

Marshall Plan Scholarship Field Report

Thanks to the help and support of the Marshall Plan Foundation I was able to spend almost one year in Los Angeles to investigate the field of architecture. In the fall of 2015, with the help of my advisor Peter Trummer, I became a member of the community at the Southern California Institute of Architecture. SCI-Arc is a place, where avant-garde architecture is created and reflected upon. As University of only architecture the school has a big impact on the world wide discourse of architecture. Aesthetically, as well as theoretical.

Coming as a student from the University of Innsbruck, it was a change, in a positive way, to see the American school system and how ideas were thought. Over the course of two semesters and more I was able to attend several seminars and other courses. Specified on theory, construction and design. Furthermore over the span of time, the school was inviting renowned architects and artists as well as philosophers. Greg Lynn, Ben van Berkel, Jeffrey Kipnis, Patrick Schumacher and Graham Harman, were only a few of them.

Having a surrounding like SCI-Arc, which is constantly questioning, challenging and rethinking the role of architecture, was a breeding ground for my inspiration and understanding. An important step towards my master thesis and my career. Not just because of the knowledge, but equally of the network and the new acquaintance. I received a lot of support from my teachers and colleagues.

As already mentioned, I had the chance to meet several professors, who thought me a variety of new theory and design methods. In theoretical discussions with Marcelyn Gow, Benjamin Bratton and Peter Trummer I got a better understanding of the ideas, which we, as architects, reacting upon. With a lot of readings and talks, a base for the design task was created.

Working together with teachers like Casey Rehm and Liam Young, I could experience a new way of reading architecture and using a

new tool set. Firstly using an algorithmic analysis of the context to create a building that is created with the tools of animation and machine vision. Secondly using a narrative or storyline to justify and present architectural and cultural interventions in a city. On top of that I got the opportunity to learn from people, working for Frank Gehry about the advanced construction of complex forms.

In conclusion I have to say that I am more than happy with my stay in Los Angeles and the studies at the Southern Californian Institute of Architecture. With all the support and help I received, I only can advocate for the well-equipped school and its professors and students. It was a very influential and helping time, and can highly be recommended. I hope to stay in contact with the institution and hope for further collaborations.

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