

About Theo Armour



Overview / TL;DR

Theo Armour was born 1947 in Boston, Massachusetts and grew up in Paris and the United States. He has lived in France, England and Hong Kong, all for ten years or so. He was a legal immigrant in all these countries. He speaks French and rudimentary Cantonese.

In the sixties, Theo attended boarding school for six years and studied architecture at Syracuse University in NY. While at university he fell off the roof of his dorm while flying a kite and was severely injured. Theo is a partial paraplegic and left hand amputee.

In the seventies, Theo attended the Architectural Association School of Architecture. Theo qualified as a Chartered Architect in England in 1978. He was a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects. He renovated over 90 structures in London and helped design 12 subway stations in Hong Kong.

In the eighties, he founded a consulting practice CAD-Asia to help Asian organizations implement computer-aided design. As a consultant to Autodesk, he traveled throughout Asia, helping many

organizations learn to design factories, buildings and products using computers.

In the nineties, working with Autodesk, he was one of two program managers that designed the ground-breaking release of AutoCAD that led the transition from engineers and architects designing using paper to designing on a computer screen.

In the oughts, he worked with a number of startups none of which blossomed, built numerous websites that were not particularly successful and was involved with a rather dysfunctional local community. He also served on the Board of advisors of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice and designed and built their website.

In the teens, he contributed to the design and promotion of the open-source JavaScript library Three.js, the most popular software library for interactive online 3D visualization in a web browser. He was also the creator

and maintainer of the Spider gbXML software utility for Ladybug.Tools - primarily tools for engineers, architects and designers to design more energy efficient buildings. All his software efforts are free and open source.

Currently Theo lives at the Heritage on the Marina in San Francisco. He is the editor and publisher of the monthly newsletter *Heritage Happenings*. He writes and maintains Wikipedia articles, advises Sensay, is an active promoter of Next Village, is webdude for The Sacramento Seminar and is deeply involved with a number of online communities, such as GitHub.

He has three daughters: Alix living in Amsterdam, Cynthia in Yosemite Valley CA and Eloise in Gunnison CO.

- <https://github.com/theo-armour>
- <https://x.com/ta>
- <https://www.instagram.com/armour.theo/>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/theoa/>

- <https://www.reddit.com/user/theo/>
- <https://substack.com/@theoarmour>
- <https://medium.com/@ta>
- <https://wordpress.com/reader/users/theoa>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@theoarmour>
- https://t.me/theo_armour

1947 to 1971

Theo Armour was born 1947-01-28 in Boston, Massachusetts at the Boston Lying-In Hospital and grew up in Paris and the United States.

He attended a number of schools including Marymount in Paris, Potomac in Washington DC, Miss Fine's School and Princeton Day School both in Princeton NJ, St Paul's School in Concord NH, Buckingham Browne & Nichols in Cambridge MA and Syracuse University in Syracuse NY.

1971 - 1981 London

Theo lived in London from 1971 to 1981. He went there to spend his junior year at the AA. At the end of the year instead of

returning to Syracuse, he stayed for ten years.

He is an architect educated at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London. He practiced architecture in London and Hong Kong. He has been a member of ARCUK (now the ARB), RIBA and HKIA.

In London he worked with RJ Lattimore and Associates and Solon Housing Association. With Lattimore, he helped design pubs for Truman Breweries, officers messes in Cyprus for the UK Ministry of Defense and a house for Pete Townsend of The Who. With Solon he renovated a number of houses including 74 houses on Atherfold road one of which had been a residence of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and a listed building at 168 Brixton Road. He also served on the board of directors of the organization - a tenant worker cooperative.

Theo was awarded the English Channel Swimming Association's Van Audernaerde Prize for Best Disabled Swim in 1980.

1981-1991 Hong Kong

While in Hong Kong, he was employed by YRM and Apple Computer Hong Kong; a founder of PC Plus, an Apple and an IBM PC dealership specializing in Computer Aided Design; a founder of the Hong Kong Macintosh User Group and of the Asian Venture Capital Journal; and a member of the IEEE and the HKCS. He was a competitive swimmer and also served as a board member with the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Handicapped. His primary endeavor was founder and CEO of a computer-aided design consultancy: CAD-Asia.

1991 - 2001 Mill Valley CA

In the 1990s he was Program Manager at Autodesk for AutoCAD Releases 13, 14 and

the beginning of Release 2000.

Subsequently he has implemented web sites for a number of artists, start-ups and various worthy organizations and has been an angel to a number of start-ups.

2001 - 2020 ~ San Francisco, Financial District

From 2001 to 2008 he was a member of the Board of Advisers of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice and was designer and webmaster of their web site from 2001 to 2004.

In the oughts, he worked with a number of startups none of which blossomed and built numerous websites that were not particularly successful. He also served on the Board of advisors of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice and designed and built their website.

In 2006 he was awarded first place for fastest disabled swimmer in the annual

“Escape from Alcatraz” competition.

Theo has helped a number of artists and designers with their web sites including Lynn Hirshman Leeson and Professor Lawrence Lessig with their web sites. Theo is a collector of web sites that are works of art. He firmly believes that the great art of the future will be the art of the Internet and would be pleased to hear from artists, curators and galleries with similar intentions.

He has a web presence on Twitter, Facebook, and GitHub. Theo is an angel investor and technical adviser helping small start-ups. These include Hommage, Point 65, Orbitec, Norroc and PhilQuo Ventures. He serves on the board of directors of WebSight Design.

His recent endeavors include investigating and developing collaborative and error-checking tools for Computer Aided Design systems and methods for displaying

quantitative data using animation and 3D, in particular with using WebGL and the Three.js JavaScript 3D library as discussed on jaanga.com and mangojango.com.

His efforts are all free and open source software (FOSS) projects. The intention is to create scripts that encourage you to fork (geek for 'copy'), edit and share the knowledge. Motivation is encouraged by scripts that are small, fast and easy. It's all available via theo-armour.github.io and jaanga.github.io. Recent projects include:

- Gestification - tools for the Leap Motion device
- algeSurf - math 3D visualization
- Jaanga Outer Space - extra-terrestrial 3D cartography
- Jaanga Terrain - earth 3D cartography
- Jaanga SP500 - real-time market 3D data visualization
- Hacking efforts with other GitHub organizations include: WikiHouse, OpenDesk, vA3C, aeChack, FGx, soundViz, Abantech and more.

His current efforts are primarily concentrated on projects with Ladybug Tools / Spider - 3D AEC visualizations.

Current side projects include C19 Viz3D and spraylatino.github.io.

2020 - Present ~ San Francisco ~ Heritage on the Marina

Currently Theo lives at the Heritage on the Marina in San Francisco. He is the editor and publisher of the monthly newsletter *Heritage Happenings*. He is an active promoter of Next Village, is webdude for The Sacramento Seminar and is deeply involved with a number of online communities, such as GitHub.

He is an advisor to Sensay building the "next level growth with AI Chatbots — powered by an AI agent built to sell, support and scale your business". His involvement relates to creating digital replicas of people that might serve as part of their legacy.

He has authored Wikipedia articles relating to his residence:

- San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society
- Julia Morgan Building
- Heritage on the Marina ~ under construction

Theo is currently investigating the phenomena of old people being marginalized while young people are doom-scrolling and wondering there are ways of connecting the two so that the elders remain engaged and the young become more active — all through online AI-driven open-source, non-profit intergenerational programs.

