



Field Report

Anja Wutte

Research stay August 8, 2019 – January 31, 2020 at Pennsylvania State University
State College, Pennsylvania

General Impression

The research stay was essential for my PhD research. The last working chapter of my thesis covers a shape grammar for ancient Egyptian tombs. Shape grammars are not thought at TU Wien. Therefore, my stay was crucial to finish my PhD thesis. During my stay at Penn State, I worked with Jose Duarte, one of the most popular researcher in this field.

Due to my visit, I was also able to meet George Stiny at MIT. Stiny invented shape grammars in the 70ies and is still researching in this field.

Quality of the Research Center

Established by H. Campbell and Eleanor R. Stuckeman to support advanced research and learning in computational design, the Stuckeman Center for Design Computing (SCDC) is one of the School's principal research engines. The SCDC is devoted to advanced design research and learning in computational design. It is a multidisciplinary community of researchers exploring computation as a subject of creative and scholarly inquiry in design across scales and modes of engagement. Their projects variously engage architectural robotics, simulation and visualization, game development, geographic information systems, sustainable development, and digital fabrication, as well as historical and theoretical aspects of computation in design.

Contacts

During my stay I was fully integrated. I had a desk in an open office area at SCDC (Stuckeman Center for Design Computing). Hence, I was in close contact with my colleagues (international PhD students and researchers).

I had the chance to present my project at the beginning of my stay in front of other PhD candidates as well as professors (Benay Gürsoy Toykoç, Loukas N. Kalisperis, Ute Poerschke, Alexandra Staub) of the department. This opened a discussion about my project at an early stage of my stay. Therefore, I received input from different fields of architectural research and made contact with the departments professors.

Furthermore, I had a poster contribution at the SCDC Flash Symposium. During my stay I had the possibility to attend various lectures and events. To name some of them:

September 12, 2019	J-1 Scholars Reception and Information Fair
September 23-24, 2019	SCDC Flash Symposium (with poster contribution)
September 24, 2019	Tomás Dorta , " <i>Hyve-3D Seminar and Demo: Social Virtual Reality for Research.</i> "
September 26, 2019	PhD Colloquium, presenting my project
October 10, 2019	Ph.D. Colloquium, Naveen Muthumanickam
October 24, 2019	Ph.D. Colloquium, Irem Öz
November 7, 2019	Ph.D. Colloquium, Mina Rahimian
November 19, 2019	GRID lecture series, Prof. Deryck Holdsworth , " <i>Above the Turk's Head: Providence and the Post-Maritime World.</i> "
December 13, 2019	Onur Yüce Gün , " <i>Data as Parts: Implementing Design Methods for the Unknown.</i> "
January 29, 2020	SCDC lectures series, Fernando Lima , " <i>Citymetrics: A (para)metric system for analysis and optimization of urban configurations.</i> "

Classes attended as auditor:

James Cooper, "*Visual Communication*"

Jose Duarte, "*Introduction into Shape Grammars*"

Additional contact: **George Stiny**, MIT, Cambridge, MA.

Organization

Penn State has a diverse academic environment with J-1 Scholars coming from every part of the world and representing an important research component of the University. The Department for International Students Affairs as well as the SCDC secretary were very well organized.

Recommendation for Prospective Fellows

It should not be necessary to remind every prospective fellow to be well organized. Nevertheless, I want to do so. I am usually the kind of "let's see what is coming up"-traveler, but for my research stay I planned almost every detail and started early enough.

Beside the organization of accommodation (be early enough, especially at small US-cities with large campuses and many international students) etc., I would recommend to prepare a concept for your project. Be and stay in contact with the Department and the professor at your host university until you arrive.

All over, I would highly recommend students, interested in a research stay abroad, to take the opportunity. For me it was a great experience I do not want to miss, and covered an essential part of my research.