

Who am I?

My name is Simon à Campo, I was born 22 years ago in Meerssen, a small village near Maastricht in the south of the Netherlands where I grew up. Here, still every weekend, my family and I meet and enjoy our time together. But this small family also tells a lot about me.

Starting with my father, he has always helped me to get my priorities right, mainly to focus on school, since I tend to cover myself in work and like being busy. In his career, he always stayed close to his own vision, even when he had no-one on his side. By this he has mastered the skill to inspire people around him, in order for them to contribute to the whole, where he acts as the link between different people and fields.

My mother has always been very supporting and even helps us with the weirdest hobbies and interest. Without her, I wouldn't have started my main hobby juggling, which has influenced my life a lot. She spends all her free time in order for her 3 children to be able to do what they liked to do, which often translates in being a taxi driver for us. From her I have learned to be supporting and how right it is to help others succeed in their goals.

Then there is my two year older brother, that always had to do all the "big" things first, like going to secondary school, having alcohol or getting your driver's license etc. I could always observe what he did right or wrong and could choose the "safe direction" right away. Even today, the big choices I have to make are mostly close to my comfort zone. From my brother I have learned to explore, be always open to the new, but I do this with more irrelevant things, like cooking or exploring new craft beer.

My younger sister had a hard time growing up with two older brothers. She always tried to impress us and especially me by following in my footsteps. She followed my hobbies like drawing, playing music and even juggling, so her bigger brother would be proud of her. Having this example role has taught me to take responsibility and show the correct way to do things.

Not to forget my girlfriend, with which I have had a relationship for over 5 and a half years. She is a Design Academy student and worked very hard to become one. She has an incredible dedication which really inspires me to also work hard in order to reach my goals. We really complement each other, where the weakness of one is the strength of the other. In this way we can balance each other out in a good way. We are honest and critical about our own and each other's work.

I met my girlfriend at a juggling convention, but juggling has influenced my life more than that. It is the reason I started designing in the first place. Gaining skills autodidact is something that is in my blood. When I needed a website to promote myself, I taught myself how to make that website. Performing, giving workshops, organising conventions, presenting shows; all these skills I gained because of juggling. This way of working is also why I chose the study Industrial Design. The area of design is always changing, making it never boring since you have to keep challenging yourself and keep learning.

Looking back, every one of my relatives stands for a part of myself. It has given me the life lessons by which I'm led. Follow my vision like my dad, support others like my mom, keep exploring like my brother, take responsibility for my sister and be dedicated like my girlfriend.