

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: Carey Moran

Institution where you studied: University of Washington

Term(s) of participation: January – June 2014

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1. WHY AND WHERE:

- a. Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?
I wanted to expand my architecture education and be fully immersed in Danish design.
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
Having already been to Copenhagen as a student, I was interested in gaining work experience at an architecture firm.
- c. What were your expectations?
I was expecting to learn about the Danish design process, specifically their attitudes toward integrating old and new architecture.
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
I took an introductory Danish language class at UW and prepared all the necessary paperwork.
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
Though I was able to navigate my way through all the paperwork, it would have been helpful to have a list of all the procedures/paperwork.

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
- b. Please comment on the orientation and activities offered at both your home University and the host University, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

2. ACADEMICS:

3. HOUSING:

- a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?
There were no arrangements provided.
- b. How did you locate your housing?
Online: airbnb.com, boligportal.dk

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

In general, please describe your impressions of the host University campus and its location and surrounding community.

Dorte Mandrup's office was in a very central location. Everything within Copenhagen is extremely easy to access, especially by bike, which was a very enjoyable mode of transport.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study.

The attitudes of the people and density of the city make for a very safe experience.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

- a. How did you integrate into the host country culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., mentors, clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

Having a group of international interns at the office as well as other ScanDesign students (Scandinavians and Americans) helped me to engage in the community.

- b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

Having already lived briefly in Copenhagen, I knew that first impressions Danes make are often cold and unapproachable. While Danes mostly keep to themselves in public, they can be quite warm and friendly in more intimate settings. Knowing Danish interns and other ScanDesign students helped to create those situations.

7. FINANCIAL:

- a. Please describe how the Scan|Design Foundation fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.

I do not think the experience would have been financially feasible without the ScanDesign fellowship. I am extremely grateful for all the support I received.

- b. What is the best way to access/transfer money?

The best way to access and transfer money is to open a Danish bank account.

- c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

The \$2,000 a month received from the combination of ScanDesign and Dorte Mandrup was definitely sufficient in providing for all the basics as well as extracurricular activities.

- d. Please comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.

The cost of living in Copenhagen is more expensive than Seattle. The rent is comparable but going out for anything (from coffee and beer to dinner or shopping) is more expensive.

8. EXCHANGE/SCAN|DESIGN FELLOWSHIP ADMINISTRATION:

- a. Please comment on the assistance and activities by the Scan|Design Fellowship coordinator before your departure, upon arrival, and during your stay. What worked and what could be improved or changed?

ScanDesign coordinators did a great job of organizing fun activities and making themselves available if needed.

- b. Please evaluate services and effectiveness of the University administrative offices.

The advisers were more than helpful and the administrative offices aided in completing the correct paperwork in a timely and effective manner.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this exchange is best suited and what advice would you give to future students.

Students that enjoy immersing themselves in and learning from new places and cultures would be well suited for the program.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?

It was an absolutely fantastic experience. I wouldn't have changed anything!

- b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?

Without ScanDesign, establishing connections with a Danish firm would have been quite difficult.

- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?

The greatest benefit was establishing relationships with international architecture students and learning the process of competition design. The challenge is similar to working in any office – there is a learning curve and it takes time to learn the procedures and establish yourself within the firm.

FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.