



**Oregon State
University**



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**Salzburg University
of Applied Sciences**

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Austria Marshall Plan - Field Report

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The research I conducted this summer was through the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation scholarship at the Fachhochschule Salzburg University of Applied Sciences. I exchanged from Oregon State University to the Kuchl Fachhochschule campus for three months. During this time I researched the winning designs from past Solar Decathlon competitions and determined key attributes of designs and technologies each winning teams used. Team Austria won the 2013 competition for their LISI house design which was designed at the Fachhochschule Salzburg University of Applied Sciences. Part of my research including a case study on the LISI house to demonstrate how effective the key attributes of winning designs of Solar Decathlon competitors were.

Throughout my stay I was humbled by the hospitality of my host school in Austria. I spent majority of my time at the Fachhochschule Salzburg University of Applied Sciences in Kuchl working, researching, and interacting with students and professors. I was able to work closely with Professor Hermann Huber and Professor Michael Ebner who greatly helped me with my project. Both of them have valuable knowledge of wood products and the creative uses of which it can be used throughout buildings. Prof. Huber and Prof. Ebner both spent time designing and constructing the LISI house which gave me an opportunity to better understand the development stages of this design. Their support and generosity inspired me to continue learning about the wood science industry.

The Fachhochschule Salzburg University of Applied Sciences is a school that specializes in wood products. Their facility and resources are unlike those available to me at Oregon State University. The design students are under the College of business at Oregon State University rather than combined with the engineering department such as at the Fachhochschule Kuchl campus. This structure of mixed disciplines provides students with unique opportunities such as the collaboration of the LISI house. Both departments collaborated to design an innovative and sustainable house. This unique combination of students provides an environment that encourages concepts that unite both engineering and design. This type of collaboration is unique to an institution at this level and as a result students and professors have a valuable understanding and respect for the significance of these two disciplines. The brief lectures that I was able to sit in on showed a reflection of this. Students of all disciplines were able to take classes in other

departments to strengthen their education. The smaller sized school also allowed for deeper connections between students and faculty which was reflected in the progressive research projects.

Given the circumstances of the allotted time stay stated by the Marshall Plan scholarship, I was in Austria from July to October. During this time, classes were not being offered which meant many of the faculty and students were not on campus. Although the facility was still open and available for my research there were very few people around. I would recommend to future students to arrange their stays to sync with the Fachhochschule class schedule so there are more students and faculty around. I believe the experience of my stay would have strengthened being surrounded by more local and international students for the entire duration of my stay rather than the last half of my trip.

I would also like to encourage students from the design department at Oregon State University to apply for the Marshall Plan scholarship. My experience through this program was an invaluable and taught me a great deal about myself and wood technologies. Design students at Oregon State University are not in a setting like those at the Fachhochschule. Therefore I encourage future students to pursue the opportunity to learn in an environment such as Fachhochschule Salzburg University of Applied Science. The irreplaceable perspective that I have gained through my research has positively affected me in my college education and future career.