Alex Mei 2015 | Architecture

I interned with Gensler in their Seattle office, a global design and architecture firm.

Getting started...
The idea of networking was certainly outside my comfort zone, but I knew it was essential to finding hidden job opportunities. I started by asking around for any connections in the architecture field and contacting everyone recommended to me. At first I was hesitant to continue emailing and calling people, but I realized people are just busy. They appreciated when I followed up!

Bringing my story to life...
Because I am very interested in their work, I reached out to Gensler’s Marketing Director of the northwestern region for an informational interview in order to learn more about the firm. I continued to stay in touch with her, despite the fact that they didn’t have any formal openings for architecture internships. After persistent communication, they offered me an internship working with their Director of Marketing. I worked with designers and architects on putting together graphic marketing booklets as a way for them to market their work to potential clients.

My internship take-away...
I enjoyed seeing how a large, global firm like Gensler works. Before applying to graduate schools, I’d like to explore the inner workings of a smaller firm and use both experiences to inform my decisions when pursuing a full-time design job.

Alex’s advice: “During your internship, volunteer to do anything or help anyone in the office. You’ll get to know a lot of people who really love what they do and will inspire your own career.”

This Week’s Opportunities

- National Security Agency (NSA)
- Wallace Roberts & Todd
- Success Academy Charter Schools
- Google
- Goldman Sachs
- Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis
- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals

Events

- APRIL 4: Lunch with Deloitte Consulting
- APRIL 5: Quick Advising: Architecture Portfolios
- APRIL 7: Mock Interview Monday

Spending a sunny summer day at my favorite Seattle hangout: Gas Works Park

Biking the walls of Lucca, Italy with a few architecture students while studying abroad in Florence

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