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| **Tom Schacher** | Architect EPFL with his own practice: 1984 - 1995 in Ticino (southern Switzerland) focused on individual housing and transformation of traditional buildings. 1997 - 2019 working internationally, mainly for the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC as a specialist for low-tech earthquake engineering and the training of craftspeople in disaster resistant construction methods. Since 2020 back in southern Switzerland with own practice specialised in modernizations of traditional individual housing. |
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|  | **academic** |
| 1975 - 1982 | MA in architecture at EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne), Switzerland |
| 1998 – 1999 | MSc in Project Planning and Management at the University of Bradford, UK |
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|  | **long missions** |
| Ecuador 2016 – 18 | Senior technical expert for knowledge transfer and training in earthquake resistant construction methods, targeting workers, students and government institutions, in collaboration with governmental, national and international institutions and local NGOs. |
| Haiti 2015 and 2010 - 12 | Head of training programme in earthquake resistant reconstruction directed at workers, strategic development of SDC's Reconstruction Competence Centre and safe reconstruction information campaigns for the general public, in collaboration with governmental institutions and international NGOs. |
| Switzerland 2007 – 09 | Senior Researcher at the University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland SUPSI: development of a construction manual for traditional timber frames, in collaboration with the University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar, Pakistan. |
| Pakistan 2006 – 07 | Technical advisor and Head of SDC's Housing Reconstruction Training Programme. Promotion of modern and traditional non-engineered earthquake resistant construction methods, in collaboration with governmental institutions and UN-Habitat. |
| Iran 2004 | Head of SDC's field office: development of and lobbying for appropriate reconstruction methods. |
| Switzerland 2003 | Assistant Desk officer at SDC headquarters in Berne, Switzerland: a hardship posting… |
| Ethiopia 2001 – 02 | Head of SDC's field office: Analysis of the Swiss humanitarian aid presence and development of a medium-term intervention strategy. |
| Turkey 1999 – 2001 | Head of SDC's field office: development of the Neighbourhood Disaster Volunteers project MAG, in collaboration with local authorities and institutions. |
| Rwanda 1997 – 98 | Project Coordinator for UNICEF's primary school construction programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and international NGOs. |
| Kenya 1997 | Logistics Coordinator for WFP - Operation Lifeline Sudan at the Lokichokio Base Camp, maintain supply pipeline for up to 45 mt of food and goods per day. |
| Morocco 1994, 1992Senegal 1989 -90 | Project Coordinator and On-site Manager for EPFL's Postgraduate Course on Development, in collaboration with local universities and authorities |
| Italy 1988 | Architect in private firm, developing health centres and low-cost housing for 3rd world countries |
| Algeria 1979 – 80 | Architect stagiaire with the provincial technical office in Béchar: design of a technical institute for 1000 students |
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|  | **consultancies** |
| Swiss Solidarity | Technical Review Missions of Swiss Solidarity funded NGO reconstruction projects, Nepal 2019 and Indonesia 2006, as well as Technical Expert with the project analysis team, 2008 – 2010 |
| SDC | Project identification mission after the Palu tsunami and quake in Indonesia 2019 and the costal earthquake in Ecuador 2016 as well as various backstopping jobs. |
| Caritas Switzerland | Technical Review Mission in Aquila, Italy |
| EERI | Preparation of the Confined Masonry Construction Manual in 2009 – 10. |
| World Bank | Assessment of and support for technical aspects of the Poverty Reduction Programme in Laos, 2008 |
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|  | **memberships** |
| SHA | Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, part of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| EERI | Earthquake Engineering Research Institute |
| SGEB | Swiss Society of Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics |
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|  | **personal** |
| born | 1956, in the meantime married |
| phone | +41 (0)79 776 12 18 |
| email | tom.schacher@adhoc.ch |
| web | www.seismico.org |
| languages | English, French, Italian, German, Spanish |
| computer literacy | Office apps, InDesign, ArchiCAD, effective use of Internet |
| other | Very manual: Construction, mechanics, artistic and cooking |
| Special interests | * Identification and implementation of locally appropriate construction techniques,
* Project design and management,
* Low-tech disaster resilient construction,
* Vernacular architecture
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