

## Home

Victoria Gana is an Architect with a focus on how the flow of information affects sustainable design. The information available affects the decisions taken during design. As an Architect who has a special interest in sustainability, the idea that we can anticipate and eliminate issues that can negatively impact our buildings through design is intriguing.



Trained as an Architect, Victoria graduated from the [Federal University of Technology](#) Minna, Nigeria before moving to the UK. After obtaining a master's degree in Construction Management and Economics from the [University of Greenwich London](#), she began a 4-year PhD studies researching the effects of introducing a management process called [Soft Landings](#) during design on the sustainability of buildings in the UK; under the supervision of [Dr. Giridharan Renganathan](#) at the [Kent School of Architecture and Planning](#) in Canterbury, England. She graduated in 2018.

Victoria is Passionate about the environment, and how Architects can contribute reduce the effects that construction has on our environment. Victoria has presented her research in conferences all over the UK and was a undergraduate tutor at the Kent School of Architecture and Planning. She currently lives in London and is involved with Several projects.

## **Education**

### Degrees

**PhD., Architecture** – Kent School of Architecture and Planning, University of Kent Canterbury, England- September 2013 to November 2018

Areas of Research: Sustainable design with the use of Soft Landing as a management style to help in enhancing the sustainability of commercial buildings.

Information flow and relay during the design stage

**MSc., Construction Management and Economics** - University of Greenwich, England – September 2008 to July 2009

Area of Research: The Behaviour of Construction Companies during Recession

Strategy of construction companies using streamlining and diversification

**M.Tech., Architectural Design** - Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria

January 2001 to December 2002

Focusing on Architectural design and Research Methods

**B.Tech., Architectural Design** - Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria

January 1995 to December 2000

### Certificates

Publication in Peer Reviewed Journals – January 2016 - Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme

Introduction to Reference Management Workshop – November 2015- Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme

Advanced Public Speaking Workshop – March 2014 - Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme

Time Management – March 2014 - Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme

Presentation Skills Intensive Workshop – February 2014 – Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme

Writing Skills Workshop – February 2014 - Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme

Communicating your research to a non-specialist audience – January 2014- Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme

Approaches to Teaching Workshop – January 2014 - Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme  
Delivering Sustainable Built Environment – December 2013- Greenwich School of Architecture, Design and Construction  
Low Carbon Housing: Challenges and Opportunities- October 2013- Greenwich School of Architecture, Design and Construction  
Soft Landings: Delivering Better Buildings – October 2013- Greenwich School of Architecture, Design and Construction  
Public Engagement – March 2014 - Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme  
Researcher Development – October 2013 - Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme  
Impact Training Workshop – October 2013 - Kent Graduate School Researcher Development Programme

## Grants

2015- 2016 - University of Kent – Annual research grant £200.00 GBP  
2017-2018- University of Kent – Annual research grant £400.00 GBP

## Publications & Conference papers

**June 2017** Application of Soft Landings in the design management process of a non-residential building. *Architectural Engineering and Design Management*. Vol. Pp 1-16.

**July 2017** Soft Landings driven design process: Achieving sustainability in a school building in the UK. Conference paper presented at the Passive Low Energy Architecture (PLEA Conference), Edinburgh, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Pp 441-448.

**September 2019** Communication Flow during design: Developing a communication framework for Soft Landings based projects. *Journal of Civil Engineering and Architecture* (Paper accepted).

## PhD

### Abstract

This thesis charts the rise of sustainable buildings and traces the evolution of design management from a process used in design to its current position in the construction industry in the UK. The established fact that design plays a vital role in achieving sustainability in building presents itself from different perspectives. For projects to achieve their sustainability targets,

the industry must understand the issues surrounding sustainability. The industry can look to Soft Landings to be the next step in the evolution of design management. With the industry having to deal with ever stringent targets from policy makers, and the uncertainty surrounding the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, how can Soft Landings be positioned to be effective in closing the performance gap in non-residential buildings? 'Intellectual inquisitiveness' should lead us to ask how we can get the best out of the current processes.

The thesis looks at the working processes of Soft Landings projects at the design stage to discover how the interactions between the design team and other team members can foster collaborative working. It also aims to develop a framework for quality communication and information flow. Using case studies and interviews with the professionals involved in the projects, the research uncovers important elements for achieving sustainability. The research discovered that although the projects adopted Soft Landings, there was still an atmosphere of holding back information that may be important to the project because of future competition. There was also a lag in the flow of information during the distinct stages of the project which had a negative effect on some of the projects.

The research concludes that although the framework for Soft Landings is comprehensive and can enhance energy efficiency in buildings, it does not adequately address communication between teams especially during the design process. The implications of this research for design teams is the use of communication and information flow frameworks specific to Soft Landings to assist them in communication with other teams. The contribution of this research is adding to the body of work for academic research into Soft Landings. It has shed light on the practical adoption and the challenges of the process.

Work Experience

Teaching

Postgraduate Tutor – [University of Kent](#) (Kent School of Architecture & Planning)  
Canterbury, England, September 2016- September 2017

Course: Sustainable design

- Preparing lesson and seminar plans
- Providing students with design tutorials
- Providing additional support for senior lecturer

Exam Invigilator

Involved in the preparation and implementation of exams in Various schools

- Invigilating undergraduate and post graduate student's exam.
- Ensuring student's complaints are resolved quietly and quickly.
- Writing reports at the end of each examination session.
- Maintaining a high standard of examination environment.

Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate Schools, London, England – February 2020-

St. Dunstan's College, London, England – April 2018- December 2018

Gordon Yates, London, England - January 2018 – February 2019

Harris Westminster Sixth Form, London, England – April 2017 -

Customer Service Assistant

Charlton House Catering, September 2013 to July 2014

- Resolving customer complaints, using critical analysis to resolve the problems at hand.
- Assisting team members to move customer's queue quickly, using strategic planning to execute the most immediate concerns.

Compass Group, March 2012 to September 2013

- Resolving customer complaints, using critical analysis to resolve the problems at hand.
- Assisting team members to move customer's queue quickly, using strategic planning to execute the most immediate concerns.

## International Sales Executive

Jacob Fleming (Kft) Budapest, Hungary, - January 2007 to November 2008

- Part of a team that pitched conferences to executives in Companies. My team consistently reached their sales target, with record 50 or more delegates signing up to the conferences we pitched to them.
- Responsible for organizing and arranging meetings and conferences, this includes presentations to companies that might be interested in the conference.
- Administrative duties, arranging for travel and accommodation details for conference members.

## Architect

Royal Sanderton Construction, Abuja, Nigeria, - March 2003 to December 2006

- Designing and supervising the construction of 2- and 3-bedroom residential homes.

## Resume

### Victoria Gana Phd Sustainability Consultant

Email: victoriagana2507@yahoo.com

Mobile: +447940023415

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/victoria-gana-9a922041>

Website: victoriagana.com

### **Personal Statement**

Finding solutions to the ever-growing problem of limited resources in our world has been a challenge. In construction, we have to be able to utilise our assets by more collaborative working and smarter communication. The future of any industry lies in its ability to adapt to change, which is what sustainability is about. Companies must find ways to enhance and extend the sustainability of their products. This is most evident in construction and building projects. This is why my focus on sustainable design for my PhD is both timely and important. I studied a project delivery process called Soft Landings which encourages all stakeholders to communicate smarter. As a trained Architect with a Masters' in Construction Management and Economics, my passion in design gives me a unique perspective on the beginning of a construction project. I discovered from my research that companies are reluctant to share information even when

working on the same project. Soft Landings allows all stakeholders to receive, relay, and use timely. This eliminates waste and saves time and energy on the project.

## **Work**

**July 2018 – June 2019      Central Facilities for Waldorf Hilton      Engineering Coordinator**

- Managing contractors working on lighting, heating, alarm system
- Coordinating in house schedule of works in painting, plumbing, and general repairs
- Raising Purchase Orders and chasing delivery of purchases
- Chasing up contracts for PPMs and service of equipment

**Sep 2016- Sep 2017      University of Kent      Postgraduate Tutor**

- Tutoring postgraduate students on sustainable design
- Preparing lesson notes and outlines
- Providing additional support to senior lecturer

**April 2016-August 2016      University of Kent      Exam Invigilator**

- Invigilating undergraduate and post graduate student's exam.
- Ensuring student's complaints are resolved quietly and quickly.
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**January 2007- November 2008      Jacob Fleming (Kft), Budapest,      International sales Executive**

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- Responsible for organizing and arranging meetings and conferences, this includes presentations to companies that might be interested in the conference.
- Administrative duties, arranging for travel and accommodation details for conference members.

**March 2003- December 2006      Royal Sanderton Construction, Nigeria  
Architect**

- Designing and supervising the construction of 2- and 3-bedroom residential homes.

## **Education**

**2013-2018                      PhD in Sustainable Design                      University of Kent**

- Researched sustainable design with the use of Soft Landing as a management style to help in enhancing the sustainability of commercial buildings.
- Collecting data from construction industry professionals and policy makers using face to face and telephone methods to help overhaul the construction industry. This is carried out with good organizational and communication skills (both verbal and written).
- Analyzing data using Nvivo by identifying codes and themes related to the topic and using cross comparison to evaluate the different responses.
- Presenting research methodologies and findings to PhD researchers.

**2008-2009                      MSc, Construction Management and Economics                      University of Greenwich**

- Project Management; learnt how to plan, strategize and implement different projects.
- Risk Management; learnt how to identify, evaluate mitigate different types of risk.
- Facilities Management; learnt how to deal with and solve problems concerning different facilities in buildings.

Wrote a thesis on 'The Behaviour of Construction Companies during Recession'.

**2001-2002                      M.Tech Architectural Design Federal University of Technology Minna Nigeria**

- Focusing on Architectural design; used research methods to find the best designs suited for their purpose and location.

**1995-2000                      B.Tech Architectural Design                      Federal University of Technology Minna Nigeria**

**Skills**

Project management  
Interviewing /qualitative research  
Research  
Report writing  
Data management analytics  
Presenting research findings

**Software**

NVivo - Proficient  
Microsoft office (PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Access) -Proficient  
Auto desktop - Proficient



Contact