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ARCHITECTURE FOR A CHANGE: JOHN, DIRK AND ANTON ARE BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

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FLARES



John Saaiman, Anton Bouwer and Dirk Coetser were struck by the levels of poverty and inadequate housing right in their own city of Johannesburg. As a result, they are working together to build and design low-cost, environmentally-friendly and innovative community and private buildings both within Johannesburg and further afield. Creating solutions to problems is what makes them [true entrepreneurs](#).

How John, Dirk and Anton are Building a Future of Equality

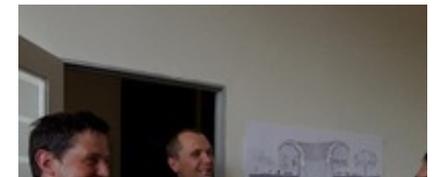
These three young architects turned [social entrepreneurs](#) formed the business [Architects for a Change](#) because they were moved to do something practical after witnessing severe poverty and inadequate living spaces right on their own doorstep. They focus on designing and constructing private living spaces, community buildings and headquarters for not-for-profit organizations. All of the revenue that is made from their constructions is funneled straight back into their work.



According to the Architects for a Change website, the three architects understand the importance of physical spaces and the role that these spaces play in each of our lives. They are working to create innovative, efficient and pleasant spaces that can be used efficiently in order to make local communities nicer places to be. They have constructed buildings such as a bread-making factory which provides sustainable, local jobs, and a boarding house for a children's charity where children can live and play together, and learn the importance of family.

About these Entrepreneurs for a Change: John Saaiman, Anton Bouwer and Dick Coetser

Each of these three architects studied at the University of Johannesburg, where they pursued their interest in architecture, design and construction. The three then used their specialist knowledge to found Architects for a Change and to start construction projects to improve the lives of people



within their local community.

John was inspired into action by his encounter with extreme poverty at a very young age. People from the nearby shanty town attempted to burn down the house that John and his parents lived in, and the family had to be evacuated. This highlighted the negative community effects of poor housing and shelter, and is what sparked John's interest in designing and constructing private and [eco-friendly community spaces](#) that could make a positive impact.



The three architects have now worked together on 11 projects, and have received lots of media attention. They have been the subject of news reports, online publications and have spoken at university conferences.

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Chief Evolutionary Officer at [Entrepreneurs for a Change](#)

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Lorna Li is a business coach, entrepreneur and Amazon rainforest crusader, with a passion for green business, social enterprise, and indigenous wisdom. She helps changemaking entrepreneurs harness the power of the Internet to reach more people and make a bigger impact, while designing the lifestyle of their dreams. She is an [Internet marketing consultant to changemakers](#), and works with innovative tech startups, sustainable brands, social enterprises & B-Corporations on SEO, SEM & Social Media marketing.

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Tara Kehaka from Oakland was about to launch a new online business promoting sustainable tourism and accommodation. She trying to determine what kind of website she needed to power her business, in addition to the best way to name it. I can't say enough about Lorna's expertise in this field. So many options and routes to take when you're starting out. I'm starting my new business and have questions about choosing a domain name – Do hyphenated names work? How do I choose what domains to purchase? What types of names are going to be successful for SEO? Does .co work as well as .com? She clearly has a lot of experience and (I'm sure) has saved me a lot of time, work, and worry. It's good to know there's someone there who cares about changing the world, being green, and has all that experience to boot.”

– Tara Kehaka, Consultant at Mountain Sobek Travel



ABOUT ENTREPRENEURS FOR A CHANGE

Entrepreneurs for a Change is a podcast, community, and resource for entrepreneurs who are changing the world and the way we do business. We are about business for good, not business as usual. We are about making impact, while making profit. We are about loving our work, rather than hating our jobs. We are about designing a business that supports our lifestyle rather than work that takes over our lives. We are here to show you how you can have passionate work and adventure in life, through the mentorship of entrepreneurs who are already doing it

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