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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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Summer Intern, 2014  
Self+Tucker Architects

Exiting my third year of architecture school and entering fourth year is a time where work experience and real life applications of architecture is very important. This is my third summer at Self + Tucker architects and each summer is very different. To be able to see the vast differences between this summer and the summers before concerning my varying levels of skill allows me to really see the difference just one year of architecture school makes. Being an intern at STA allows me to realize in hindsight, all that I have retained especially from my third year of architecture school.

STA does not treat interns as "interns"-they treat interns as a new member of the STA team, no matter what year level we are in architecture school. We are held in confidence and given assignments that we are accountable for as any other member of the team. We are given useful and beneficial assignments to accomplish that allow us to use the skills we have learned in school to perform. We are given our own work station, added to the system, and assigned projects alongside an architect mentor. Not being treated like an "intern" and being treated as a part of the STA team gives me confidence to want to strive for excellence in assignments. Every morning if a member of STA passes by my desk I am greeted with a "good morning, how are you". STA creates a true studio environment. Everyone is open to explain any project or "how to". It is a warm environment where an intern does not feel intimidated to walk up to an architect and ask what they are working on, how was your vacation, or advice on how to do something.

STA cares about placing members in their area of interest and skill. This summer I began by working on and promoting STA's Facebook page, which re-



sponded to my interest in photography and marketing. I was able to produce a 3d sketchup model of solar panels for the client to see what to expect and what aspects of the idea of solar panels would need to be changed. I then started working on a renovation project with Juan Self and Robert Fountain, which was the first time I started with a project from the beginning stages of measuring the existing layout of the building and drawing it on the iPad to the design stages, perfecting dimensions in AutoCAD and sending it to clients for verification. I was able to design a new bathroom scheme for the newly enlarged lobby and reception area. Self + Tucker architects has given me the opportunity to gain more work experience and networks with practicing architects.

