



ПЛАТФОРМА 6 ПІДПРИЄМНИЦЬКІ ТА ОСВІТНІ АСПЕКТИ ДИЗАЙН-ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ

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ENHANCING UKRAINIAN ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS' PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE THROUGH INTERNSHIP IN AUSTRIAN DESIGN BUREAU

BLINOVA Mariia¹, MOLODCHA Mariia²

¹ O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv, Kharkiv, Ukraine

² Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

mariia.blinova@kname.edu.ua, mary.molodcha@gmail.com

This research explores the professional skills developed during an internship at an Austrian architectural firm and how they can be integrated into Ukrainian architectural education. Internships at architectural firms provide essential hands-on experience, exposing students to real-world projects, technical challenges, and collaborative workflows. The study focuses on competencies such as architectural modeling, project management, design methodologies, and effective communication within teams, emphasizing the importance of multilingual proficiency. This research advocates for the integration of these skills into academic curricula to enhance students' professional competence and better prepare them for the industry.

Keywords: architectural education, architectural internship, architectural modeling, architect's professional skills.

INTRODUCTION

After earning a bachelor's degree in architecture, students have an exciting opportunity to apply their knowledge and develop essential professional skills. Internships at architectural firms particularly in Europe serve as a vital bridge between academic learning and real-world practice, offering hands-on experience, exposure to technical challenges, and collaboration on impactful projects. These immersive experiences not only refine their expertise but also build confidence, ensuring a seamless transition into the dynamic field of architecture.

TASK STATEMENT

The aim of this research is to analyze the internship activities and tasks at an architectural firm and identify skills and competencies to be better integrated into the academic curriculum to enhance students' professional competence.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The author's (Molodcha) internship took place at the prominent architectural studio *Schenker Salvi Weber Architects* in Vienna during a 5-month period. The company specializes in designing and constructing buildings across the education, office, residential, care, and cultural sectors in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland and was nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Prize and received the National Award for Architecture for the *Post am Rochus* in Vienna [1]. The internship was



organized by the Professional Integration HUB initiated, funded by ERSTE Foundation and implemented by the European Center for Freedom and Independence enabling Ukrainian young specialists to gain practical experience and skills and use opportunities for professional development and integration in Austrian professional sphere.

Overall, the internship was intensively saturated with many diverse activities, tasks and communications. Internship tasks included participation in teamwork sessions for the competition project, design and construction of architectural models, preparation of project files for their archiving and graphic presentation of the projects for the website.

During an internship at an Austrian architecture firm, an intern must be prepared to perform certain skills, assignments and strategies, such as:

Architectural Modeling: Physical models from wood, paper, styrofoam, using 3d printers are used as a tool for exploring ideas providing a hands-on way to visualize complex concepts. This iterative modeling process is invaluable for discovering new design possibilities and refining concepts. In the studio interns use models for concept development, trying different idea variations and then elaborating the best one. Also, modeling is used as a persuasive tool for presenting and defending design choices. This method fosters a collaborative and critical dialogue that leads to more robust architectural solutions. For example, for a project in Berlin, a model was made to show variants of entrance group and atrium design (see Fig.1).

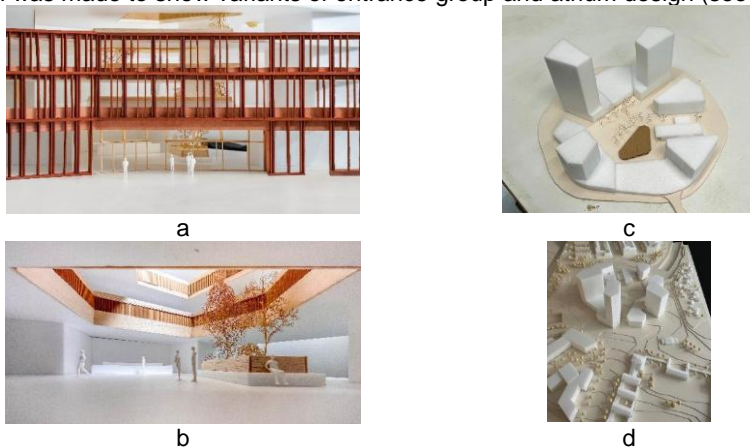


Fig.1. Architectural Models made during the internship: a, b – for argumentation and discussion ideas of current project in Berlin. c, d – for concept developing in different scale.

Project management skills integrate observing how projects are led from concept to completion with a focus on the importance of clear direction, efficient resource allocation, and effective decision-making. This structured approach ensures that projects remain on track, meet deadlines, and achieve high-quality outcomes [2].

Design Methods in creating innovations: Exposure to various design methodologies broadens an intern's understanding of iterative processes, including



using a lot of sketches, diagrams, and digital tools to explore different solutions. This adaptability enhances creativity and encourages innovative problem-solving in architectural work.

Teamwork communication strategies. Teamwork in European context includes active listening to feedback and incorporating it into their work; articulating design intentions clearly, integrating diverse viewpoints to refine project outcomes; asking questions to clarify tasks and enhance understanding; maintaining a respectful and professional attitude towards supervisors and team members; being adaptable to initial challenges while seeking support from colleagues when needed, and demonstrating reliability by efficiently completing smaller assignments before taking on more complex tasks.

Being a multilingual architect. Using foreign languages and especially English and German, is particularly important for architecture students aiming to work internationally or in German-speaking countries. Proficiency in these languages enhances teamwork, facilitates clearer discussions with colleagues and clients, and ensures better understanding of technical documents, contracts, and regulations.

CONCLUSION

Based on the internship activities analysis at the Austrian architectural firm it is essential to consider using architectural modeling, project management competence, teamwork strategies, and foreign language proficiency to provide well-supported architectural solutions and with further implementation in Ukrainian architectural curricula and trainings.

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БЛІНОВА М., МОЛОДЧА М. ПІДВИЩЕННЯ ПРОФЕСІЙНОЇ КОМПЕТЕНТНОСТІ СТУДЕНТІВ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО АРХІТЕКТУРНИКА ЧЕРЕЗ СТАЖУВАННЯ В АВСТРІЙСЬКОМУ ПРОЄКТНОМУ БЮРО

У цьому дослідженні досліджуються професійні навички, набуті під час стажування в австрійській архітектурній фірмі, і те, як їх можна інтегрувати в українську архітектурну освіту. Стажування в архітектурних фірмах забезпечує важливий практичний досвід, знайомлячи студентів з реальними проєктами, технічними проблемами та спільними робочими процесами. Дослідження зосереджено на таких компетенціях, як архітектурне моделювання, управління проєктами, методології проєктування та ефективне спілкування всередині команд, наголошуючи на важливості багатомовного володіння. Це дослідження виступає за інтеграцію цих навичок в академічні навчальні програми для підвищення професійної компетентності студентів і кращої підготовки їх до індустрії.

Ключові слова: архітектурна освіта, архітектурне стажування, архітектурне моделювання, професійна майстерність архітектора.