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Scan|Design Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter Internship Evaluation
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I became familiar with Dorte Mandrup's work my first year in architecture school when another student in my theory class was assigned with presenting her work every week in conjunction with a reading assignment. Mandrup's work for children struck me as unique and playful, so when I learned that Dorte would be teaching a studio at UW, I was quick to apply. I hoped that by taking the studio I might be able to shake out a little of the rigidity I had sensed in my previous studio projects. The Culturehouse Capitol Hill studio co-taught by Dorte and UW professor, Peter Cohan was a great learning experience for all of us who participated and left me with the desire to intern at Dorte's office. When the actual opportunity to work at DMA in Copenhagen arose, I was very excited without knowing what to expect.

I really couldn't ask for more with regard to the work environment at DMA. The firm is very accustomed to having a large staff of interns, (10-12 out of about 30ish people all together) resulting in good management of interns' time. My first day at the office I was tossed into a competition for a large municipal sports complex for a town on the north coast of Zealand and that kept me busy for a couple of months until the competition was due and I was placed on a residential project just outside of Copenhagen. The residential project was already in the construction document phase, so between the competition and the house I saw two very different scales and levels of architectural resolution. The second half of the internship I worked on a larger residential competition in Hanover, Germany and then the design for an "Ideahus" outside of Stockholm. Under the direction of a lead architect the development of competition entries usually starts with in depth volumetric program analysis and progresses to model making. Some competition entries tend to be pretty form oriented, but the programmatic needs are always considered from the start (even early models are never made without a sense of the actual scale and program volumes). Of course, teamwork with a diverse set of interns and staff loomed large in my experience. I felt that my 3D modeling and 2D drafting skills were sufficient for the internship, but that perhaps I could have prepared by learning more Maxwell prior to the internship so that I could have been faster on the rendering front.

Though I did not have much in the way of formed expectations of what the internship would be like, some things pleasantly surprised me in the office. All of the interns were very social and I felt that a higher level of social engagement was expected on my part than I've experienced in the little time I have interned in American offices. Little things, like a hearty *godmorgen* from each staff person arriving at the office, communal lunches (eating alone was really rare), and regular Friday bars held at the office created a friendly and warm office culture. Generally, the office was not hierarchical, and I was really surprised at the extent to which Dorte and other architects listened to and considered the contributions of interns. As far as workload, looming deadlines of course led to long nights, but otherwise the schedule was pretty relaxed. We were encouraged to go out and enjoy the sun or take time off when it wasn't absolutely necessary to burn the midnight oil. Additionally, we were always given a couple (if not more) days off after the end of a deadline to recover and get ready for the next project.

Coordinating an architectural internship in Denmark for an American citizen has recently become more difficult due to Danish visa processing rules and anyone pursuing an internship in Denmark should be aware that it takes a

lot of paperwork, time, and a trip in San Francisco (if you're from the West Coast). It would have been really nice if there had been more information provided about the process, but those of us going to Denmark all seemed to figure it out. I managed to find housing with Andrew Thies (also a Scan|Design intern) prior to arriving in Copenhagen through Airbnb, which is mostly used for short vacation stays, but we got extremely lucky and found a spacious room in a large apartment for \$1139/month (which was a reasonable amount to split) in Nørrebro on Wesselsgade very close to the lakes. The apartment was a fifteen-minute bike ride (if that) from work and the neighborhood has abundant grocery stores, bakeries, bars and restaurants within close walking distance. Although Nørrebro can be a bit more expensive than some other areas a bit further away, I would highly suggest it as a place to live. That being said, Copenhagen is small and you can't really go wrong with any neighborhood.

Copenhagen is an expensive city with regard to rent and luxury goods/leisure activities, but if you're shopping and eating at home, it doesn't seem too outrageous (relative to Seattle). Public transportation seemed more expensive than I expected on the occasions that I went out of the center of the city to go to museums or visit people in the suburbs (round trip was a little less than \$20). The funding we received from Scan|Design was essential, as the student stipend paid to interns would not have covered our expenses for traveling to Copenhagen and living there. In conjunction with pay from interning the funding seemed completely adequate, but I did not travel much while in Copenhagen, which was fine with me and made the trip more focused around learning what it's like to really live and work in Denmark. I opened an account at Nordea while I was there in order to have my paycheck directly deposited, but I can't recommend Nordea as they don't provide Dankort cards (which are the only ones guaranteed to work throughout Denmark) cannot provide all of their paperwork in English, and have generally spotty customer service at their perpetually crowded branch offices.

I didn't manage to participate in all of the Scan|Design events because of my schedule at work, but I did go on the trip to Oslo and had a dinner at a coordinator's house. I also found time to spend with other Scan|Design fellows from the University of Washington as well as Danish students who had passed through the UW as Scan|Design fellows. It was great to see friends of ours who had come to Seattle on exchange in Copenhagen and I think that perhaps the greatest achievement of the Scan|Design Foundation is facilitating relationships, potentially life-long friendships, between Scandinavian and American students. I also developed professional and personal relationships at the firm that I hope to maintain in the future.

Overall, my experience interning at Dorte Mandrup was great and the Scan|Design grant I received made it financially possible. DMA does unique, but distinctly Danish work and it was a really worthwhile experience to participate in the development of competition entries as well as work on a real project. Additionally, it was interesting to witness design and the operation of an architecture firm in the Scandinavian socialist context. Many of the projects and competitions in the office had communal activity and public engagement at the core of their programs in addition to a desire for a presence befitting a public landmark. I feel incredibly fortunate to have become involved with Scan|Design and think that the experience I had working at Dorte's office may become instrumental in how I decide to focus my energy within the field of architecture after I graduate.