

My Work Placement Record

Name: Philip Knight

Work placement: Office architect

Placement dates: 24 June 2013 - 28 June 2013

Company / Organisation details

Name Grafnall Architecture and Design

Type Private company

Size A design team

Company Description The practice seeks to promote a sound knowledge of the history and theory of architecture as a basis for making informed decisions about each new project, small or large. A design team led by one of the principals of the practice is made collectively responsible for producing economic designs that respond to the project brief. Up-to-date computer aided design techniques, combined with traditional drawing and model making skills are used to produce the clearest possible representations of ideas for the buildings, places or artifacts to be created. The studio workshop environment creates a productive enjoyable atmosphere which encourages teamwork .

Work placement arrangements

Working hours 9:00am - 5:30pm

Meal breaks A 1 hour lunch break from 1 till 2 o'clock.

First day arrangements

*I reported to **Graham Frecknall, head architect at 9:00 AM***

How I got to work

By skateboarding for a faster journey.

Work wear

Dresscode

Casual clothing

Essential work wear

A pair of boots for site visits.

Prohibited work wear

None

Workplace Health & Safety requirements

A pair of boots and a hardhat are required for site visits due to building hazards.

My work targets

12 August 2013

To gain an understanding of the working environment within a design-based industry

17 August 2013

To gain more information about the career of an architect

Final assessment

KEY SKILLS

I used the following key skills:

Improvements to my key skills

- Communication skills
- Working with numbers and figures
- IT
- Working with others
- Improving my own performance
- Solving problems

My use of communication with my supervisors.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

The work placement helped me improve the following personal qualities:

- Being reliable through regular and punctual attendance
- Becoming confident and well organised
- Presenting yourself effectively
- Showing enthusiasm, determination, perseverance and flexibility
- Using initiative at the right times

The most significant improvement to my personal qualities:

Improving my problem solving skills.

My significant achievements

My most significant achievements within the workplace were suitably addressing the task in hand and being successful within the design based aspects of the task.

Supervisor's assessment

Supervisor name:

Graham Frecknall

My supervisor said that I

- Carried out the task(s) to an acceptable level for this workplace

- Worked safely and to agreed standards
- Collaborate with colleagues to complete tasks
- Displayed initiative, commitment , perseverance, responsibility
- Organised time and resources well
- Dealt positively with praise, setbacks, criticism

Comments from my supervisor:

Philip is very talented and conscientious. His ability to communicate ideas using freehand drawing is of a standard normally expected of a second year student at a school of architecture. His use of computer aided design packages was also above average.

If Philip wishes to pursue a career in architecture I am sure he would do well and we would wish him every success.

My Diary

24 June 2013

Tasks Undertaken

Today I learnt the basics of simple architectural floor plans and elevations. I worked on designing a small development to be built in a select location within Monmouth.

Comments:

It was interesting using accurate scales and measurements within the tasks in hand; illustrating the precise detailing needed to create architectural plans.

25 June 2013

Tasks Undertaken

Today I refined and completed the floor plans for my development plan. I then moved into a simple CAD program called 'Sketch-up' to begin to construct an accurate representation of my proposed property development. I then mapped out my drawn floor plans to scale within the program and began working on the walls and other building construction.

Comments:

It was interesting to use a program that I had minor experience of to its full potential. I

gained help from my supervisors concerning 'modelling' tips and tools. It was enjoyable to use the program as I gained a good visual representation of my property development.

26 June 2013

Tasks Undertaken

Today I completed working on my CAD house model. I then studied modern architecture through various books and websites as that topic interested me the most concerning different branches of architecture. I began to take small sketches of the features of design and architecture which interested me the most. I then went about designing my own building, taking into account the features I had recorded. I then began to model my building within the CAD program.

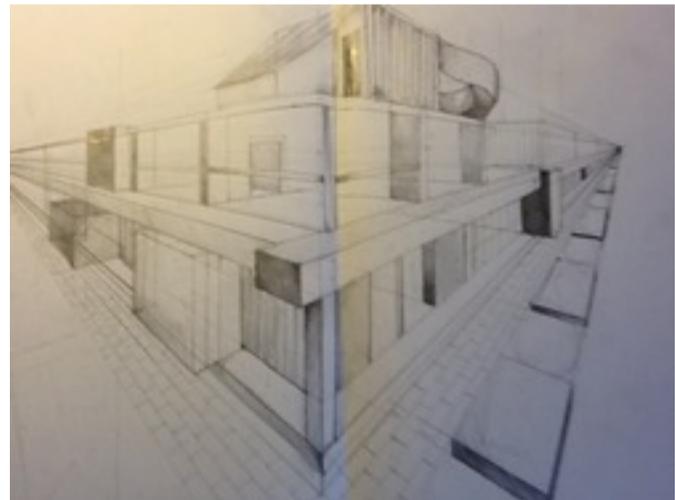
Comments:

I think that today was particularly enjoyable as I excelled in drawing from 2 point perspective, as I had already experienced the same technique in a GCSE art assessment. It was enjoyable to focus on modern architecture and in doing so I gained useful further knowledge into the history of the subject.

27 June 2013

Tasks Undertaken

Today I continued to construct my modern development within the CAD programme. After the construction was complete, I began to consider landscaping around the building and material exterior material choice. (eg render and wood). For the second half of the day, I went on a site visit with my supervisor at a property in Shire Newton. I was led around the site and it was interesting to see the processes occurring during the construction of a project.



Comments:

It was interesting to see the physical outcome of an architectural firm's initial designs and planning.

27 June 2013

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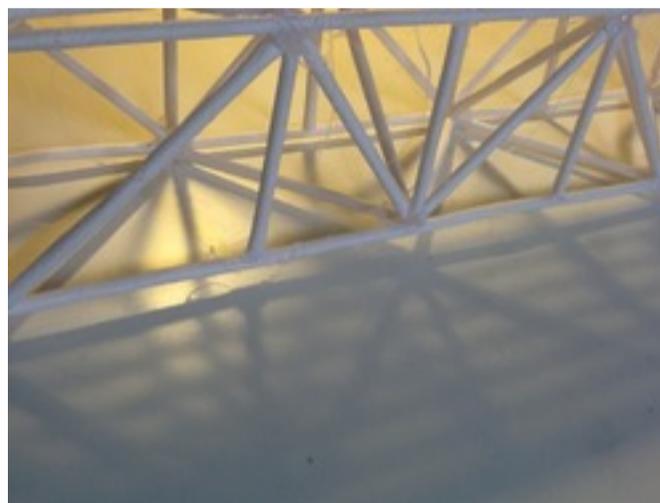
Comments:

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28 June 2013

Tasks Undertaken

Today was the final day of my work experience at Grafnall Architects. As a final challenge, I was allocated the task of designing and constructing a bridge made of paper straws that would, when finished, hold a certain weight between a gap just longer than the length of the paper straw. I was shown different methods of trussing and construction techniques to achieve the strongest design. I constructed a first model which managed to suspend one large brick, but collapsed on the second. I then went about constructing a second model; rethinking the internal structure. This structure managed to hold the first brick without any 'crumpling'. The addition of a second brick just tipped the weight threshold of the bridge, causing a collapse of one end of the bridge construction.



Comments:

This day summed up an enjoyable and informative week. It was extremely useful to learn about the working day of an architect, and it was also very inspiring for me to consider a possible future career in architecture or other design based subjects.