

YP: Kyle Slote, 26

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Is this the job you thought you'd be doing?

Since my days playing with Lego I have wanted to be an architect. However, it was only a couple years ago while working on The Good Shepherd Square that I realized the profession could unite my passion for social justice with my love of architecture.

Advice to others on launching a career:

Being passionate about your career is key, but if it's your only passion, burnout is inevitable. Following the desires of your heart, no matter how tangential or unrelated to your career will always end up supporting, energizing, and possibly even transforming your career. For me, photography, volunteering, cycling and blogging help keep me inspired and motivated in these beginning stages of my career.

Hometown: I grew up in Ancaster, attended university at Waterloo, and now I'm loving life living in downtown Hammertown ... so I suppose I'm a boomeranger/intra-city-transplant of sorts.

iPhone, Android or BB?: Old-school Nokia flip phone. I refuse to upgrade until it dies ... and it refuses to die!

Recent Tweet or FB update: Looking forward to taking some night shots of the Hamilton skyline tonight from the brow — good thing I found my tripod!

Networks: Hamilton Hive, Beasley Neighbourhood Association, TrueCity

Favourite restaurant in the downtown: Way too many to list ... my top 5 would have to be La Piazza Allegra, Mex-I-Can, Wass Ethiopian, Acclamation, and Sapporo.

Best feature of life in Hamilton: We have a gorgeous historic downtown with a fantastic urban vibe, yet the city is still small enough that one can feel connected and a part of things.

What would make Hamilton a better city? If local policies focused more on the quality of life of everyday citizens. Hamiltonians are a versatile and tenacious people, if empowered and given the right tools, the already present positive transformations taking place in Hamilton will only be accelerated. Just look at what is happening in Beasley with the city's first (and possibly the country's first) neighbourhood charter.

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Kyle Slote. grew up in Ancaster, went to university in Waterloo and now calls downtown Hamilton home. John Rennison/The Hamilton Spectator Source: The Hamilton Spectator

Quote: "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody." Chinese proverb.