

Hannah Hall

Mr. Speice

ISM

1 February 2018

Mentor Visit

This Wednesday, I went to the Corgan office in Dallas to meet with my mentor and talk to a few other people. Since I've mostly seen a lot of K-12 educational facility architecture, my mentor set me up to talk to people on the higher education team. I met with Cameron and Vandana Gupta to talk about their current projects.

I spoke to Cameron first, who was working on a project on the campus of Texas A&M in Texarkana. When I first came up to him, he was working on photoshopping people into the renderings of the building. It was interesting to see this, because when you think of architecture, you don't automatically think of using photoshop. He said that the building was very versatile. It would have student services on the first floor, classrooms for the business majors on the second floor, and classrooms and facilities for the students in the nursing program on the third floor. Cameron walked me through the building with a program on his computer. He showed me how the clients could be shown what the building would look like at different times, such as at sunset or when it is raining. The density of the clouds could even be changed to adjust the natural light.

Next, I talked to Vandana Gupta. Ms. Gupta is a part of the higher education team, but she is currently working with the K-12 team on a CTE addition to Irving High School. She was working on rearranging the bathrooms when I visited with her. It was not of course the most

exciting thing to watch, but I was glad to be able to see up close someone working with Revit, which is the program that most architecture firms use now. The issue that she was trying to fix was position of the bathroom doors in relation to the vestibule doors. I learned a lot about codes as I talked with her, such as a vestibule has to have 10 feet between the doors in order to keep the “too cold” air and the “too hot” air from entering the building. For the bathrooms, there has to be a certain clearance around the toilets and sinks to allow for people in wheelchairs to get around. There also has to be no visibility from the door to the toilet/urinal areas for privacy. She even asked me once if I had any suggestions.

Ms. Gupta also showed me how to move walls around. As she added a wall, she told me how it is better to have a thicker wall than a thin wall standing out into the floor. This is because the thicker wall will be sturdier, better seen, and it will get less wear. She showed me how to make the walls even and aligned because they would look better from floor to ceiling, not to mention it would make it easier to place heating/air systems.

This visit was very different from my others because I got to see two very different sides of the job. I saw the more creative side with Cameron and the more technical side with Vandana. The photoshopping is an idea that I could take to my final product so that I can show people inside the building if I decide to make an online model. Ms. Gupta’s advice is advice that I can take to every project that I do in the future. Learning how to move walls and such will be great when I am using Revit in college next year, but I can apply the advice about making the walls even now as I draw floor plans for my final product and even just for fun.