CA) - Senior Architect

January 2022 - Present

Currently, I am a Senior Architect working on a number of single family homes. We strive to create projects which are specific and sensitive to the landscape they sit within.

Gensler (San Francisco, CA) - Design Leader & Project Architect

October 2019 - November 2021

Design and thought leader specializing in residential multi-family and commercial mixed-use projects - hired to help develop the Residential practice area of the firm.

Select Core Projects:

- 361 Turk & 145 Leavenworth - *Forge Development* San Francisco, CA
- 450 O'Farrell - *Forge Development* San Francisco, CA
- Confidential Hotel / Resort San Francisco Bay Area, CA
- Various Master Plan & Feasibility Studies San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Strauss Architects, Inc. (San Francisco, CA) - Design Leader & Architect

March 2018 - October 2019

In March of 2018, I started a practice focused on single and multi-family housing. As the sole proprietor, I was responsible for all aspects of the firm. In addition to the design and delivery of the projects, I was responsible for the marketing, management, billing, contracts, and other office administration.

Select Projects:

- 1270 Bush - *Multi-family* San Francisco, CA
- Ghent House - *Single Family* Hudson Valley, NY
- 539 Bryant - *Commercial Office* San Francisco, CA
- Angwin Barn - *Single Family* Napa County, CA
- 1101-1123 Sutter - *Multi-family* San Francisco, CA
- E 14th Street - *Multi-family* San Leandro, CA
- San Carlos Avenue - *Multi-family* San Carlos, CA
- Hilldale House - *Single Family* San Anselmo, CA

Handel Architects, LLC (San Francisco, CA) - Lead Designer & Project Architect

March 2013 - March 2018

In a comprehensive architecture role, my responsibilities included design leadership, team management, and all aspects of project delivery. Project responsibilities would start from initial client discussions and continue as needed through to construction. I acted as an office-wide resource on the San Francisco entitlement process and provided design consultation and support for projects outside of core project assignments. I lead multiple projects through initial design, documentation, and construction.

Select Core Projects:

- 288 Pacific Ave. - *Grosvenor Americas* San Francisco, CA
33 Residential Units / 7 Floors / Type IB / \$50+ mil Construction Budget
- 2465 Van Ness Ave. - *DM Development* San Francisco, CA
41 Residential Units / 7 Floors / Type IB / \$40+ mil Construction Budget
- 2301 Lombard Ave. - *DM Development* San Francisco, CA
22 Residential Units / 4 Floors / Type 3B / \$15+ mil Construction Budget

Additional Projects:

- Princess Kaiulani - *Hotel & Residential* Honolulu, HI
- Parcel F - *Commercial Office* San Francisco, CA
- 1001 Van Ness - *Multi-family* San Francisco, CA
- SOMA 2 - *Multi-family* San Francisco, CA

Gensler (San Francisco, CA) - Designer & Technical

October 2010 - March 2013

As part of the architectural staff, my responsibilities included working on both the design and the technical development of multiple projects.

Select Core Projects:

- 222 Second Street - *Tishman Speyer* San Francisco, CA
Part of both the design team and technical team of the 26 Story commercial tower. Responsible for the Design Development and Bid Documents of the Curtain wall facade.
- 888 Brannan Street - *SKS Partners* San Francisco, CA
Designer on the architectural portion of a 500,000 SF building renovation and repositioning. I was responsible for the coordination and documentation of structural upgrades, façade systems, restoration of the historic facade and corresponding construction administration.

I also interned at Gensler during the summers of 2003 and 2004.

Freelance (San Francisco, CA) - Designer

December 2008 - October 2010

- Second and B Street w/ Fee Munson Ebert - *Designer for a 42 unit apartment building* Marin County, CA
- Home Addition w/ Strauss Architects - *Design, Permit & CDs for a residential addition* Marin County, CA
- Pool House w/ Strauss Architects - *Design, Permit & CDs for a new pool house* Marin County, CA
- Art Pavilion w/ Michael Bell - *Design for a gallery pavilion* Hangzhou, China

Solomonoff Architecture Studio (New York, NY) - Designer

May 2008 - December 2008

Wold Architects (St. Paul, MN) - Designer / Junior Architect

November 2005 - August 2007

Education

Columbia University, New York – Graduate School of Architecture (GSAPP)

Masters of Architecture, May 2010

University of Colorado, Boulder – College of Architecture and Planning

Bachelors of Environmental Design in Architecture, May 2005

Teaching

University of California, Berkeley - Lecturer in Architecture

- 201A Spring 2015 - Co-taught a Graduate studio with Michael Bell which addressed affordable housing in Cupertino, within the context of the new Apple Campus.
- 100A Fall 2012 - Taught an undergraduate studio with goals of conceptual development, drawing and form making.

Columbia University (New York, NY) – Teaching Assistant

- Fall 2009 - Spring 2010 - Teaching Assistant for Third Year Graduate Design Studios

Software

Throughout my work, education and teaching experiences, I've leaned into learning new technologies and then mentoring others; from early implementation of Revit to acting as a firm resource for modeling and rendering advice.

- Design - Rhino, Sketch-Up, Vray, Indesign, Illustrator, Photoshop
- Documentation - Revit, AutoCAD, Bluebeam