
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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My summer internship at STA has been truly a rewarding learning experience. I am currently entering into my 13th week as a summer intern and with each passing week I have grown both personally and professionally. Not only is this my first internship, but this is my first job in a professional setting. Therefore, many of the challenges and opportunities I faced were brand new to me. The lessons and practices I have learned in the past 13 weeks is something I would never have been able to learn from a textbook or a classroom.

In the weeks and days leading up to my first day at Self+Tucker Architects, I was so consumed with finishing out the school semester on a positive note that I did not have time to formally put together any immediate expectations or anticipations. I just knew that in the year and a half prior to starting here, it was a long process of trying to work hard and differentiate myself from my classmates so I can position myself for a possible internship. When I started, and even more so now, I was grateful that someone believed in me enough to give me my first real opportunity within the architecture profession. It was confirmation to me that hard work does pay off.

I have learned so much from so many different people at STA. I received a warm welcome from everybody when I started. Especially in the first couple weeks when there was not much I did know and my questions were frequent. Everybody was exceedingly supportive and had a genuine interest in my professional development. Often times interns are given remedial task and never really exposed to much outside of the confines of those simple tasks. That was definitely not the case here at STA. I was an integral component of



the team, I had hands-on experience with real architecture work, I coordinated with different consultants, sat in on meetings, and participated in various community outreach events such as speaking at Greater Deliverance Church. I now have been exposed to things my classmates have yet to be exposed to. This all makes me a better-rounded professional. I now can go into this next school year equipped with tools and skills that I did not think I would have.

On my first or second day, while I was preparing drawings for the Tunica Airport Jimmie explained to me that these drawings were an "exercise in thinking." Well, I think the same thing could be said of my tenure at STA as a summer intern. I have learned so much in a short amount of time from so many different people. I am excited to move forward and grow with my newfound knowledge and skills that I acquired here as a STA summer intern.

