
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Virgil Deanes

Summer Intern, 2014
Self+Tucker Architects

My name is Virgil Deanes III, and I'm a 5th year student in Hampton University's 5 ½-year 1st professional Masters of Architecture program. As a student of architecture, uncertain of the expectations of a professional in the field, I found myself 'going through the motions', comprehending the learned material and then performing to the professor's standards to achieve the highest mark possible. However, it wasn't until I was able to practice in a professional environment when I could thoroughly understand how those tools are to be applied.

I've been granted the opportunity to expand my knowledge base and practice as an architectural intern at Self + Tucker Architects in the fall of 2013 and also the summer of 2014. My experience here has been very beneficial to my journey of becoming a licensed Architect. Since the first day I was embraced as a student of architecture but also with expectations to professionally carry out my tasks as a member of the STA team. Working in a firm of about fifteen (15) has allowed me to obtain first-hand experience in all facets of successfully completing a project.

My involvement included, but not limited to: project/staff meetings, design and construction development, construction visits, and also presentations as marketing efforts for the firm. I was also able to take advantage of the firm's size to maximize my understanding of various projects by learning the personnel and (design) styles of the majority, if not all, of my co-workers. What I've learned from visiting previous firms is that the age range of the workers is, too, as important a factor as the firm's size itself. Self + Tucker Architects consists of licensed Architects and designers with



novice to expertise level of professional experience, from whom I was able to learn the fundamental and original principles of the profession to the modern day styles and techniques.

I have definitely seen improvement in my work as a professional from efficiently making design decisions to physically producing documentation to represent the work. It's just the beginning of a long journey ahead but I'm glad to say that Self + Tucker Architects has been a vehicle to the development of my professional origins in the field of Architecture.

