

Hannah Hall

Mr. Speice

ISM

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Interview Assessment 1

Name of Professional: Amador Saucedo

Profession/Title: Architect

Business/Company name: O'Brien Architects

Date of Interview: 22 October 2017

In my interview this Monday with Mr. Amador Saucedo, I constructed a list of questions about things I wanted to learn more about in the architecture profession. My list included questions such as: "Percentage wise, what does a day in the life of an architect look like?" "What are some of the differences between residential, commercial, and mixed use projects? What are some similarities?" and "What are the main differences between architects and interior designers? What are some similarities?" I also asked more personal questions to get to know about his journey to where he is now in his career and what sort of advice he would have for me. I asked things like: "What led you to be an architect?" "What would you say is the best part of coming to work everyday?" and "What kind of advice would you give to someone like me who is looking to do architecture in college and as a future career?"

One of the first things that happened in my interview was that Mr. Saucedo asked me why I was interested in architecture. I responded that I loved the fusion of art, math, and science. He agreed with me and said that was why he became an architect. Mr. Saucedo said that architecture was not love at first sight for him. He originally wanted to be an artist, but after taking an art class in the architecture building, he came to love it.

Mr. Saucedo's job at O'Brien Architects is a design director. He does a lot of the animations, renderings, and visualisations as well as corresponding with clients and working together with co workers. He said that one of his favourite things about coming to work everyday is that he loves the community at O'Brien. He truly enjoys collaborating with his team. He said that he did not want to use the word "co workers." It sounded too harsh. Mr. Saucedo said that the people you work with are really just like peers, and they become your friends, especially when working in a field that is as collaborative as architecture.

I asked Mr. Saucedo what some of the most important things he thinks about during the design process are because I wanted to know what influences architects as they design and put together projects. He responded that it is important to do research to see how some issues have been solved in the past in ways that work. You don't want to disappoint your client because you want to do something that will not be sustainable in the long run. In addition to the previous comment, Mr. Saucedo emphasised that it is very important to know what your client wants. The architects always need to make sure that they are doing what the client wants and that the vision of the firm aligns with the vision of the client. This is something that as a student just starting to study architecture I would not have thought about. Obviously, I will not be having any clients for

a long time, so whenever I have designed things in the past, I have never thought about having to please others with my design.

I also asked him what the main differences between commercial and residential projects are. Or in other words, what are the differences between designing public spaces and private spaces. He said that in commercial projects, there is often more than one client. There may even be a committee to meet with to talk about designs. But in residential projects such as houses, you just have one client to please, so the process is a little more involved on both sides. For mixed use projects, which is the blending of residential, commercial, and other spaces in one area, the idea is to keep up the energy and life in the area at all times. There may be places to work, places to eat, places to grab drinks after work, and places to live. These projects focus on keeping life in an area at all times so that after work, not everyone just abandons the area and leaves it creepily quiet.

My first interview went very well I would say. It may have been a little short, but I still learned a lot from Mr. Saucedo. He told me about things I would not have thought about before, such as: making sure the clients are happy, doing research for designs to see what has worked in the past, and keeping up the energy of an area at all times of the day and night. Mr. Saucedo provided some great insight about his job and some great advice for my resume and future interviews.