



Please insert here at least one **PHOTO** of your traineeship stay abroad! Preferred motives are photos of your accommodation, of your work place, of being at work. Attention! Due to legal considerations we kindly ask you to send us only photos that have been taken by yourself!

STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty: **Architecture**

Field of study: **Master of Architecture**

Home university: **Hochschule Anhalt**

Surname, Name
(optional field): ---

Nationality: ---

E-Mail (optional field): ---

Duration of traineeship (from ...to...): **from 02.10.2017 to 13.04.2018**

TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION

Country: **Denmark**

Name of traineeship institution: **BIG / Bjarke Ingels Group**

Web page: **www.big.dk**

Address: **Kløverbladsgade 56, 2500 Valby, Copenhagen, Denmark**

Contact person: **Simone Grau**

Telephone / E-Mail: **simonegrau@big.dk**

EXPERIENCE REPORT (approx. 3 pages + more photos if applicable)

1) Traineeship institution

Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.

BIG is a Copenhagen, New York and London based group of architects, designers, urbanists, landscape professionals, interior and product designers, researchers and inventors. The office is currently involved in a large number of projects throughout Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East. BIG's architecture emerges out of a careful analysis of how contemporary life constantly evolves and changes. The company was founded by Bjarke Ingels in 2005 in Copenhagen. There are about 500 staff members in total. The Copenhagen office, where I was working, employs about 250 people, including 55 interns from all over the world. There is a strict, but low hierarchy within the organization, which consists of seventeen partners, who direct associates. The level below consists of architects, who in turn manage the interns.

2) Searching for a traineeship

How did you find your traineeship? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I knew The architecture practice BIG from international architectural magazines as well as web resources (especially archdaily.com , dezeen.com). I would mainly recommend looking at archdaily articles about different architectural projects all over the world and find your favorite architectural companies.

3) Preparation

How did you prepare for your traineeship in terms of language, intercultural, professional and organisational aspects? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

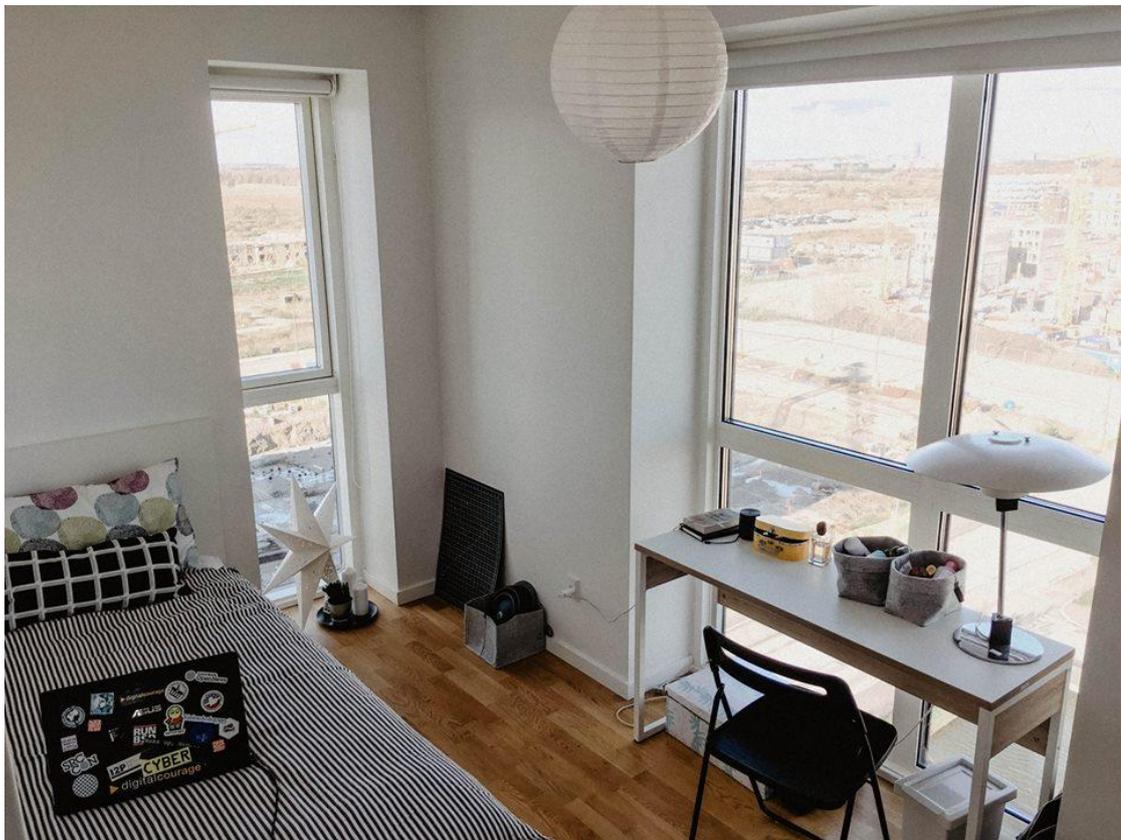
As the office is international the main language was English. I took part in a language test organized by ERASMUS which helped me to improve my language skills.

4) Accommodation

How did you find your accommodation? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

It was quite difficult to find a good affordable accommodation in Copenhagen as the city is very expensive. I would recommend using the following links to search for a room: www.boligportal.dk , www.findroommate.dk

However, I was very lucky and found a nice place to stay. It was a cozy room with in a shared apartment.



Pic 01. Rented room

5) Traineeship

Please describe the tasks and / or the projects carried out during your traineeship. In which way were you mentored and integrated? How were the working conditions? Did you have especially positive or negative experiences?

From the beginning of my internship I was put on a competition project in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As I joined the team at day one of the project, I have experienced all project stages. The team consisted of three people, one architect and two interns. After completing the research analysis part, we have started doing three dimensional studies of our design. Every week we had to send an update to the partner in charge of the project. After receiving feedback from the partner, we had an idea of which design direction we should follow.

After this, my tasks consisted of the production of physical models for massive studies. Normally, during the project stage we had to make around 50 different design proposals for the building, then choose five favorite options and build them at a scale 1:500. For this purpose, the office offers all kinds of materials, equipment and a workshop room. There is also a painting room, there are 3D-printers, laser plotters and a wide range of tools used for model construction.

After the concept design stages we have started developing a few favorite design options. At that time I was given the task to study a facade design as well as building materials.

After completing this project I started working on an exhibition proposal for The 16th Architecture Biennale in Venice titled Big U: Humanhattan 2050 - which describes the resiliency work in Lower Manhattan through media display and construction of a complex model constructed in CNC milled hardwood and plexiglass. I worked on a production of the physical model my last 3 months of an internship. On May 26th 2018 the project was exhibited in Venice at The 16th Architecture Biennale.

In terms of daily life at the office, sometimes we had different events organized by the company. For instance, there were lectures from visiting architects about different professional topics. Recently, we had a visit from the Korean architect Moon Hoon who talked about his practice and design approach. Sometimes we also had study courses, providing us with new knowledge and improving software skills. Every two months the office is organizing a "Friday bar" which is usually dedicated to the celebration of a competition that was won, or events happening in the office.



Pic 02. BIG U model at The 16th Architecture Biennale in Venice



Pic 03. BIG boat party in Venice

6) Acquired Qualifications

Which qualifications and skills could you acquire or improve during your traineeship?

I gained experience in the work of an architectural office during different stages of the design process. I had a great chance to improve professional software skills doing different kind of projects. I learned specific aspects of the software use. For instance, I learned visualization tools in Rhinoceros software which helped me a lot to do final image renderings. While working on the Venice 2018 Biennale project, I learned about different model making materials.

7) National legal regulations concerning traineeships

Are there any specific traineeship regulations in the target country that affected you as an Erasmus trainee (e.g. France: housing allowance, convention de stage)? If yes, which ones? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

8) Visa, residence and work permit (mainly for international students)

Which prearrangements did you have to make in terms of visa, residence and work permit? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

9) Other

Is there anything else you want to let other students know?

Here I attach some office space photos. The office itself is a common sharing room. Also, there is a kitchen and a canteen in the office as well as meeting rooms.



Pic 04. Office spaces

10) Conclusion

What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?

I am very excited about the internship at BIG. I performed many different tasks that gave me a deep understanding of the work of the office. I also received a lot of responsibility that I would never have hoped for as an intern. I am very much obliged to the Erasmus program and the Dessau International school of architecture for the support and help that made these experiences possible. Thank you!

Please send this report by email to julia.schubert@ovgu.de!
Acceptable file formats: [.doc], [.docx], [.rtf], [.odt].