

Hannah Hall

Mr. Speice

ISM

12 December 2017

### Mentor Visit 1

Mentor: Eric Horstman

Profession: Principal Architect

Location (Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip): Corgan 401 N. Houston St. Dallas, TX 75202

Date: December 7, 2017

Time: 11:00

On my first mentor visit, Mr. Horstman met me in the main Corgan building in downtown Dallas to start by giving me a little tour. After that, he introduced me to the people in Human Resources so that I could get my password to access Corgan's projects to look at on Revit. Once I had gotten my username and password, he took me outside to see a job site in action. Since Corgan is currently going through the process of renovating and expanding, there is construction on the site. He explained to me the stage the the construction process is in and told me what they were doing while we stood there and watched.

From there, we went to the rented space across the street where he works (since there is currently not enough space for all of the Corgan employees.) There, he introduced me to some of his coworkers and more people that are more recently graduated. He said that since things have changed quite a bit since he went to school, it might be better for me to talk to a younger

employee about some things such as college and what it is like now. Many of the people he introduced me to went to different colleges. I met someone that went to the University of Texas, someone who went to Clemson, an alumni of the University of Oklahoma, and a couple of Oklahoma State University graduates. They each explained a little bit about their education and how it is different from other schools. The Oklahoma State University alumni told me about how their educations were more pragmatic than conceptual, which means that it focused more on the nuts and bolts of architecture than the creativity. They first learned about how buildings go together and what is possible with architecture and added the more creative factor later. Conversely, the employees from Clemson, the University of Texas, and the University of Oklahoma said that their educations started with the creativity, conceptualism, and theory.

Mr. Horstman then offered to take me to lunch and on the way across the street I talked about how I liked the weather and dreamed of living and working in New York. My mentor then told me about the differences of firms across the US simply based on their location. For example, in the South where we live, there is more room to build and more development going on, so many firms here do a lot of new construction. In contrast, firms in the North and Northeast do a lot more renovation because the area is more urban and built out. In cities like Chicago and New York it is especially difficult to find land to build on considering that tearing down a building could be like skyline Jenga if not done carefully. I found this to be some very interesting insight that I surprisingly would not have thought of on my own. It is good to keep in mind when planning my future.

We also talked about my original work. I told him my idea for working with a client to design and draw up their dream house. He suggested changing the concept of the project from

building a house to working with the client to draft a retreat for them. This way the project could be more conceptual and theoretical than a house, which would be very pragmatic. By changing the plan, I would have more of an opportunity to utilise my creativity and just experiment with the software than learn how to use it to strictly put together a feasible plan for a house. Mr. Horstman said that there can be parts of it that may not make sense if one was actually trying to construct the building. For example, if part of it was floating, maybe it's held up by a sky hook or some sort of hover device. He said that I should focus on this project being more of an experiment for the software and my creativity.

My first mentor visit was very helpful because I talked about several things with Mr. Horstman that I would not have thought of on my own such as the idea for revising my original work idea and the information about work in New York firms being mainly renovation projects. I am excited about what I will get to see and learn in my future mentor visits.

## Mentor Visit #1 Notes

- Original work
  - Instead of a house, make it a resort. Like a retreat.
  - More conceptual than pragmatic
  
- Schools
  - OSU more pragmatic approach
  - OU more theoretical and conceptual
  - Rice also more theoretical and conceptual
  
- Firms across the US
  - In the south
    - More development happening, so more opportunities for new construction
  - In the northeast (like NY)
    - More developed so less opportunities for new construction and more opportunities for renovation