

# Career Sheet: Digital Heritage Architect



## Pavlos Chatzigrigoriou, CEO of HERMeS NGO

I am a Civil Engineer with an MSc in Restoration and Conservation of Monuments, an MSc in Environmental Planning, and a PhD in Architecture (Digital Heritage). Today, I define myself as a "Digital Heritage Architect" and I research the digital connections of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the Interactive Systems Design Lab of the University of the Aegean. My research on HERMeS was honoured with the EUROPA NOSTRA 2015 Award. Besides, I am a Jury Member of the European Union Cultural Heritage Prize - Europa Nostra Awards since 2017. I was a post-doc Marie Curie Fellow in the renowned Digital Heritage Research Lab of Cyprus University of Technology. I also worked as the CEO of Syros Institute, an NGO on Heritage Protection and Cultural Development.



## OVERVIEW OF THE JOB

Today, I am the CEO of HERMeS NGO, a non-profit organisation working on Cultural Heritage and ICT.

Also, I am currently a postdoc researcher in the Department of Product and Systems Design Engineering. My main interests are digital linking of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and the design, evaluation, and crowdsourcing of interaction systems in digital heritage.



## WHAT INSPIRED YOU

During my participation in many restoration projects and as an Urban Planning Engineer, I studied the pathology of 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings on the island of Greece. By pathology of buildings, I refer to the study of building defects and what can be done to correct them.

This experience gave me the impetus and motivation to be involved with cultural heritage and what actions can we take to preserve it.



## TYPICAL WORKING DAY

My workday is usually full of activities. I try to combine different responsibilities at the university and the NGO while, at the same time, finding time for my family and my two sons. On a working day basis, I spend time replying to emails and messages, communicating with my colleagues, or reading and writing relevant scientific articles. However, my favourite time is when I can be in the field, near the historic buildings of the city, and when I teach university students.



## STUDY & CAREER PATH

In 2002, I started working in the municipality of Syros, a Greek Island in Cyclades. I was an Urban Planning Engineer. Since 2005, while working in Syros, I finished a second MSc in Environmental Building Planning and a PhD in Building Pathology.

Both in my work and my studies, I use new technologies. I use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and databases for reporting and supervising historical buildings. I love teaching, studying, and reading about digital cultural heritage.



## KEY SKILLS

**Engineering-Architecture:** This is what I studied for my undergraduate and master's degree.

**Urban Planning:** I conducted a PhD in this area. Urban planning consists of developing and designing urban areas to meet the needs of a community.

**Knowledge of heritage:** This is my passion and area of expertise.

**Teaching/Presenting:** As a university professor, I practice my oral and written communication skills daily.

**Environmental Protection:** As an architect working in digital cultural heritage, I seek to integrate sustainability practices and respect for the environment in the projects I'm involved.

**DIGITAL IT & GIS-CAD:** My work requires me to be trained in digital information technologies such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Computer-Aided Design (CAD). GIS is a computer system that allows me to create, manage, analyse, and map all types of data related to positions on Earth's surface. CAD is a computer-based software that is used to design two-dimensional (2-D) drawings or three-dimensional (3-D) models.



## CAREER PROSPECT

With a background in engineering, architecture, and environmental planning, I can work in the public sector as a city planner, a job that consists of helping communities, politicians, and companies to decide on the best way to use land and buildings. I can also work in the private sector, for example, as a freelance civil engineer or as a member of a (re)construction company. Finally, I can teach at university – as I'm currently doing.



## CHALLENGES

My main challenge is to help the preservation of the buildings and save the cultural heritage before it's too late.

### COORDINATOR

### PREMIUM PARTNERS

### GENERAL PARTNERS



## YOUR ADVICE TO STUDENTS

I'd encourage any students who desire to enter the engineering field to go for it if this is what they want. I'd also advise them to be open-minded and look into the diverse options and opportunities a career in engineering offers.



## YOUR ADVICE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Always be there. It is important to be positive and, when necessary, help them to overcome any obstacles.



## LEARN MORE

If you'd like to know more about Pavlo's work, have a look at his website: <http://www.iampavlos.com/>

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This career sheet was submitted by Nektarios Farassopoulos and is among the winners of the STEM Alliance & STE(A)M IT - Professionals Go Back to Schools Competition 2021.



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