Internship gives four students opportunity learn, work with Chinese architecture

A whirlwind summer abroad has left four undergraduate architecture students with a new perspective in Chinese architecture. After an University of Oregon architect alumnus helped set up an international exchange for students to intern at the renowned Xian Dai Architectural Design firm based in Shanghai, China, four architecture students were selected to spend their summer overseas.

From Portland, UO architecture alumnus Raymond Cheng with FFA Architecture helped to set up and facilitate the international internship between Xian Dai and the University of Oregon students for the summer. Students were selected and given transportation, housing, food and the opportunity for excursions around Shanghai to further their internship experience. A firm known for its role in the high-rise building designs in Shanghai, Xian Dai gave students the opportunity to enrich their architectural knowledge.

"My experience with Xian Dai in Shanghai was invaluable," says Vance Stoner, one of the interns who spent his summer abroad. "Gaining the opportunity to work in China definitely broadened my horizons and allowed me to start thinking about what I can do globally with architecture."

According to Stoner, some of the projects he and his fellow interns worked on ranged from working with schematic and conceptual design work for a factory renovation and participating in the conceptual design for a new campus for all schools located in the city of Kashgar, China.

And come spring, the university has invited the president of Xian Dai, Mr. Jun Li, to come for a signing ceremony and reception to promote the internship program to jump start its second summer with UO architecture students.

In addition to Stoner, the remaining three students involved with the internship were undergraduate architecture students Melissa Hansen, Ollin Timm and Perry Wold.

"We hope to make this an ongoing international exchange," says Kassia Dellabough, coordinator for PODS career services office, who helped to oversee the applicants’ internship admission. "Hopefully, in the future, we can host people from Xian Dai here at the university to teach while students go overseas to learn. We'd like to create a model like that."
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