



DECEMBER 1ST, 2021 | WEDNESDAY

CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY PODCAST

Hosted by Isaac Oakeson

CEA 111 - THE INTERSECTION OF TECH AND CIVIL ENGINEERING WITH KHAMINI FENNELLY

Everybody knows the traditional way of building your dream home. Long story short, it's a lot of headache. Today, however, civil engineer [Khamini Fennelly](#) ([@khaminifennelly](#)) will prove it doesn't have to be that way. From location and land selection to internal and external customizations, you can now "order" your home online.

Khamini always knew she wanted something in the AEC industry. So much so that while most people go to traditional high schools, she attended the [High School For Construction Trades, Engineering And Architecture](#) in New York City. Even though she went there with the goal of becoming an architect, she quickly fell in love with the AutoCAD and engineering classes she was taking. Naturally, she gravitated towards the civil engineering arena and got her Bachelor's degree from [Syracuse University](#).

Immediately after graduation, she started working for a design consulting firm that does huge and high-profile commercial development projects in New York. She would work on sewers, water mains, and with landscape architects. And in fact, that's how she got started in land development.

However, as did many people in the pandemic, she started considering other pathways she could take in her career. And the next challenge she found was a job position at the venture-backed startup [Welcome Homes](#). Which is a company that is revolutionizing the way Americans build their dream homes.

As the only civil engineer in the company, she works in land development and in constant interaction with tech people with little to no knowledge of civil engineering concepts. Even though this sometimes can be a challenge, it's also rewarding because the company then has a cross-functional operating team to fulfill its mission.

As someone who has pivoted in her career, she mentions that you're not required to completely abandon your field in order to find meaningful work; just the opposite. If you have one experience and skill set on one topic, there is always a secondary skill you can use to create a position you love for yourself.

If you're a civil engineer, you probably are very good with numbers, math, and analytical thinking. However, if you also like writing, you could do technical writing. Which would be an intersection of the two worlds.

As Khamini mentions, *"Just because you're not happy with what your current skill set is or what you're currently doing, utilize what you already have within you and try to find new ways to use it, innovate it, and create it for yourself."*

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