

Hannah Hall

Mr. Speice

ISM

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Interview Assessment #2

Name of Professional: Eric Horstman

Profession/Title: Principal Architect

Business/Company name: Corgan

Date of Interview: 25 October 2017

This interview with Mr. Eric Horstman was only about two days after my interview with Mr. Amador Saucedo, so I took what I learned from my first interview and used it to write new questions for my second interview. My goal for this interview was to learn what Mr. Horstman does at his job as a Principal Architect, what happens during the design process of a project, and what I should do to prepare for college and a career in architecture.

I only waited in the lobby for a few minutes when I first arrived. He came in, introduced himself, and explained the model in the center of their lobby. The model is a miniature of what the building should look like when the additions and renovations are done since Corgan has grown so much that they do not fit in their building anymore.

From here, Mr. Horstman went on a tangent about how architecture has evolved a lot in recent years from individual and drawing based work, to collaborative, technology-based work.

He talked about BIM (building information modelling) softwares such as Revit and even free Google Sketchup, suggesting that I look into them if possible. It is especially necessary to know how to use softwares like these, because, to be an architect, one has to be very spatially aware. Mr. Horstman then warned me that different architecture schools have different ways of teaching. Only some of them teach the technological approach that is used in modern firms. Every school has a sort of brand that employers can identify. Some schools are very versatile, while others are more practical, theoretical, or even just old fashioned. He told me that Rice is more theoretical, but still very highly regarded, while OU is a more versatile and practical school. These were good things to hear since OU and Rice are the places I am applying.

At this point, he asked if I had questions I wanted to ask him, to which I responded yes, although a couple of my questions he had already answered. I asked him about his job as a principal and what he does everyday. Mr. Horstman said that everyday he could be doing something different. He could be making phone calls and sending emails to clients one day and the next he might be meeting with the interior designers. The next day he could be on the construction site and after that he could be meeting with the clients to reconfirm plans. Being the busy-minded person that I am, this was good to hear. I would love coming to work to something a little different everyday. When I asked about what the most interesting part of work everyday was, he said that it was the community. He also said that it is very rewarding to see people enjoying the project that his team at Corgan fabricated.

Mr. Horstman said that while going through the design process, he thinks about their mission statement. Does the project accomplish the goal of bettering the future society? This was something I had not thought of before my second interview. Previously when I had designed

things, I mostly thought about “does it look cool,” “does it work?” He also said that it is imperative to think about the client, the budget, and the true intended purpose. If the project ends up not fitting the client’s wishes, costing too much, or not even fulfilling its original purpose, then the truth of the matter is that that client might not come back to the architecture company in the future.

I asked Mr. Horstman about some things he thought about during the design process that he thought an amateur would overlook. To this he responded that he really did not think there was such a thing as an amateur architect. Architects must know everything about everything. No one can afford for there to be “amateurs” out there.

Finally, I asked Mr. Horstman about the difference between architects and interior designers. He said that the principal was like the conductor of an orchestra; the interior designers and architects were just sections like cellos, violins, and harps. I was expecting him to say something along the lines of “interior designers focus on the interior of the building, from wall colour, to flooring, to furniture,” but instead, his response was much deeper. He said that interior designers are more focused on how one “experiences the space.” It makes complete sense, but it takes some thought to get there.

I learned a lot from my interview with Mr. Horstman. He brought up a lot of things on his own that I would not have thought about, such as: bettering the future society, amateur architects not existing, and interior designers focusing on how one “experiences the space.” I am excited to take what I learned from Mr. Horstman and apply it to my studies.