

Vanessa Bizzell MArch

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github.com/VanessaBizzell

Sheffield (S.Yorks) UK

Profile

A successful professional with over 15 years of experience in architecture and design, specialising in the management of multiple-scale and complex projects. I have an excellent record of delivering great projects to agreed timescales, regardless of pressure.

Following a career break to care for my daughter during her medical challenges, which are now resolved, I am now excited to embark on a new career in software development. Having recently completed a bootcamp, this transition reflects my enduring passion for technology and innovation, cultivated through my architectural experience which required rigorous analytical thinking and an eye for detail. I'm a real people person with a strong understanding of design thinking, project management, problem-solving and stakeholder communication, all of which I'm excited to bring to a role in software development.

Skills

- + Core knowledge of **Javascript, Typescript, Node. JS, HTML, CSS/TailwindCSS.**
- + Proficiency with **React** using the **NextJS** framework.
- + **NoSQL databases. MongoDB** - created several databases, using **Mongoose** ODM library to link to APIs.
- + **APIs** - skilled using external APIs and creating APIs using the **Express** framework.
- + **Version Control** - experienced using **Git** and **GitHub** both individually and in teams.
- + **Debugging & Troubleshooting Skills**
- + **Code reviews** - recent experience reviewing code and implementing feedback.
- + **Agile methodologies** - practical experience of using agile project flows and Kanban boards in team environments.
- + **Project Management** - 10 years managing architectural (construction) projects. 2 years managing book illustration projects. Recent experience managing group project software development.
- + **Figma** - skilled using Figma to design UI and communicate design intention with colleagues and clients.
- + **CAD (including BIM)** - 10 years using CAD software including Autocad and Revit to deliver excellent building documentation and presentation drawings.
- + **Image design** - 5 years experience producing illustration for books and media using **Procreate** and **Adobe Creative Suite**. 2 years experience of using Canva for marketing materials.

Selected Projects

See more projects at: <https://vanessabizzell.github.io/portfolioVB/index.html>

Writing Prompts App

GitHub - <https://github.com/VanessaBizzell/WritingApp>

This is deployed on Vercel and Render free tiers - please allow a couple of minutes for both servers to spin up and the website to load properly.

Creative writing app that prompts daily writing practice and allows the user to build a personal library of work or share for community review. This was a team project using Agile workflows. The application uses React within the Next.JS framework and is written in Javascript. The backend was built using Node, Express and MongoDB and serves an API which is linked to the React frontend. I've implemented CRON scheduling to change prompts.

Weather App

Deployed – <https://weather-app-ten-indol-30.vercel.app/>

Github – <https://github.com/VanessaBizzell/Weather-App.git>

Weather App which pulls its data from an external API to display current and future weather. The display changes according to the temperature in the city selected. The application uses React within the Next.JS framework and is written in Javascript. The UI was designed in Figma and utilises copyright-free images generated using DALL-E AI.

Castle Adventure Game

Deployed <https://vanessabizzell.github.io/adventureTextGame/>

GitHub – <https://github.com/VanessaBizzell/adventureTextGame>

A retro text based adventure game. Explore the castle, talk to inhabitants and complete your quest. Written in Javascript, this uses Object Oriented Programming principles.

Soundwave Music Sharing App.

GitHub – <https://github.com/VanessaBizzell/SoundwaveMusicSharing.git>

Currently working on...a music sharing app that allows users to upload, share and comment on music. I'm using typescript within the Angular and Express frameworks. The backend database is MongoDB using GridFS storage for large files.

Experience

Freelance Illustrator , Vanessa Bizzell Illustration - 2016-2022

- Illustration for children's books including 'Who's Going to Pick My Nose?'. A book published to help children and young adults with disabilities understand a parent's passing.
- Delivered a series of phonic reader prototypes for an educational publisher. I worked closely with the business owner to ensure drawings fitted their brand values and identity.
- Design process management, contract negotiation and marketing experience.

Architect, 2004-2019

Bluemoose Ltd (Sheffield) 2009-2019

- 10 years experience designing to meet contract requirements as well as understanding where additional services are needed to meet client expectations. Skilled at explaining contracts and negotiating changes with clients and contractors.

- Presented many projects to project owners and user groups. I am excellent at enabling meaningful feedback and making all stakeholders feel valued.

Race Cottam Associates (Sheffield) 2004-2008

- Project Architect [working on healthcare projects, residential, industrial and commercial office developments]. Many of these involved complex regulatory frameworks and innovative sustainability approaches.
- Key projects include:
 - Kendray Mental Health Unit - £11 million
 - Butcher works (commercial residential) - £5.5 million
 - The Crofts (office development) £4 million.
 - Edlington School (successful PFI School Bid) - £23 million
- Member of the practice's Business Development Unit

C2 Architects (Central London) October 2001 – August 2002

- Part 1 Architectural Assistant [working on mixed scale residential works and commercial office developments]

Education

The Developer Academy Software Bootcamp – November 2024 to March 2025

- Covered full stack development fundamentals.
- UI design

University of Sheffield Architecture School 2002-2005

- Part 3 Professional Exams
- Masters in Architecture (with Commendation in Design)

University of Sheffield Architecture School 1998-2001

- 2:1 BA (Hons) Architecture