

NEWSLETTER

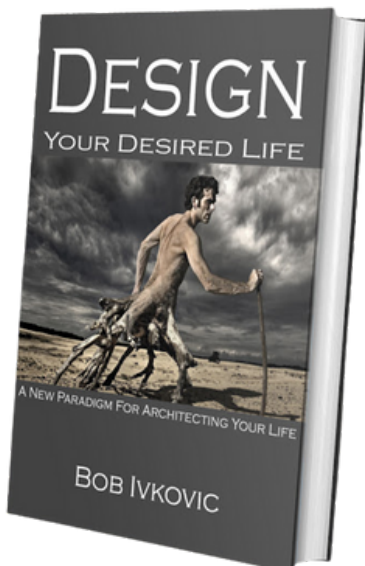


DESIGN YOUR DESIRED LIFE

Design Your Desired Life could be the most intriguing and illuminating self-help book that you've read. I'd like to think of it as a game changer or, more selfishly, a life changer. After all, I'm talking about radically changing our life.

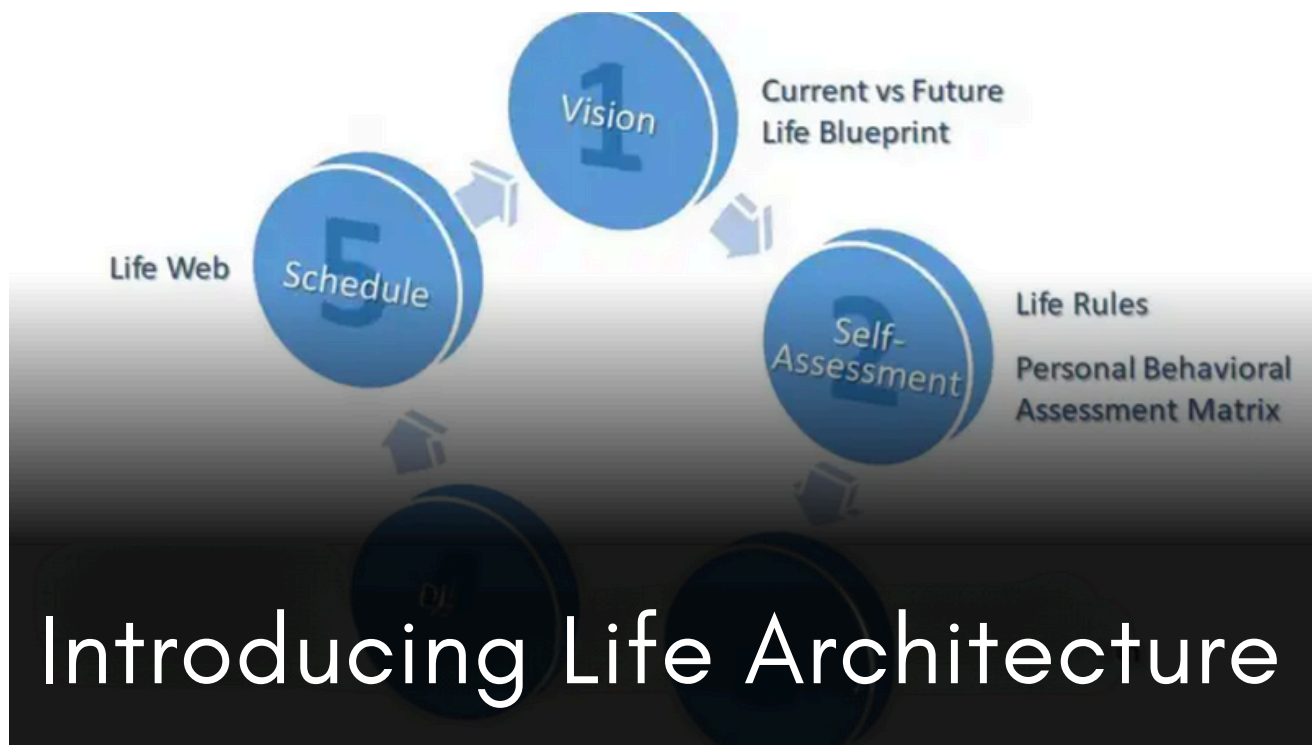
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NEW BOOK



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bob Ivkovic is an Enterprise Architect by trade and a Life Architect by design. He is a management consultant and founder of IT Architects. Bob is also the author of "Design Your Desired Life," a book about Life Architecture.



When someone asks me what I do for a living, I simply give them the elevator pitch: “I’m like a marriage counsellor. I build relationships. I figure out WHAT people need to do to make positive change and WHY, followed by a game plan to determine HOW to optimize their business processes and computer systems. In a nutshell, I help people understand how they need to work together to effect positive change in their organizations.” The truth of the matter is that I’m an Enterprise Architect. This is a fancy term for someone who pulls together an organization’s business processes, work activities, data, applications, technologies and other organizational artifacts, and then reassembles them to meet business requirements in a more efficient and effective manner.

Life Architecture is an adaptation of Enterprise Architecture and refers to the architecture of an individual’s life processes. Life Architecture is aligned with an individual’s personal goals, capabilities, and desires. It provides a structured approach for rationalizing an individual’s current life processes and translating a current state to a desired future state Life Blueprint. The five constructs constituting a Life Architecture are the building blocks that enhance our lives and ultimately give us purpose and happiness.

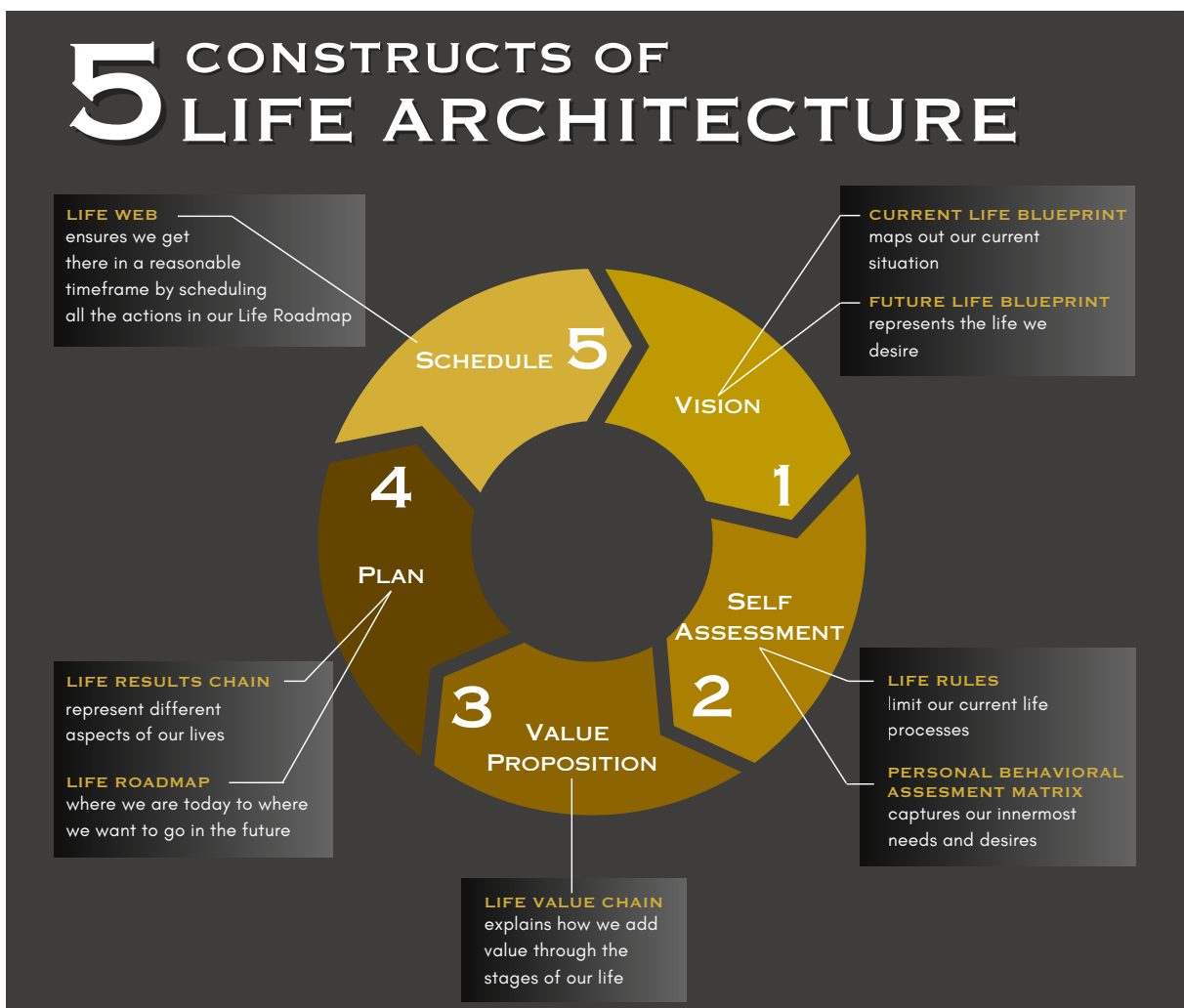
HOW DO THE 5 CONSTRUCTS FIT TOGETHER?

To answer that, let’s consider all the terms next to the constructs in the preceding diagram. A Current Life Blueprint maps out our current

situation, which is later transformed into a Future Life Blueprint representing the life we desire. However, we're not always sure what that desired life is or what it looks like. This is why we identify the Life Rules that have held us back and come up with a new set of life rules for the future. We also develop a Personal Behavioral Assessment Matrix to capture our innermost needs and desires. This might be a good time to understand the value of our lives and perform a litmus test to see where our value proposition sits on a Life Value Chain. If we have a Current Life Blueprint representing our current life and a Future Life Blueprint representing our

future life, we need to develop a Life Roadmap to take us from where we are today to where we want to go in the future. A Life Roadmap can be a large undertaking and we may need to break it down into several Life Results Chains, which represent different aspects of our lives. And to make sure we get to our desired life, we need to schedule all the actions in our Life Roadmap on a Life Web to ensure we get there in a reasonable timeframe.

We organize and maintain these constructs in their respective folders for convenience as illustrated in the following diagram. These are all the tools we need to architect and construct our lives.



The five constructs – Vision, Self-Assessment, Value Proposition, Plan, and Schedule – represent the building blocks of Life Architecture. These are best organized in separate folders as we architect our lives.

THE LEGO BRICKS OF LIFE

Life Architecture is similar to a Lego set. The picture on the cover of the Lego box is comparable to our future Life Blueprint. It's a picture of our future that we so desperately seek and get an idea of what our life architecture should look like when we're done. However, the difference is that a Lego box contains all the pieces that are ready to be assembled with instructions to ensure the interlocking bricks match the picture on the box after it's completed. I wish we were so lucky when it comes to assembling our desired life.

We'll just have to take a peek into our future Life Blueprint folder to get a picture of our future before we start to assemble a desired life. It's important that we have some helpful instructions in our Life

Roadmap folder to get us there. Why do you think I'm so keen to get everything organized into folders? Unfortunately, we don't have a Lego box of bricks to build our desired life. We don't even know what bricks we need or where to find them.

In order to understand our lives better, we need to identify the life processes that make up our life today. This just may justify the need for a current Life Blueprint. We leverage our current life processes, the good ones anyhow, to create a future Life Blueprint. A Life Roadmap is a plan transitioning us from the life represented in our current Life Blueprint to a desired life mapped out for us in the future Life Blueprint. And no plan will get us there unless we devise and follow a schedule. Thus, the Life Web is the last construct in this Life Architecture puzzle. The five constructs constituting a Life Architecture are the building blocks that add substance to our lives, and ultimately give our lives purpose. These building blocks provide guidance as we architect our lives. The artifacts pertaining to each construct are described below.

Construct 1: Vision

Current Life Blueprint: Defines an individual's life processes today. This is the first thing we do by creating a current Life Process Tree of all our current life processes. We take note of current life issues, concerns, problems, and opportunities as we begin to understand the current obstacles in our life. All this is part of our current Life Blueprint.

Future Life Blueprint: Defines an individual's desired life processes in the future. We take our current Life Process Tree and transform it into a future Life Process Tree. As we create our future Life Blueprint, we address future changes required to resolve current life issues, concerns, and problems, while we act on opportunities.

Construct 2: Self-Assessment

Life Rules: Definitions, facts, constraints, and derivations restricting life processes and dictating what individuals can or cannot do. We're compelled to follow Life Rules that we're expected to live by although they put limitations on us. Only when we break rules that limit us and introduce new ones that free us are we in a position to participate in our desired future life processes. Our current Life Rules dictate the processes in our current Life Blueprint, while new Life Rules are designed to support the processes in our future Life Blueprint.

Personal Behavioral Assessment Matrix: Self-assessment of personal wants and needs. A Personal Behavioral Assessment Matrix is a method of capturing our innermost needs and desires to help us develop our future Life Blueprint.

Construct 3: Value Proposition

Life Value Chain: Defines a life value proposition or how an individual adds value during various stages of his or her life. The Life Value Chain illustrates the different stages of our life and the value that we assign to each stage.

Construct 4: Plan

Life Results Chain: Defines all the results (or outcomes), assumptions, and actions required to meet our goals and objectives using a Life Results Chain. We achieve multiple results in a single chain before we derive a meaningful life benefit and add value to different stages of our life. Each Life Results Chain provides a meaningful life benefit, and represents a single process branch in our future Life Process Tree.

Life Roadmap: Combines all the Life Results Chains into a single Life Roadmap, which guides us to our desired future. We don't have to complete a Life Results Chain for each process branch in our future Life Process Tree, but only the important or more complicated ones. In composing our Life Roadmap, we pick and choose which Life Results Chains provide life benefits and add value to our life, not to mention which ones are worthy of our efforts.

Construct 5: Schedule

Life Web: Transposes a future timeline with all the required action steps onto an effective visual Life Schedule resembling a spider web. These action steps represent the detailed instructions required to carry out the actions in our Life Results Chain over a specified time period, usually three years and beyond. The Life Web is a detailed schedule making it possible to execute all the Life Results Chains, each one bounded by a separate radial, composing our Life Roadmap.

