A TECHNICAL REPORT

ON

STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME

(SIWES)

HELD AT

CG SKILLED PARTNER SERVICES LIMITED

NO. 14, FATADE ROAD, BARUWA BUS STOP, IPAJA, LAGOS

PREPARED BY:

ISMAILA WASIU OLAMILEKAN

ND/23/BLD/FT/0025

SUBMITTED TO

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (I.E.S)

KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

MARCH, 2025

DEDICATION

I dedicate this technical report to Almighty Allah, the giver of knowledge, wisdom and who is rich in mercy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am using this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep regards to Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, the one who knows the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega, also to my parents (MR & MRS ISMAILA), and to all those who have contributed immensely to the successful completion of my SIWES programme. The blessings, help and guidance given by them, time to time has carry me this far. I also take this opportunity to express a deep sense of gratitude to compliment my mentor for his cordial support, valuable information and guidance which helped me in completing my SIWES through various stages. I am also deeply grateful to the organization for accepting me, and also my regard to the school board of trustees and the staff a very big thanks to all and sundry.

TABLE OF CONTENT

Title page		i
Table of content		ii
Dedication		iii
Acknowledgements		iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS		
CHAPTER ONE		
1.1.	Background of SIWES	1
1.2.	History of SIWES	1
1.3.	Objectives of SIWES	2
1.4.	The Establishment	3
1.5.	Objectives of Establishment	4
CHAPTER TWO		
2.1	Site assessment and survey	5
2.2	Drafting and design work	6
2.3	Construction Monitoring	7
2.4	Sustainable building practices	8
2.5	Project Meetings and Client interactions	9
CHAPTER THREE		
3.1	Technical skills	11
3.2	Communication and collaboration skills	13
3.3	Site inspection and reporting	14
3.4	Project management skills	15
CHAPTER FOUR		
4.1	Adapting to software and technology	18
4.2	Balancing theory and practices	19
4.3	Understanding construction processes	20
4.4	Clients Interaction and communications	22
4.5	Time management and workload pressure	24
CHAPTER FIVE		
5.1	Conclusions	26
5.2	Recommendation	27

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO SIWES

Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) is a Skills Training Program designed to prepare and expose Students of Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Technology, Colleges of Agriculture and Colleges of Education for the Industrial Work situation they are likely to meet after graduation. The Scheme affords Students the opportunity of familiarizing and exposing themselves handling equipment and machinery that are usually not available in their institutions.

1.2 HISTORY OF SIWES

The Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) was initiated in 1973 by the Federal Government of Nigeria under the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) to bridge the gap between theory and practice among products of our tertiary Institutions. It was designed to provide practical training that will expose and prepare students of Universities, Polytechnics, and Colleges of Education for work situation they are likely to meet after graduation.

Before the establishment of the scheme, there was a growing concern among the industrialists that graduates of institutions of higher learning lacked adequate practical background studies preparatory for employment in industries. Thus the employers were of the opinion that the theoretical education going on in higher institutions was not responsive to the needs of the employers of labour.

As a result of the increasing number of students' enrolment in higher institutions of learning, the administration of this function of funding the scheme became enormous, hence ITF withdrew from the scheme in 1978 and was taken over by the Federal Government and handed to National Universities commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National

Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE). In 1984, the Federal Government reverted back to ITF which took over the scheme officially in 1985 with funding provided by the Federal Government.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The specific objectives of SIWES are to:

- Provide placements in industries for students of higher institutions of learning approved by relevant regulatory authorities (NUC, NBTE, NCCE) to acquire work experience and skills relevant to their course of study
- Prepare students for real work situation they will meet after graduation.
- Expose students to work methods and techniques in the handling of equipment and machinery that may not be available in schools.
- Make transition from school to the labour market smooth and enhance students' conduct for later job placement
- Provide students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real life work situation thereby bridging the gap between theory and practice
- Strengthen employer involvement in the entire educational process and prepare students for employment in industry
- Promote the desired technological knowhow required for the advancement of the nation.

1.4 THE ESTABLISHMENT

CG Skilled Partner Services Limited is a renowned architectural firm specializing in providing comprehensive design, consultancy, and construction services. With a strong focus on quality,

innovation, and sustainability, the firm handles projects across various sectors, including residential, commercial, and institutional buildings. From conceptual design to project completion, CG Skilled Partner Services ensures that each project adheres to high standards of safety, functionality, and aesthetic appeal, while also staying within budget and on schedule.

The firm's core services include architectural design and planning, where they create detailed, functional, and visually appealing building designs. They provide space planning, conceptual designs, and architectural drawings tailored to meet client needs. In addition, CG Skilled Partner Services offers expert project management and consultancy, guiding clients through all stages of the project, from feasibility studies to obtaining permits and ensuring that the construction process runs smoothly.

Sustainability is a key priority for CG Skilled Partner Services, as they integrate eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient designs, and renewable energy solutions like solar panels into their projects. They are committed to reducing environmental impact by ensuring that their buildings meet modern green building certifications and promote long-term energy savings. This focus on sustainability is woven into every aspect of their design and construction process.

In addition to their architectural and construction services, CG Skilled Partner Services excels in interior design. They provide space optimization, layout design, and material selection to create functional, aesthetically pleasing interiors that reflect the client's vision. Through their collaborative approach, the firm ensures that all projects—whether residential, commercial, or institutional—are executed with professionalism, creativity, and client satisfaction at the forefront.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT

The objectives of CG Skilled Partners Services Limited is centered around construction of quality structures, ensuring the effective delivery of building projects, and promoting sustainable development. The key objectives of the establishment include:

1. **To Deliver Innovative and High-Quality Designs:** The firm aims to create unique and functional architectural solutions that meet the specific needs of clients while maintaining high standards of quality, creativity, and aesthetics.
2. **To Ensure Sustainable Building Practices:** CG Skilled Partner Services is committed to incorporating eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient designs, and renewable energy solutions into their projects, contributing to environmental sustainability and long-term energy savings.
3. **To Provide Comprehensive Project Management:** The firm seeks to offer end-to-end services, from project conception to completion, ensuring smooth coordination between clients, architects, contractors, and other stakeholders while managing timelines, budgets, and quality.
4. **To Enhance Client Satisfaction:** A core objective is to prioritize client satisfaction by offering tailored solutions that align with clients' vision, ensuring that projects are completed on time, within budget, and to the highest standards.
5. **To Foster Professional Development and Collaboration:** CG Skilled Partner Services aims to create a collaborative work environment where architects, engineers, and other professionals can grow and work together effectively to deliver successful projects.

CHAPTER TWO

ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION

During my six-month internship, I participated in various tasks that allowed me to apply and expand my knowledge in building technology. These activities included:

2.1 SITE ASSESSMENT AND SURVEY

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, one of the key activities I participated in was **site assessments and surveys**. This process was essential for understanding the existing conditions of a site before the commencement of any architectural design or construction work. My involvement in site assessments provided valuable insight into the practical aspects of architecture and construction.

As part of the site assessment, I accompanied senior architects and engineers on site visits to evaluate various factors such as topography, soil conditions, and the surrounding environment. This allowed us to determine the suitability of the land for the proposed design. I was responsible for taking precise measurements of the site, including the dimensions of the land, existing structures, and other relevant features. Additionally, I helped document the findings by noting down the conditions, challenges, and opportunities that might affect the project.

The survey process also involved assessing the accessibility of the site, checking for any potential hazards, and ensuring that the site complied with local regulations and zoning requirements. I learned how to interpret maps and architectural drawings in relation to real-world conditions, which was critical in developing an accurate and functional design. This experience helped me better understand the importance of thorough site analysis in creating successful architectural projects that are both practical and sustainable.

The site assessments and surveys were a fundamental part of my SIWES experience, providing me with hands-on knowledge of how site conditions directly impact design decisions and construction planning. This activity reinforced the significance of careful planning and analysis in the architectural process.

2.2 DRAFTING AND DESIGN WORK

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I was actively involved in **drafting and design work**, which was one of the most exciting and educational aspects of my internship. This experience allowed me to apply my academic knowledge in a real-world setting while honing my technical skills in architectural design.

I worked closely with senior architects to assist in creating **architectural drawings** using various software tools, primarily AutoCAD and Revit. My tasks included drafting **floor plans**, **elevations**, **sections**, and **site plans** for different types of buildings, including residential, commercial, and institutional projects. I was involved in **refining existing designs** by making adjustments based on client feedback or new specifications, which gave me a deeper understanding of the iterative nature of design work. I also learned how to incorporate structural and mechanical systems into architectural designs, ensuring that all elements worked harmoniously.

Additionally, I participated in the **3D modeling** and **visualization** of designs using software like SketchUp and other rendering tools. This allowed me to create detailed models that helped both the design team and clients visualize the final product. Working on 3D renderings also improved my ability to present design ideas in a clear and professional manner, which was especially valuable in client meetings and presentations.

This experience gave me a comprehensive understanding of the technical aspects of architectural design, from the initial concept to the detailed drafting and final presentation. I gained proficiency in **design software**, developed my **problem-solving skills**, and learned how to incorporate practical and aesthetic considerations into architectural projects. Overall, drafting and design work during my SIWES was a crucial component of my learning process, providing me with the practical skills and confidence needed for my future career in architecture.

2.3 CONSTRUCTION MONITORING

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I was also involved in **construction monitoring**, which provided me with a valuable understanding of the practical aspects of building projects. This activity allowed me to observe how architectural designs are translated into physical structures and the challenges faced during the construction phase.

As part of the construction monitoring team, I regularly visited various project sites alongside senior architects and construction managers. My role involved ensuring that the construction work adhered to the approved architectural plans and specifications. I observed the ongoing work, checked for any discrepancies between the plans and the actual construction, and reported any issues to the project team for resolution. This included monitoring the use of materials, ensuring that they met the required standards and specifications outlined in the design documents.

I also assisted in **quality control** by inspecting construction methods to ensure they were consistent with the design intent and construction standards. This included checking structural elements, such as foundations, walls, and beams, to verify that they were being built according to the correct dimensions and quality guidelines. Furthermore, I helped ensure that safety regulations were being followed on-site, and construction workers adhered to established safety protocols.

One of the most significant learning experiences during this phase was witnessing the coordination required between architects, contractors, engineers, and other stakeholders to keep a project on track. I learned how to identify potential delays or problems early and understand the decision-making process involved in adjusting the plans to meet the project's evolving needs. **Construction monitoring** was a crucial aspect of my SIWES, providing me with firsthand knowledge of the construction process and enhancing my understanding of how architectural designs are implemented in real-world projects.

2.4 SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRACTICES

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I had the opportunity to explore **sustainable building practices**, which greatly enriched my understanding of how modern architecture integrates environmental responsibility. Sustainable design focuses on reducing the environmental impact of buildings throughout their lifecycle, from construction to operation, and ensuring that they are energy-efficient, resource-efficient, and environmentally friendly.

One of the key areas I participated in was researching and identifying **eco-friendly materials** for construction. I was involved in evaluating alternative materials that were not only durable and cost-effective but also had a lower environmental impact. For instance, I learned about the use of **recycled materials**, **locally sourced products**, and **low-emission finishes** that help reduce the carbon footprint of a building project. I also explored the incorporation of **green roofs**, **solar panels**, and **rainwater harvesting systems**, which contribute to the sustainability of a building by reducing energy consumption and promoting resource conservation.

In addition to material selection, I was exposed to the principles of **energy-efficient design**. I assisted in the development of building layouts that maximize natural light, improve air circulation,

and reduce reliance on artificial lighting and mechanical ventilation. By considering factors such as **building orientation**, **thermal insulation**, and **passive solar heating**, I gained insights into how architectural design can contribute to minimizing a building's energy demands. I also learned about **green certifications** such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and the criteria required for a building to earn these certifications.

My involvement in **sustainable building practices** during my SIWES experience at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited deepened my understanding of how architecture can address both environmental and social responsibility. It highlighted the importance of designing buildings that are not only functional and aesthetically pleasing but also promote sustainability and reduce long-term environmental impacts. This experience has made me more committed to incorporating green building strategies in my future work as an architect.

2.5 PROJECT MEETINGS AND CLIENT INTERACTIONS

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I had the opportunity to participate in **project meetings** and engage in **client interactions**, which were instrumental in enhancing my understanding of the architectural process and the importance of communication in successful project delivery.

I attended several project meetings where architects, engineers, and other professionals discussed ongoing projects and strategic decisions. These meetings provided me with valuable insights into how teams collaborate to address client needs, resolve design challenges, and ensure that projects stay on track. I learned about the decision-making process, how to prioritize tasks, and how different disciplines, such as structural engineering and interior design, come together to achieve a cohesive design vision. Additionally, I assisted in preparing materials for these meetings,

including presentation visuals, project updates, and design revisions, which helped me develop a professional approach to presenting architectural concepts.

Engaging with clients during these meetings was a particularly enriching experience. I observed how architects presented their designs to clients, explaining the rationale behind their decisions and discussing how the designs met the clients' functional and aesthetic requirements. I was able to assist in documenting client feedback, ensuring that any changes or concerns were clearly communicated to the design team. This interaction taught me the importance of listening to clients, understanding their vision, and translating their feedback into design modifications, all while managing expectations and maintaining a positive working relationship.

The exposure to **project meetings** and **client interactions** during my SIWES allowed me to develop strong communication and interpersonal skills, which are essential in the architectural profession. It gave me a deeper understanding of the client-architect relationship and the collaborative effort required to bring a project from concept to completion, ensuring that both the design team's and the client's goals are met.

CHAPTER THREE

SKILLS ACQUIREED DIRING MY SIWES

Throughout my internship, I developed both technical and soft skills that are critical in the building technology field:

3.1 TECHNICAL SKILLS

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I had the opportunity to acquire a wide range of **technical skills** that significantly enhanced my knowledge and competence in the field of architecture and building technology. These skills were instrumental in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

1. **Architectural Design Software Proficiency:** One of the key technical skills I developed was proficiency in using various design software tools. I became highly skilled in **AutoCAD** and **Revit**, which I used to create detailed architectural drawings, floor plans, and 3D models. I also gained experience with other software like **SketchUp** and **Lumion** for creating realistic visualizations and 3D renderings of building designs. These tools are essential in translating design concepts into technical documents that can be used during the construction phase.
2. **Drafting and Technical Drawing Skills:** I enhanced my ability to produce **precise technical drawings**. This involved learning how to draft accurate **floor plans**, **sections**, **elevations**, and **site plans** that conform to industry standards. I also became more proficient in creating detailed drawings that consider structural, mechanical, and electrical elements, ensuring that designs are practical, feasible, and coordinated with other systems.

3. **Building Materials and Construction Techniques:** Through site visits and participation in the construction monitoring process, I gained valuable knowledge of **building materials** and **construction methods**. I learned how different materials perform in various environmental conditions and how they contribute to the overall durability, safety, and sustainability of a building. Additionally, I gained an understanding of **construction phases**, from groundwork to finishing, and the importance of adhering to construction specifications.
4. **Sustainability in Architecture:** I also acquired technical knowledge related to **sustainable design practices**. This included the use of energy-efficient materials, solar energy integration, and passive building design strategies to minimize a building's environmental footprint. I became familiar with the principles of **green architecture** and how to design buildings that meet sustainability standards while reducing operational costs.
5. **Site Surveying and Measurement:** During the site assessment phase, I learned how to conduct basic **site surveys** and measurements, accurately recording site conditions, topography, and existing infrastructure. These skills are essential for assessing the feasibility of designs and ensuring that the final architectural solutions fit within the given site constraints.

The technical skills I acquired during my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited have equipped me with the practical knowledge necessary to succeed in the architectural field. These skills, ranging from design software proficiency to construction techniques and sustainability practices, have significantly strengthened my foundation in building technology.

3.2 COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION SKILLS

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I had the opportunity to develop and enhance my **communication** and **collaboration skills**, which are essential in the architecture and construction industries. These skills allowed me to work effectively with various team members and clients while gaining valuable experience in project coordination and professional interactions.

1. **Client Interaction and Professional Communication:** One of the key areas where I improved my communication skills was through interacting with clients. I observed how senior architects communicated design ideas, addressed client concerns, and clarified project requirements. I also had the chance to document client feedback, ensuring that their expectations were clearly conveyed to the design team. This experience taught me how to communicate complex architectural concepts in a clear and understandable manner, an essential skill when working with clients who may not have a technical background.
2. **Team Collaboration:** Working alongside architects, engineers, and other professionals provided me with invaluable experience in **team collaboration**. I learned the importance of clear communication when working on shared tasks, such as design revisions, project timelines, and construction details. I regularly participated in team meetings where input from various disciplines was integrated into the design process. This experience helped me understand the importance of respecting diverse perspectives, collaborating on problem-solving, and working towards common project goals.
3. **Interpersonal Communication:** Throughout my SIWES, I interacted with colleagues, contractors, and other stakeholders, which helped me develop strong **interpersonal communication** skills. I learned how to effectively communicate within a professional setting, actively listening to others and offering constructive feedback. These interactions

allowed me to build rapport with team members and establish trust, fostering a positive and productive work environment.

4. **Presentation Skills:** I was also involved in preparing presentations and reports for project meetings, which helped me improve my **presentation skills**. I learned how to present design ideas and project updates in a clear, organized, and visually appealing manner, ensuring that the information was accessible and engaging for the audience. This skill is essential for effectively conveying architectural concepts to clients and other stakeholders.

The experience at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited greatly improved my ability to communicate effectively in a professional environment and collaborate with diverse teams. These **communication and collaboration skills** are critical for success in the architecture and construction industries, and I am confident they will serve me well in my future career.

3.3 SITE INSPECTION AND REPORTING

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I actively participated in **site inspections** and **reporting**, which provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the construction process and its significance in ensuring that projects adhere to the approved plans and specifications.

As part of my involvement in site inspections, I accompanied senior architects and engineers to various project sites where I observed the construction process firsthand. I learned how to assess the progress of construction, verify that the work was being executed according to the architectural designs, and ensure that safety standards were being adhered to. During these site visits, I also helped document any discrepancies between the work being done and the approved plans. This

process involved taking notes, photographs, and measurements, which were essential for ensuring that the project stayed on track.

In addition to assessing the quality of construction, I was responsible for helping compile **site inspection reports**. These reports provided a detailed account of the progress, identified any issues or delays, and made recommendations for corrective actions. I learned how to write clear, concise, and accurate reports that included relevant data such as construction progress, material usage, and any challenges that may have arisen on-site. These reports were shared with the project team to help inform decision-making and ensure that any issues were addressed in a timely manner.

My experience with **site inspections and reporting** was invaluable in helping me understand the importance of quality control and oversight in the construction process. It taught me how to identify potential problems early, communicate effectively with project stakeholders, and maintain high standards in the execution of architectural designs. This hands-on experience was crucial in reinforcing my technical knowledge and preparing me for future roles in the architecture and construction fields.

3.4 PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I had the opportunity to develop several important **project management skills** that are essential for successfully overseeing architectural projects from inception to completion. These skills have enhanced my ability to coordinate tasks, manage resources, and communicate effectively with stakeholders.

1. **Time Management and Scheduling:** One of the key project management skills I developed was the ability to manage project timelines. I assisted in creating and updating project schedules, ensuring that each phase of the project was completed on time. This

experience helped me understand how to prioritize tasks, allocate resources effectively, and monitor progress to avoid delays. I also learned how to adjust schedules when unforeseen issues arose, ensuring that the overall project timeline remained intact.

2. **Budgeting and Cost Control:** I gained practical experience in managing project budgets, tracking expenses, and ensuring that the project stayed within financial constraints. I learned how to prepare cost estimates, monitor material costs, and identify opportunities to reduce expenses without compromising quality. This skill is crucial for ensuring that projects are completed within budget and that resources are used efficiently.
3. **Risk Management:** Through my involvement in identifying and addressing potential risks, I developed a strong understanding of **risk management**. I assisted in identifying risks such as construction delays, safety hazards, and regulatory issues. I also participated in creating mitigation plans to address these risks and ensure the project stayed on track. This experience taught me how to anticipate problems and develop proactive solutions to minimize disruptions.
4. **Communication and Stakeholder Coordination:** Effective communication is key in project management, and I learned how to keep all stakeholders informed throughout the project. I participated in meetings with clients, contractors, and other team members, ensuring that everyone was aligned with the project's goals and timelines. I also helped document client feedback and communicated updates to the design and construction teams, ensuring that everyone was on the same page.
5. **Resource Management:** Managing resources effectively was another critical skill I developed. I assisted in tracking material inventory, ensuring that supplies were ordered on time and delivered to the site as needed. I also learned how to coordinate the efforts of

various team members, ensuring that contractors and workers had the tools and information they needed to complete their tasks efficiently.

My experience during SIWES helped me acquire a diverse set of **project management skills** that will be invaluable in my future career as an architect or construction manager. These skills—ranging from time management and budgeting to risk management and stakeholder coordination—have given me a solid foundation for managing complex projects and ensuring their successful completion.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

During my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I encountered several challenges that provided valuable learning experiences and helped me grow both personally and professionally. These challenges, while initially daunting, allowed me to develop problem-solving skills and adapt to real-world situations in the architectural and construction industry.

4.1 ADAPTING TO SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY

Adapting to Software and Technology was one of the key challenges I faced during my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited. As an architecture student, I had been introduced to various design software in my academic studies, but using them in a professional environment was a different experience altogether.

The firm primarily relied on advanced software tools like **AutoCAD**, **Revit**, **SketchUp**, and **Lumion** for drafting, designing, and creating 3D models. While I had basic knowledge of these tools from my studies, I found that the complexity and level of detail required in a real-world setting were far more demanding. For instance, I initially struggled with navigating the advanced features of **Revit**, particularly in creating detailed architectural plans and managing the different aspects of a building model, such as structural and MEP systems.

Another challenge was **time efficiency**—in a professional setting, there is little room for mistakes or delays, so learning to work quickly and efficiently while still ensuring accuracy was critical. I had to become familiar with the firm's established workflows and standards, which involved

understanding how to effectively collaborate with the team through the software, share files, and incorporate revisions.

To overcome these challenges, I sought guidance from my colleagues and senior architects, who provided valuable tips and shortcuts to speed up my learning process. Additionally, I dedicated extra time to practice, experimenting with various tools and features to improve my skills. Over time, I became more proficient with the software, gaining confidence in creating accurate and detailed architectural drawings and models.

This experience taught me the importance of continuous learning and staying updated with the latest technological advancements in the field of architecture. It also highlighted how essential it is to be adaptable and embrace new tools to enhance productivity and design quality.

4.2 BALANCING THEORY AND PRACTICE

Balancing theory and practice was one of the most significant challenges I faced during my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited. In my academic studies, I had learned architectural principles and concepts that were mostly theoretical, focusing on design strategies, building codes, and construction techniques. However, applying these concepts in a real-world environment, where practical constraints and client expectations must be considered, required a shift in mindset. One of the initial difficulties I encountered was understanding how theoretical design ideas, which often prioritized aesthetics or innovation, could be applied to meet the practical needs of a construction project. In school, projects typically had fewer limitations, but in the professional environment, we had to factor in construction budgets, material availability, building regulations, and site conditions. This meant that some of my earlier design ideas had to be adjusted or even completely rethought to align with what was feasible in the real world.

For example, while I had learned about sustainable design strategies, I found that implementing these strategies in a real-world project sometimes involved trade-offs. A design that might have been ideal in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability could end up being too expensive or difficult to implement due to site limitations or building codes. Understanding these compromises and learning how to balance them with the client's needs was a critical lesson I learned during my time at the firm.

Moreover, seeing how architectural plans evolved throughout the project—starting from initial sketches to detailed construction documents—helped me understand the importance of flexibility in the design process. Theoretical knowledge provides a solid foundation, but practice teaches you how to adapt and adjust based on site conditions, client requirements, and budget constraints.

In overcoming this challenge, I learned the importance of **critical thinking** and **problem-solving**. I began to develop a more holistic approach to design, considering not only the aesthetic and functional aspects of a project but also its practical implications. By constantly engaging with senior architects and observing the iterative nature of the design process, I became more confident in making design decisions that balanced theory with practical feasibility.

This experience reinforced that while theoretical knowledge is crucial, the ability to adapt and find solutions that meet both design aspirations and practical constraints is essential in the architecture profession.

4.3 UNDERSTANDING CONSTRUCTION PROCESSES

Understanding construction processes was another significant challenge I faced during my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited. While I had learned about the various phases of

construction in my academic courses, experiencing the complexities of real-world construction first-hand presented a whole new level of learning.

At the start, I found it challenging to fully grasp the day-to-day operations on a construction site, from the initial groundwork to the final finishing touches. In school, the focus was more on architectural design and theory, but on-site, I had to understand how these designs were translated into reality. I observed firsthand how detailed plans and drawings were interpreted by construction teams, contractors, and subcontractors. This involved understanding various construction methods, such as foundation laying, structural framing, and installation of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, which I had previously only encountered in theory.

One of the biggest challenges was learning to **identify and understand technical specifications** in the construction documents. These documents not only outline the design but also specify the materials, dimensions, and construction methods to be used. I often found myself needing to quickly familiarize myself with the different standards and regulations involved in each project, ensuring that the work met all the necessary safety and quality requirements.

Another area of difficulty was understanding how to deal with **construction delays** or **unexpected site conditions**. In the classroom, the construction process is often idealized, with little regard for real-world problems that can arise. On-site, delays due to weather conditions, material shortages, or unforeseen structural issues were common, and I had to learn how these challenges were handled by the project managers and construction teams. I observed how solutions were proposed, and adjustments were made to the schedule, resources, or construction methods to keep the project moving forward.

Additionally, **construction safety** was a critical aspect that I had not fully appreciated until being on-site. I had to learn about the safety protocols that construction workers must follow, such as

proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), site safety procedures, and how hazards are managed. This was an essential part of the construction process, ensuring that work was done efficiently without compromising the safety of workers.

Through my participation in site inspections and monitoring, I gained a clearer understanding of how important coordination and communication are between architects, engineers, contractors, and clients throughout the construction process. I saw how each phase of construction was interdependent and how delays or errors in one phase could affect the overall project timeline.

Understanding the construction process in practice significantly enhanced my appreciation of the complexities involved in building a project. It taught me how to manage technical details, address real-world challenges, and appreciate the importance of careful planning and communication in successful project execution. This experience was vital in helping me connect theoretical knowledge with practical application in architecture and construction.

4.4 CLIENT INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION

Client interaction and communication was a crucial challenge I faced during my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited. While I had been taught the importance of client relations in theory, experiencing it in a professional environment was an entirely different aspect of architectural practice. Engaging with clients allowed me to develop essential communication skills that are crucial for translating their needs and expectations into effective design solutions.

One of the initial challenges was learning how to effectively communicate complex architectural concepts to clients who may not have a technical background. Often, clients struggle to fully understand technical terms, construction jargon, and design intricacies. My role in assisting during client meetings helped me develop the ability to explain ideas in simpler, more accessible

language. I observed how senior architects presented designs using clear visuals, sketches, and 3D models to make the design more comprehensible and align the client's expectations with the practical realities of the project.

Another aspect of client interaction that I found challenging was **managing client expectations**. In architectural projects, clients may have a vision that doesn't always align with the budget, site limitations, or regulatory requirements. I had to learn how to listen actively to clients' desires and concerns and then work with the team to provide alternatives that maintained the project's overall integrity while addressing the client's needs. This process required not only technical knowledge but also diplomacy and patience to ensure that both the design team and clients were on the same page.

Documenting and interpreting client feedback was another important skill I developed. I helped record client comments during meetings, ensuring that key concerns were addressed and incorporated into the design process. This taught me the importance of **active listening**—paying close attention to both verbal and non-verbal cues—and how to ensure that feedback was accurately communicated to the project team.

Furthermore, I learned how to maintain a professional and positive relationship with clients throughout the project. This was crucial in ensuring that clients remained confident in the design process, especially when changes or delays occurred. I observed how architects kept clients informed about progress, managed any challenges, and reassured them that their vision was being respected.

Client interaction and communication were critical learning experiences during my SIWES. I gained valuable skills in **listening**, **explaining concepts clearly**, **managing expectations**, and **maintaining professional relationships**. These skills are not only important for client satisfaction

but are also key to ensuring successful project outcomes in the architecture and construction industry.

4.5 TIME MANAGEMENT AND WORKLOAD PRESSURE

Time management and workload pressure were significant challenges I faced during my SIWES at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited. The architecture and construction industry operates in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment, and adapting to this dynamic while maintaining high standards of work required me to improve my organizational skills and learn how to manage multiple tasks effectively.

One of the first challenges I encountered was the sheer volume of tasks and the need to meet tight deadlines. Architectural projects often involve multiple stages, each with specific milestones, such as design development, drafting, and revisions. At times, I found myself juggling several tasks at once—working on design revisions, creating technical drawings, attending project meetings, and helping with site inspections. The pressure to complete these tasks accurately and on time was often overwhelming, especially when there were unexpected changes or new tasks added to my workload.

To overcome this challenge, I had to quickly develop strong **time management** skills. I learned how to prioritize tasks based on their deadlines and importance. For example, I would break down larger projects into smaller, manageable tasks and set specific timeframes for each. This approach allowed me to stay organized and avoid feeling overwhelmed by the scope of work. I also learned how to set realistic goals and give myself adequate time for review and quality checks, ensuring that the work I produced met the company's standards.

Additionally, the pressure to balance multiple deadlines required me to **manage my stress** and maintain a level of focus even during particularly hectic times. I discovered the importance of staying calm under pressure and finding effective ways to stay motivated. It also became clear that open communication with my supervisors and colleagues was key—when workload became overwhelming, I was able to ask for guidance or delegate tasks when appropriate, which helped ensure that deadlines were met without compromising the quality of work.

I also had to adapt to working in a professional environment where time constraints and external factors (such as client feedback or changes to project plans) could affect the flow of work. I learned to be flexible and adjust my schedule accordingly, understanding that not everything could be predicted or planned for in advance. Managing the expectations of both clients and senior staff members was crucial, and I quickly realized that proactive communication was essential in ensuring that my work was completed on time and to a high standard.

The experience of working under **time management** constraints and **workload pressure** helped me develop skills that will be valuable throughout my career. It taught me how to stay organized, manage multiple tasks simultaneously, and work efficiently without sacrificing the quality of my output. These skills are essential in the fast-paced field of architecture and construction, where meeting deadlines and delivering high-quality work is paramount.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 CONCLUSION

My SIWES experience at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited has been an incredibly valuable and insightful part of my academic journey. The hands-on exposure to various aspects of architectural practice, including site inspections, client interactions, project management, and construction processes, has significantly enhanced my technical knowledge and practical skills. Throughout my time at the firm, I was able to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world application, gaining a deeper understanding of how architectural designs are transformed into tangible structures.

I faced several challenges during this period, such as adapting to complex software, balancing theory with practice, and managing workload pressure. However, these challenges ultimately contributed to my personal and professional growth, teaching me important skills in time management, communication, and problem-solving. The guidance and mentorship provided by the senior architects and staff at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited were instrumental in helping me navigate these challenges and gain confidence in my abilities.

This SIWES experience has not only strengthened my passion for architecture but also equipped me with the skills and knowledge required to excel in the field. As I move forward in my studies and future career, the lessons learned and the experiences gained during my time at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited will undoubtedly serve as a solid foundation for my continued professional development. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to and learn from such a dynamic team, and I am excited to apply these insights in my future endeavors in architecture.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

Based on my experience during the SIWES program at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, I have several recommendations that could enhance the overall learning experience for future students and improve the firm's processes in working with interns.

1. **Improved Onboarding and Training for Software Tools:** While I had some prior knowledge of design software, I found that there was a steep learning curve when adapting to the specific tools and workflows used at the firm. I recommend that a more structured onboarding process be implemented for new interns, including basic training sessions on key software like AutoCAD, Revit, and SketchUp. This would help students become more familiar with the tools before jumping into real projects, enabling them to contribute more effectively from the start.
2. **Mentorship and Guidance:** Having a dedicated mentor for each intern could further enhance the learning experience. While I did receive guidance from senior staff, more consistent one-on-one mentorship would provide interns with tailored support, allowing for better professional development. A mentor could offer personalized feedback, answer specific questions, and help guide interns through challenging tasks, especially during the initial phase of the internship.
3. **Structured Project Assignments:** While I had the opportunity to work on a range of tasks, a more structured approach to project assignments would help interns better understand the different roles within a project. Providing interns with specific tasks or phases of a project (such as conceptual design, drafting, or project management) to focus on for a set period would offer more in-depth learning in specific areas. This would also ensure that interns are exposed to a broader range of activities within the firm.

4. **Enhanced Communication and Feedback Mechanisms:** Regular feedback sessions with supervisors and team members would be beneficial to ensure that interns are on the right track and that any challenges are addressed early on. This could be done through weekly check-ins or formal reviews to discuss progress, achievements, and areas for improvement. Clearer communication regarding expectations and goals would help interns stay focused and aligned with the firm's objectives.
5. **Exposure to More Client Interactions:** I recommend increasing opportunities for interns to participate in client meetings and communications. Observing and engaging with clients directly can significantly enhance communication and interpersonal skills. This exposure would also provide interns with a better understanding of how client feedback and expectations are managed in real-world projects, which is essential for their future careers.
6. **Emphasis on Sustainable Practices:** As sustainability becomes increasingly important in the architecture and construction industry, I recommend incorporating more focused training and hands-on experience in sustainable design practices. This would prepare interns to better understand how to integrate sustainable solutions into their designs and make them more competitive in the evolving industry landscape.

These recommendations aim to enhance the internship experience at CG Skilled Partner Services Limited, enabling future interns to gain even more valuable skills, knowledge, and exposure to different aspects of architecture and construction. By improving training, mentorship, and structured assignments, the firm can continue to nurture the next generation of architects and professionals in the industry.