

Hannah Hall

Mr. Speice

ISM

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Interview Assessment 4

Name of Professional: Carmen Madden

Profession/Title: Architect

Business/Company name: BRW Architects

Date of Interview: November 20, 2017

Through my interview with Ms. Madden, I was hoping to not only see what inspired her to be an architect and what it looks like to be an architect at a firm like BRW, I was also hoping to ask about what it is like to be a woman in the field of architecture. Ms. Madden is the only female architect that I have interviewed so far.

I asked Ms. Madden what inspired her to be an architect to which she responded that she started in the architecture field wanting to be an engineer. She said that she loves solving problems and being creative. She told me that she took drafting classes in high school and enjoyed them. So when she went to college at the University of Kansas, she wanted to major in architectural engineering. From there she decided that it would be much better to just be an architect because architectural engineering did not require a lot of creativity. She also said that

she studied abroad in France as a part of her education. Studying abroad was very helpful, she said, for learning how to better collaborate with other people, especially people that do not speak your language fluently. Ms. Madden highly suggested studying abroad because it does not only help with collaboration, but it also is important to see how people live in other parts of the world with other cultures and how architecture influences them.

I asked Ms. Carmen Madden what she liked best about her job and she said that she really enjoys the people that she works with. Every architecture firm that I have visited has been clear that community and collaboration are huge aspects of the job everyday. In addition, every architect that I have asked about their favorite part of their job has said that they love the people they work with. They have all also said that they love doing something different everyday. When I ask about having experience with engineering, however, nearly everyone has said that it is not imperative, but Ms. Madden said that it is helpful. Since she started her education with the engineering side of architecture, she said that she loves to focus on the mechanisms and how the systems of a building go together. Although this is nice to know, it is not necessary. The architect can design the building and the engineers will go over it and make sure that there is enough room and space for the systems such as electricity, water, air conditioning, and other things to fit and function properly.

I also asked Ms. Madden what it is like to be a woman in the architecture field, since it is often a male dominated field. She said that in the workplace, it is not a big deal to be a woman. Especially at BRW, where there are equal numbers of men and women working in the firm, it is really not a big deal. However, she said that when she is on the job site with the construction

people, many times they will look at her like she does not know what she is doing. After proving that you know what you are talking about however, they will listen and do what they need to.

I thought that it was very interesting to see what the job is like from the perspective of a woman. Architecture is an especially male dominated field, so it was important to hear that the workplace is usually a place of equality. Going forward, I will learn all that I can about architecture so that I can have a head start in college to make a good impression. Starting from here, I can kickstart my future and my success.