

## ScanDesign Internship Evaluation

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Copenhagen is a place that has continued to draw me in as I have pursued my architectural studies. For the past six months, from January to July, 2016, I have had the opportunity to work as an architectural intern for Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter. I owe this wonderful experience to the generosity of the ScanDesign Foundation, and to those that have built up strong relationships that connect University of Washington Architecture with renowned Danish architecture firms.

This internship has given me the chance to apply and develop skills on a range of project types that I have not had much previous experience with. Excited by the challenge, I feel I was able to contribute to the work the office does in a meaningful way while at the same time being pushed with new ideas in the context of a new place. The projects that I have been involved with have allowed me to assume different design roles, revealing a unique perspective into the design approach that Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter takes, and a small window into Danish design in general. The opportunity to study and practice architecture in Denmark is something that I would highly recommend anyone wanting to absorb themselves in a culture that values design like the Danes do.

True to what any good architectural internship should start with, it began by making rapid study models – this was for a health clinic being proposed to the commune for development. Although this was just a quick study, it was a good way to be introduced to the office and their working approach, and then introduced to you. As I settled in I was soon put on the first of three competitions that would occupy the remainder of my six-month internship.

The first competition was for a mixed-use development located above a new metro stop currently under construction in Frederiksberg. The site, therefore, was very constrained as to where structure and load could be located. Being tasked with the digital model placed me at the intersection within our design team, and in communication with the external rendering company we used. The short deadlines and coordination required to produce a finished proposal gave a good understanding of the office's operation. However, in the end we were not awarded the project. But before I had time to be disappointed, I was moved to the next project that I like to affectionately call the *Æg*.

The *Æg*, or officially the Opal, was the first to really challenge me to learn parametric modelling to effectively handle the complex geometry being proposed. Producing quick model iterations, the egg-like shapes began to accumulate, and some in the office were left wondering if we were working on a project at all or anticipating the coming Easter holiday a bit too much. Competing against two other well known Danish offices, it was a surprise and honor to this time win the competition with our unexpected proposal. I

have continued to develop this project in collaboration with the engineers over the past few months, which has been an interesting way to be involved with the larger team required to effectively execute this project.

The last project I worked on I came in on the second phase of the Ilulissat Icefjord Center competition in Greenland. The short video [<https://vimeo.com/171548621>] that I helped produce can speak more to the project than I can here. It was interesting to learn different ways of architectural representation as the office was exploring them too. The additional time this project was given and the stage at which I was involved, allowed an extra attention to detail that I don't often get. Our whole team seemed to feel like it was a complete proposal that we delivered that we pushed as far as we could. We anxiously awaited a response. The day that we heard back from the judges just happened to be the same day of the summer house party at Dorte's... And the news was good!

Reflecting on my experience at Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter, it has been an incredible time that has opened up my architecture studies and prepared me as I transition into the profession. The support that the ScanDesign Foundation provided has made these past six-months possible. And when the opportunity to do so was presented, I was in a position to extend this internship for the full year! Copenhagen really has continued to draw me in, but it's the friends and connections I have made that make me want to stay. I want to thank all those at Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter who have made this experience what it is, I have really been fortunate to work with knowledgeable and enjoyable people on my design teams. And my gratitude again goes to the ScanDesign Foundation, for it is their commitment to architectural education in Denmark that made this possible.